



DEVELOPING
FAMILIES CENTER

The Developing Families Center, Inc.
801 17th Street NE
Washington, DC 20002

March 10, 2020

Dear Colleague:

The Developing Families Center is pleased to share that we have recently pledged a one-million-dollar grant to Community of Hope in support of their new Family Health and Birth Center. Our gift recognizes the strong maternal health continuum of care services provided and envisioned by Community of Hope. We believe that this investment furthers the Developing Families Center's ability to best honor our legacy as an innovator, community builder, and committed partner of the women and children of Ward 5.

The problem of improving maternal health outcomes for the most vulnerable populations in Washington, DC is a "Wicked Problem" as defined by Rittel and Weber (1973). A "wicked problem" is a difficult or near impossible problem to solve with no single solution. The problem has great social complexity that contributes great resistance to solve. While multiple agencies, organizations, individuals, and public and private institutions are currently working to address and create solutions that consider the complex web of social, racial, medical, and environmental factors involved, there is a lack of collaboration and coordination of these efforts, creating limited clear endpoint solutions and systemic models pursued.

DFC's vision has not changed over its 20-year history--to pursue its vision of a world without racial disparities in healthcare and with greatly lowered mortality and morbidity rates for African American and impoverished women and infants in Washington, DC. We are ready to continue to support impactful and evidence-based maternal services and programs through partnerships, education, and advocacy within the District of Columbia and our pleased to begin these efforts with Community of Hope.

We welcome your thoughts, ideas, and engagement as we enter into this next lifecycle, drawing together all stakeholders and the community in deep collaboration to maximize the efforts of many.

Sincerely,

Andrea Miano, Board Chair