

HOMEPLACE

An Urban Retreat Center for Birthing People and their Families

Between 2016 - 2020, U.S.-born African American mothers were **2.8x more likely** to experience maternal death than white mothers.



29–44% of U.S. born Black women experience postpartum depressive symptoms (PDS), yet few are properly identified and/or connected to mental care services.

Homeplaces. Historically, African American people believed that the construction of a home-place, however fragile and tenuous (the slave hut, the wooden shack), had a radical dimension, one's homeplace was the one site where one could freely construct the issue of humanization, where one could resist and heal. Black women resisted by making homes where all black people could strive to be subjects, not objects, where we could be affirmed in our bodies, minds and hearts despite poverty, hardship, and deprivation, where we could restore our wellbeing and community flourishing through rest, revival, connection, and celebration.




LIBERTY
COMMUNITY CHURCH
NORTHSIDE HEALING SPACE


Birth Justice
Collaborative

Sources:

Minnesota Department of Health. (2021). Care during pregnancy and delivery. Retrieved September 19, 2022 from <https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/communities/titlev/carepregdelivery2021.pdf>

James, K. F., Smith, B. E., Robinson, M. N., Tobin, C. S. T., Bulles, K. F., & Barkin, J. L. (2023). Factors Associated with Postpartum Maternal Functioning in Black Women: A Secondary Analysis. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, 12(2), 647. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jcm12020647>



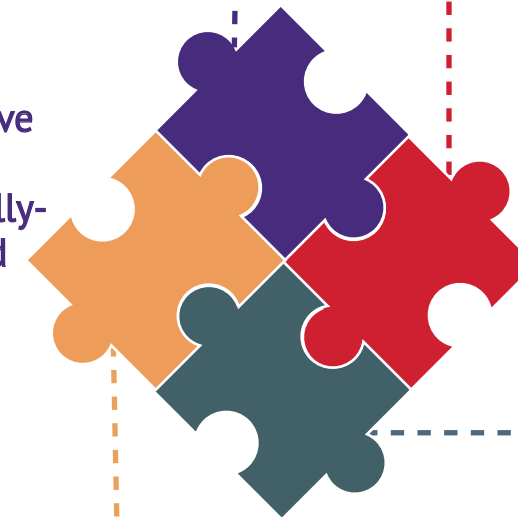
SYSTEMS CHANGE THROUGH CULTURALLY-CENTERED HEALING

INCREASE FELT SENSE OF CONNECTION, HEALING, AND BELONGING

- Curate experiences that mitigate the impact of intergenerational racism and trauma for African-American birthing parents.
- Reduce stress and provide protective tools during pregnancy and the postpartum period such as culturally-grounded bodywork, music, art, and affinity group gathering.
- Monitor and support well-being.

REDUCING IMPACTS OF ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

- Alleviate economic hardship through direct, trust-based resource allocation.
- Support access to resource navigation and/or job support (housing, benefits).
- Build a public/private partnership to develop a universal basic income pilot with HomePlace families.



PRACTICAL SUPPORT & KNOWLEDGE

- Inter-generational and communal approach to learning about early parenting and postpartum support.
- Tailored support to birthing mothers and families, including transportation to key appointments and access to essential pregnancy and post-natal supplies.



PATHWAYS TO TRUSTED PROVIDERS

- Cultivate intentional relationships with a network of trusted providers.
- Physical presence of responsive providers at HomePlace.
- Support education and capacity of medical providers and cultural birthworkers to work in tandem.

*Updated Fall 2024/Winter 2025