



JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Open Arms is a nationally-recognized, locally regarded community-based organization that supports, educates, and empowers women and their families from pregnancy to birth and into early parenting. If you or someone you know might be interested in our agency and its mission, we hope you'll consider board service. We are looking for people who want to support under-served new mothers and their families primarily in Seattle and King County. Current board members find that their involvement with Open Arms provides them opportunities to: engage with a diverse group of mission-focused individuals from a variety of backgrounds and fields of expertise; stretch themselves to develop new skill sets and experiences; leverage their volunteering to have a greater impact in our community; and be deeply involved with an important issue that is currently at the forefront of public discourse.

We meet monthly in Seattle and we have openings on our board for people who share our commitment to racial equity and social justice, as well as specific expertise in:

- Early Learning and Infant Mental Health
- Accounting/finance
- Experience building private partnerships that support social service programs.
- An interest in building community support, external visibility, and increasing our network of local donors and supporters.
- Legal Expertise
- Prior experience serving on a board or working within community-based nonprofits highly desirable

If you are interested, please contact volunteer@openarmsps.org or 206.723.6868 ext. 109 to help arrange a time to have an initial conversation with a current board member. New board positions may begin in September, 2017.

ABOUT OPEN ARMS

Open Arms was founded in 1997 by a small group of women from the community who envisioned a future where no one would have to give birth without support. They imagined a world that cherishes birthing women, their babies, families, and communities. Today, that vision translates into a powerful community-based organization with a staff of 13 and a pool of 80 to 100 volunteer and contracted doulas serving over 200 women and their families annually. We support low-income women and families to help them establish strong and healthy foundations. Over 75% of Open Arms clients identify as people of color, and we are highly-regarded for providing culturally relevant and appropriate support. Today, Open Arms has an annual operating budget of over \$1,000,000 through a combination of funding from public institutions, private foundations, as well as individual donors. We are poised for expansion.

Open Arms recognizes that the earliest experiences impact brain development, and we work with families to give our next generation the best beginning. Multiculturalism, respect, and racial equity permeate all that we do. We work in true partnership with the communities we serve, listening to their hopes and dreams for pregnant women, babies and new parents, and providing resources to help transform those dreams into reality.

Ninety percent of the world's wealthiest countries surpass the United States on measures of maternal and child health and well-being. This impact is felt disproportionately by American babies born into poverty, whose mothers too often suffer from stress, social isolation, domestic violence, food insecurity and unstable housing in addition to insufficient health and parenting resources. In King County today, Native and African American infants are twice as likely to die within the first 28 days of life than white infants. Open Arms' services work to address and mitigate these risk factors, so that mothers and babies receive the best possible start and avoid poor outcomes that can have negative consequences possibly lasting a lifetime.

OPEN ARMS' CURRENT PROGRAMS

- **Birth Doula Services** partners parents with doulas who offer support during the last trimester of pregnancy, throughout the labor and birth, and for six to eight weeks after delivery. Doulas also provide mothers with education, resources, emotional support and appropriate referrals. Open Arms provides screening and case management to ensure that mother and baby are healthy and connected with other community resources.
- **The Outreach Doula Program** is a long-term home visiting program from early pregnancy up to baby's 2nd birthday. Open Arms provides cultural and language specific services by pairing mothers with doulas from their own community. Outreach Doulas develop lasting relationships with families that help bridge cultural barriers, foster parent-child bonding, reduce social isolation, and improve early learning outcomes. Open Arms currently serves the African American, Native, Somali and Latino communities with Outreach Doulas.
- **Postpartum Support** through a unique in-home counseling program, as well as support groups. These groups serving low-income women provide a safe, confidential and informative environment for new mothers to share and bond with other new mothers while building a supportive community through self-discovery and reflection.



Open Arms' services and community-based approaches are working, and people are taking note. Open Arms is the first community doula program in the nation to be accredited through HealthConnect One. The agency has won several local awards including the Seattle Human Services Innovative Programs Award, as well as SOAR's Community Achievement Award. Our current funding partnerships with Social Venture Partners, the Washington Women's Foundation, Seattle Foundation and the United Way demonstrate that Open Arms has earned the support and respect of the local philanthropic community.

However, the need for Open Arms' services remains greater than our current capacity to serve, primarily because we lack the financial resources to increase our caseload to meet increasing referrals. Our current strategic plan addresses this problem with key priorities including:

- Securing abundant funding to meet the need for our services
- Developing and implementing a comprehensive marketing and communications plan
- Nurturing and cultivating what we are doing locally in preparation for regional and national replication

The organization is well-positioned to take advantage of the many opportunities that lie ahead for Open Arms. We hope you will consider this opportunity to join our leadership and support our work!