The time to make waves is NOW.

ANNUAL REPORT 2016
In Chicago 30 years ago, the mission was straightforward: Encourage mothers to breastfeed. What we discovered was that mothers felt disconnected, with no one to rely on, no one who spoke their language, and no one who knew where they were coming from. That’s where HealthConnect One’s impact began.

**Jeemy | FINDING VOICE**

Self-doubt and pressure from her family had Jeemy considering if she should stop breastfeeding her weeks-old infant when she participated in HealthConnect One’s community breastfeeding training on the southeast side of Chicago. Not only did she find the answers to questions and support around breastfeeding, she found her voice to speak up for herself, even defying a store manager who tried to kick her friend out for breastfeeding. But more importantly, with the knowledge and power she gained, Jeemy was able to better understand her baby. “This training changed my thinking and it changed my life,” Jeemy said. “It helped me build the foundation for the relationship I want with my son as he grows.”

**Emma | GATHERING STRENGTH**

A widowed mother of three children, Emma came to the United States in 1993. Five years later, she enrolled in HealthConnect One’s breastfeeding peer counseling class, wanting to use her growing strength to help others in her community. In the ten-week course, she learned the basics of breastfeeding, how to advocate for new moms, and how to become a source of support when there is no one else to rely on.

Slowly, quietly, and with great determination, Emma became a local community leader, advocating in a new way for the healthy development of children. “[HealthConnect One] is something important in my life and has given me the opportunity to do all these things... with this training, I learned to listen, pay attention, and speak up for myself and my kids. I want to be the best, because that’s what’s best for my kids. Breastfeeding helped me to be closer to my kids, and it taught me to be responsible for my future.”

HealthConnect One’s work is rooted in community strength.
Seven years ago, I became a first-time parent to a beautiful—and very energetic—boy. When I look back, I can see how the support of each person present during the time of his birth was an investment in my son and in me.

The encouragement of my husband, doula, doctor, lactation consultant, mother, sister, and friends gave me the confidence to be a better parent than I would have been without them. The saying that “it takes a village to raise a child” has become trite in many ways, but that does not make the phrase any less true. I learned that raising a child starts before birth.

We have so many expectations for the children of this country—we expect them to succeed in school, to make healthy choices, to secure a good job, and to succeed at life. Yet so many children are expected to do this without that village or supportive community. It’s an injustice.

Let’s flip the script and ensure that every child has a village and is supported before, during, and after birth, by tapping into the strength, knowledge, and abilities of each community. HealthConnect One amplifies the power of each village—harnessing communities’ inner strength and developing leaders, thereby creating real solutions for our nation’s most disadvantaged communities.

Join me to support HealthConnect One, to leverage and build upon local community resources, and to bring about long-lasting impact.

As HealthConnect One celebrates 30 years of impact on moms, babies and families, we envision how, together, we can lead the way to a more equitable future, one community at a time.
Knowledge Leads to Solutions

Time and time again, HealthConnect One has emboldened women to speak up, to advocate for their choices in birth and breastfeeding. Similarly, we amplify our partners’ voices so they can create and support equitable programs in their communities. With your support, HealthConnect One and our partners are positioned to build from communities’ strengths and deliver positive outcomes in maternal and child health.

HC One’s Ripple Effect

HC One trains Maternal and Child Health Heroes in their Communities

HC One partners with trusted community agencies

HC One has worked with more than 50 community health care sites in 20 states

Stronger Parenting Bonds

Increased Breastfeeding Rates

$26.2 Billion Annually in Cost Savings

For more information on HealthConnect One’s impact and data, see our community-based doula study, The Perinatal Revolution, on our website, www.healthconnectone.org
HC One’s Vision for the Future

Barriers to Health Fall
We want every community to connect to HealthConnect One and our in-depth and hands-on technical assistance and programming. In order for this vision to be realized, barriers must fall, including financial barriers. HealthConnect One is mapping the way forward and in order to succeed, a healthy mix of revenue streams, public and private, must come together for true community transformations.

We Connect to Communities
Each community has its own path to healthier families and HealthConnect One illuminates that path. HealthConnect One works with communities intimately. We are there for guidance, to learn together, to support an agency as it does the real work to establish self-determined, community-led change.

It Starts With You
Your gift activates our work in communities that need it the most. Today, your contribution will support HealthConnect One’s next thirty years of impact, promoting health equity and transforming how babies are born and cared for in their crucial first few months of life.
FINANCES

Revenue

Foundation Grants $2,113,246
Individual and Corporate Giving $55,477
Donated Services $15,000
Fee-For Service $50,723
Other Income $4,006
Total $2,238,452

Expenses

Program Services $1,441,308
Administration and Fundraising $334,978
Strategic Capacity Building $414,521
Total $2,190,807

Foundation Support for Fiscal Year 2016

Anonymous
The Chicago Community Trust (Unity Fund)
The Crown Family Philanthropies
Institute of Medicine of Chicago
Irving Harris Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation
Pritzker Children’s Initiative
Pritzker Early Childhood Foundation
The Sophia Fund for Advocacy at Chicago Foundation for Women
W. Clement & Jessie V. Stone Foundation
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

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