

Traditional midwife Racha Tahani opens Central Virginia's first and only Black owned birth center

Gather Grounded Midwifery is the only Black midwife-owned birth center in Central Virginia. Located 20 minutes outside of Richmond in Midlothian, VA

MIDLOTHIAN, VIRGINIA, US, December 27, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The birth cottage (birth center) opened Aug. 16, 2023, under the direction of Racha Tahani Lawler-Queen. Lawler-Queen is a licensed midwife, certified professional midwife and a traditional midwife with over 20 yrs experience.

“

Black midwives have historically kept our communities safe. The best birth outcomes happen where families feel safest, with who they feel safest. Including with traditional midwives.”

Racha Tahani Lawler Queen

Currently, GGM holds an “Expectant Parents Gathering” once a month, on the 1st Saturday of every month, to provide an opportunity for parents to tour the birth cottage and hear about traditional midwifery practices.

“Midwifery pre-dates medicine, and Black midwives, African midwives kept our communities safe until they

were legally barred from doing so,” said Lawler-Queen. “The Black maternal health crisis has been upheld for all the years since Black midwives and the midwifery of our Ancestors was recognized as a threat against it.”

According to an analysis by the National Center for Health Analysis of data from the Virginia Center for Statistics, “between 2018 and 2021, 113 women in Virginia died pregnancy-related causes — a rate of 29.1 per 100,000 births. For Black women, the maternal mortality rate was 55.0 per 100,000 births, more than twice the rate for white women.”

Gather Grounded’s location contains a birth cottage for those that want accessible out of hospital births or water births; a healing room for physicals, lactation support, or supportive modalities that require privacy; a small kitchen; laundry room; the Freedom Birth Suite which contains a birth tub is surrounded in mother of pearl backsplash to welcome in the power & serenity of the ocean; and a family room where most of the appointments happen, which also doubles as a classroom.

"Racha supported me in my first pregnancy during COVID and it was a 180 compared to the level of care and support i was receiving from my OBGYN. She spent time listening to me, answering my questions, softening my anxieties, and providing me and my baby the space to be held emotionally and psychologically," said client Jeanine Rogers. "I feel safe in her care - while being wrapped in her knowledge of supporting Black women like myself, she is priceless, essential, and very necessary!"

Racha Tahani Lawler Queen
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Midwife Racha Tahani in front of Gather Grounded Midwifery

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