



## Student Apprenticeship Application

Mother Health International  
Soley Lavi Birth Clinic, Jacmel, Haiti



### Our mission:

Mother Health International is dedicated to respond and provide relief to pregnant women and children in areas of disaster and extreme poverty. We are committed to reducing the maternal and infant mortality rates by creating healthy, sustainable holistic birth clinics using the midwifery model of care with culturally appropriate education for the health and empowerment of women. With every healthy birth there is a positive benefit for the communities that we serve and the world as a whole. Our ultimate mission is to empower and educate the local clinic staff, with gender equality, to become the health care providers for their community.

### NARM Approved Birth Clinic:

Mother Health International has a NARM approved birth clinic, **Soley Lavi**, located in Jacmel, Haiti. We have two apprenticeship opportunities: one where you and your preceptor come to volunteer in the clinic and one where you come to volunteer in the clinic and one of our volunteer midwives is your preceptor.

### What to Expect:

Mother Health International is a NARM approved birth clinic located in Jacmel, Haiti. MHI Apprentice Program takes one or two abroad apprentices at a time as you will work along side of Haitian apprentices on ground. You can read about most of them on the blog spot on the website.

Apprentices can either come to our clinic with their NARM preceptor (she too must fill out the Volunteer Midwife application that is on our website to go along with yours) or there is a NARM approved midwife on ground in Haiti who will work with you. Our clinic is a Traditional Midwifery learning model; the goal is to work in collaboration and work well together. During the apprenticeship, you will observe and practice all aspects of midwifery relating to pregnancy and childbirth. This includes prenatal and postpartum visits, and births. Our

apprenticeship is for those midwifery students who want to practice a midwifery model of care with an emphasis towards Traditional modalities, recognizing that the least interventions brings the best outcomes in birth. We would like an apprentice to come for at least two months , though three months works better. Our Haitian woman crew on ground are amazing and have asked for three month stays as it takes a little time to settle in.

### **Fees and Responsibilities**

For two months the fee is \$1400/student and for three months it is \$1800/student. This includes room and board. We will expect you to:

- Do weekly prenatals working with the crew on ground.
- Do weekly postnatals working with the crew on ground.
- Work in the gardens that are being started on the property.
- Self maintenance including keeping all areas clean.
- Washing your own clothes. (There is a basin; soap and you supply the elbow grease.)
- Help with food preparation and clean up if need.
- Share the births with the others realizing that most births will be “caught” by the Haitian apprentices. If you have expectations of getting “numbers” then please indicate this on your application.

### **How many births will I attend?**

We never know how many babies are to born each month. The numbers depend on if the women can get to the clinic. Often weather and transportation play a roll as to how many women come in to birth, often they will birth at home. We help a lot of women to prepare during prenatals (about 90 a month) We usually have somewhere between 16-35 births a month. We also do a lot of traditional midwifery training. The high speed Internet you will be able to attend the Mamma Primitiva Traditional Educational Classes while you are in Haiti. ([www.mammaprimitiva.com](http://www.mammaprimitiva.com)) We also want you to be able to immerse yourself in the Haitian community. All of us that go there leave loving Haiti. Although there are occasional men (that are the partners of a midwife on ground) we are an all woman crew. We want everyone to remember to be culturally respectful and kind. We look forward to reading your application.

If you come with your preceptor the preceptor will need to make a donation of \$75. per week to cover food and house hold expenses. 30% of your tuition is required to hold your placement dates and is non-refundable. The balance of your tuition is due 3 weeks prior to your arrival. If you must leave your apprenticeship early because of an emergency we will refund you 50% of the tuition for any complete paid weeks after your departure date. You are responsible for all transportation costs relating to travel to and from Haiti as well as to and from Port-Au- Prince to Jacmel. We will assist you in making arrangements from Port-Au-Prince to Jacmel. You are also required to assist us in bringing in needed supplies for the birth clinic. An updated list will be provided for you once you are accepted into the program.

We know and believe that birthing is natural and all women have the ability to birth simply and safely. We are seeking volunteer midwives who also believe this way. We allow both the mother and baby do what they know how to do best, birth naturally keeping in touch with the power of birthing. Giving birth is an honor and a privilege for both the mother and baby to do together. Birth is about opening up your mind, body and spirit and feeling your sweet baby come through your body. We view birth as a blessing and honor the ceremony of birth that will be carried with the mother and child throughout the good and hard times in their life. We seek

volunteer midwives who wish to practice in this manner and help train and add to the education of the Haitian midwifery students who work at our clinic.

**Each apprentice and preceptor is expected to read the MHI Protocols and all policies upon arrival and practice accordingly.** During a period of orientation, they will observe exams and learn to chart.

