

Dear Mr. Billman,

Durham Volunteer Doulas, DVD, is the first organization in Durham that is offering free doula care to local women who normally can not afford this valuable service. Doulas help create birth plans, assist mothers during delivery and provide resources after labor. Research has shown many health benefits of doula care. Doulas decrease cesarean sections by 28% and provide 34% fewer negative birthing experiences.

The Durham Volunteer Doulas' goal is to provide doula assistance to the communities that need them most. In many cases, the maternal mortality rates are higher in non-white and non-rich communities. However, with doula fees ranging from \$250 to \$2,500, doulas are not accessible to those communities.

DVD was created through CUBE, a social innovation accelerator program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For more information about DVD, here is a blog post that explains more: <https://campusy.unc.edu/meet-durham-volunteer-doulas/>.

I wanted to reach out to you with this idea because I thought you might find it interesting. I read your story about infant mortality in Durham. I specifically liked how you included low income and uninsured communities in the conversation about health risks in childbirth.

Regards,

Catherine Moore
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