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'Our Community Birth Center' to open after Midwifery birthing center shuts down

by Stephanie Rothman and KVAL.com Staff
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Local midwives decide to open 'Our Community Birth Center' in Lane County (OCBC)

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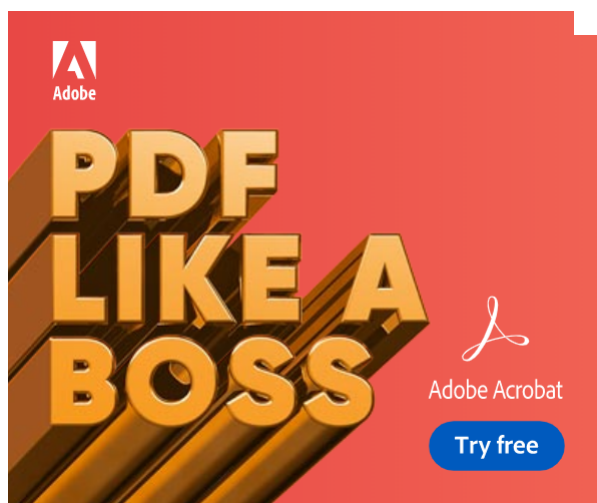
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SPRINGFIELD, Ore. - A group of midwives is fundraising for a new place for expecting mothers in Lane County.

This comes after the existing PeaceHealth center [closed down](#). Birthing services stopped there August 31. The center closed the week of Thanksgiving.

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Juniper is Amanda Dellinger's newest baby; she is 4 months old and growing fast.

"I mean being pregnant and getting ready to be a parent is scary and it's really calming," Dellinger said.

The calming part Dellinger is talking about was the support she felt from the midwives at PeaceHealth's nurse-midwifery birth center.

"Once we went there we knew. We didn't even need to go to any other place," said Mariah Drogitis, another mother.

"Having a personal relationship with the birth center and all of the midwives as a whole is really special," said Dellinger.

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that special place has now been shut down.

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Community Birth Center. 57° 55° 47°

That's why Westlake and other midwives decided to start their own center, called 'Our Community Birth Center.'

"Families deserve to have that option and also families might seek out less safe options if there's not a birth center available," said Westlake, "such as an unassisted home-birth, because they can't afford to pay out of pocket for a homebirth midwife. Every family deserves a midwife and deserves the birth setting of their choice: birth center, home, or hospital! And Our Community Birth Center plans to accept health insurance to make community-based birth accessible for all."

In a written statement, PeaceHealth says there has been a steady decline in babies who are born at the birth center. The company says they are moving all deliveries to Riverbend Hospital in a midwife-led model to ensure safe births.

"It's important that everyone in the community has access," Dellinger said. "It's called Our Community Birth Center for a reason."

And it will be up to the community to help make the center a reality.

The birth center hopes to reach its goal of \$775,000 by opening date next fall.

If you want to donate, you can visit their website by [clicking here](#).

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