### **Mamma Primitiva-Educational Program**

*With the greatest of respect, I chose the name Mamma Primitiva for this educational program.*

*Primitiva predates the concept of traditional, and represents the original ceremony of birthing in the most primal way. Primitiva shares the same root as primal. Mamma is a primal sound. The aaaa in mamma is the primal sound that mothers make when they birth their babies and mamma is name that babies give to their mothers. The word Mamma is connected to the breath, the life force, that connects us to our ancestors and to the greatest of all mamma, mother earth. Mammana was the name given to the midwife in the dialect of my ancestors, the people of Sicilia. It comes from the word, Mamma.*

*Clare Loprinzi, Mammana*

Each student will be required to take courses on Mamma Primitiva. Everything is on-line and easy to view from your computer. There is also an opportunity to interact with other women from around the world and learn from their experiences and cultures. There is no additional charge for this course work and you will gain a wealth of traditional and cultural information knowledge plus connect to a group of women from around the world.

Mamma Primitiva is a worldwide online traditional midwifery educational program that believes that if given the opportunity and teachings every woman can know and help with the restoration of traditional birth. It is the work of the primitive mamma. The intention of Mamma Primitiva is to provide traditional midwifery education to a diverse group of women around the world. 100% of the money generated from the tuition paid to this school will go directly to supporting a midwifery model of care clinic in a impoverished and disaster stricken country. The intention is to keep the traditional midwife ways of birthing alive while at the same collaborating with birth practitioners from around the world.

### **The Goals of Mamma Primitiva**

The goal of the curriculum of Mamma Primitiva will be first to teach natural birth, mothering and balanced living which includes closely working with your senses. We will study birth, physically, mentally, and emotionally and encourage you to work with it spiritually. We will share the different cultures of all the women in the program and build bridges between us. We will learn from each other to build stronger movements of traditional birthing modalities all around the world. Learning natural birth is the first step. Raising healthy children will also be included. The knowledge will just keep growing and spreading with you. When we are strong in the education of natural birth then we will be open to learn unique situations that can arise during birth and how to work with them. You will learn how to carefully work with the mother and child with the ceremony of birthing. A ceremony truly deeply rooted in love and survival. You will learn the latest information on the effects of vaccinations, machines, teaching your children, gardens in the schools and many other things that contribute to raising a healthy child and the restoration of mother earth.

Once you pass your NARM exam we courage you to sign up for the 13 Moon Course work for advanced midwives that is part of the Mamma Primitiva program and share with your clients the sacred birth course

work designed for your mothers. We also have designed a program for expecting mothers which you can share with your clients. All fees go to support the MHI birth clinic.

### **Evaluation**

If you are a student midwife who is coming to the clinic without a preceptor, as needed, time is set aside during staff meetings to review the apprentice log, to talk about progress, and resolve any issues. These meetings may be used to seek feedback or to make suggestions. It is the apprentice's responsibility to stay current on all NARM required forms and get the MHI preceptor to sign off on required documentation. If the student midwife is coming with a preceptor, she is also responsible to handle all required paper work with her preceptor.

### **Confidentiality**

All patient interactions are absolutely confidential. We do not speak about whether or not clients are coming to us, have had any interaction with us, have had their babies, etc., with anyone except the client or by the client's written permission. MHI's policy is very strict concerning confidentiality. Anyone mentioning a client's name inappropriately or disclosing any information about a client without written permission will be dismissed from the program immediately. Any photographs or blog postings on private blogs, public blogs, facebook, twitter, my space will result in immediate termination. Please adhere to the social media guidelines. You will be asked to sign this form before coming to Haiti.

### **Grievance**

If an apprentice has a complaint, she will first approach the person directly involved, e.g., the apprentice who didn't complete a task, etc. If, after having approached the main person involved there is no resolution, she may ask the preceptors to assist in settlements of disputes. If a solution is still not reached, complaints will be directed to the executive director with written evidence that an unsuccessful attempt at working things out was tried. The executive director will then call the parties to a meeting via Skype and provide mediation. Written evidence of the outcome will be maintained in the MHI complaint file. If the apprentice and/or preceptor are dissatisfied with this resolution, they may send another written statement to the executive director and any other documentation to the Board of Directors for final mediation.

If apprentices have suggestions for improving policies within the practice of the MHI birth clinic, they are encouraged to make these known at staff meeting and are expected to shoulder a great part of the responsibility for initial implementation of these improvements if accepted. Apprentices develop organizational skills and learn about MHI operations by being an integral part of exciting changes and taking initiative in this way.

### **Apprenticeship with your own Preceptor**

If you are coming with your preceptor you must verify that the midwife preceptor you choose has the appropriate qualifications. The preceptor will be required to fill out a volunteer midwife application form and present all required licenses and sign all liability waiver forms. For NARM certification, a midwife must be one of the following; nationally certified (credentials for this are CPM, CNM, or CM); have practiced as a primary attendant for at least three years; or be a practitioner specializing in maternity care.

