



Certified Professional Midwives NOW

“Blizzard Babies” Website Connects Midwives with Stranded Mothers-to-Be

Nationwide Community Mapping Service Helps Pregnant Women When Hospitals Become Inaccessible

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 2, 2011)—The Big Push for Midwives Campaign [announced](#) the launch of [Blizzard Babies 2011](#), a community mapping website that matches midwives with pregnant women needing care during natural disasters such as the “Groundhog Day Blizzard” that swept across much of the nation today, leaving thousands without access to hospitals, care providers, or electricity.

“As we saw during New York City’s first big blizzard this year, when weather conditions force pregnant women to give birth with no care providers available, the results can be tragic,” said Rebecca Spence, Director of New Media for The Big Push for Midwives. “Once we realized how big this storm was going to be, we knew it was time to take action quickly so that laboring mothers will have access to midwives with the training and equipment necessary to safely deliver babies in out-of-hospital settings.”

In December, a New York City newborn [died](#) after his laboring mother was unable to reach the hospital and EMTs were unable to reach her. Midwives who undergo specialized clinical training in out-of-hospital maternity care are equipped to reach laboring women’s homes regardless of the weather. “While the conditions during this kind of blizzard can be extremely challenging,” said Jane Peterson, LM, CPM, “we’re like the postal service—we deliver come rain or shine, sleet or snow.”

Since its launch yesterday, the rapidly expanding Blizzard Babies database has received nearly 40 location-based reports from Certified Professional Midwives, Certified Nurse-Midwives, and even MDs specially trained in home birth, from more than 20 states nationwide. Using innovative community mapping technologies, The Big Push is reaching out to the Red Cross and other disaster specialists to coordinate with live call centers that are on the ground to get trained midwives to women who need to give birth in place – whether in shelters, community centers, schools, or their own homes.

The Big Push for Midwives Campaign represents tens of thousands of grassroots advocates in the United States who support expanding access to Certified Professional Midwives and out-of-hospital maternity care. The mission of The Big Push for Midwives is to educate state and national policymakers about the reduced costs and improved outcomes associated with out-of-hospital maternity care and to advocate for expanding access to the services of Certified Professional Midwives, who are specially trained to provide it.

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