**Prerequisites for Apprentices:**

- Good Health and endurance. We encourage women who are pregnant not to apply.
- Sign up for and take the Mamma Primitiva course work.
- Must be willing to work in Jacmel, Haiti for a minimum of one month.
- You must have an open mind and heart. You must be flexible and have the ability to work cooperatively and selflessly with a team of broad ranging personalities.
- Our clinic was founded shortly after the devastating 7.0 earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010. This clinic was created with a lot of love and dedication by a small group of people. There has been no job too small or too large for us to handle. Everyone has rolled up their sleeves to do anything and everything possible to keep this clinic alive. We always work with the women and babies in our hearts and minds. All decisions are made keeping with them at the forefront of our discussions. We are looking for your willingness to do the same. We are looking for apprentices who are flexible are willing to come to a developing country that has gone through major struggles in the last year and one that has nine months out of 12 with temperatures above 85 degrees F° daily. We are seeking apprentices who are willing to do whatever it takes to help us maintain the birth clinic and serve the pregnant and birthing women of the Jacmel community. You will learn many things when you come to our birth clinic. Some you may have not expected. These are your golden nuggets. We are seeking apprentices who are willing to listen, watch and observe as well as have hands on experiences. Becoming a midwife is not about you, but about the women and their babies you serve.

**Application to the program:**

- Please submit your application and if you are bringing a preceptor her application as well. Preceptors will need to use the Volunteer Midwife Application located on our website, [www.motherhealthinternational.org](http://www.motherhealthinternational.org) under the Volunteer tab.
- Submit 2 personal and 2 professional references with your application. Email and phone contact only.
- Your certificate/diploma stating you completed midwifery school.
- A copy of a valid passport.

**Acceptance:**

Qualified midwifery students are accepted without discrimination in regard to sex, race, marital status, religion, ethnic origin, creed, age, sexual orientation/preference or physical ability. Mother Health International attempts to provide reasonable access to all qualified students with disabilities.



## Apprenticeship Application for Mother Health International in Jacmel, Haiti

Part I.

Please print clearly. All information must be provided to be considered for the apprenticeship in Jacmel, Haiti. Please submit your preceptors volunteer midwifery application (different application than this one) with your application for consideration.

Name: (first, middle, last)

\_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_ Male \_\_ Female

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

### Contact Information

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contact

Name \_\_\_\_\_ phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

All apprentices must be able to commit to a minimum of 8 weeks in Haiti.

Will you be bringing your own preceptor: Yes No

If Yes, please provide her full name here: \_\_\_\_\_

Preceptors will need to be NARM certified, provide this documentation and fill out a volunteer midwife application from our website. Please include their application and all necessary paper work with your application.

Length of time available: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates available: \_\_\_\_\_

Which school are you studying with or license do you have (choose all that apply)

RN    CNM    CPM    Direct Entry    OB/GYN    Traditional Midwife

Midwifery School: \_\_\_\_\_

Other (please elaborate) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you currently hold a license? Yes or No

State/Province of current Active License: \_\_\_\_\_ License No: \_\_\_\_\_

How many babies have you caught in your career? \_\_\_\_\_

How many babies have you caught in the last 24 months? \_\_\_\_\_

How many of this births were you the primary midwife? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended Home Births? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

Any and all personal health issues:

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you pregnant: Yes or No

Physical and/or other limitations:

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you speak French/Creole? \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe you level of comprehension and conversation.

\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about Mother Health International?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Part 2

Please answer as briefly as possible; reread each question so that the brief answer will be thorough. Please submit on a separate sheet of paper.

Thank you.

1. Why do you want to go to Haiti to work in a relief situation? What have you done so that you will be culturally appropriate? Have you worked in a third world country or poverty stricken country?
2. What do you bring from your personal and professional experience that will be valuable to the women and babies in Haiti? What do you hope this experience will do to help you grow as a midwife?
3. In what setting did you attend the majority of births? If it was with a CNM was it in a midwife run clinic or a hospital/doc run clinic?
4. We are looking for women that do hands on work. How do you monitor maternal and fetal well being in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2nd and 3rd stages of labor?
5. Do you have children, if so where and how did you birth? If there were issues related to your own births do you feel like you worked through those?

6. Who is your mentor and tell me a little about that person?

7. Are you interested in working and learning from a traditional midwife realizing that her ways of assessing fetal and maternal well being may be different than yours? Expound briefly on this.

8. Describe the scope of your skills as a student midwife (ex. IV administration, alternative, herbal/acupuncture.)

9. Often times at our Birth Center midwives are required to do work besides catching babies. Are you flexible to do work beyond midwifery? Please explain.

10. Conflict is a normal part of human interactions. If you are working with another midwife and do not agree with how she is handling something what would you do?

11. What do you know about Haiti and their people, their history and current living and political life there?

**PART 3: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

- Resume or CV
- Please scan and email a recent copy of your professional license with this application or diploma from your midwifery school and a valid passport for travel.
- Submit 2 personal and 2 professional references with this application. Email and phone contact only.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

All volunteers are responsible to pay your own airfare and hotel fees as they pertain to your travel to and from Haiti. Travelers insurance is strongly recommended. Mother Health International cannot be responsible for any injuries, death or illnesses, which occur while in Haiti. You will be required to sign a Liability Waiver before departure.

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*Thank you for taking the time to complete the application*

*Please email your information to [info@motherhealthinternational.org](mailto:info@motherhealthinternational.org)*

*Applications received with missing or incomplete information will not be considered.*

*Once reviewed, we will contact you soon. Your patience is appreciated.*

In gratitude,

Mother Health International

[www.motherhealthinternational.org](http://www.motherhealthinternational.org)

Facebook: Mother Health International