**ENBFM 2018 Director’s Report**

The vision of *El Nido* is to provide education and emotional, physical, social and spiritual support in order to meet the well-being needs of expectant mothers, new mothers, mothers and other family members so that they would experience hope and growth in Christ through a new birth, bringing glory to God. Toward that end:

We supported local women as they prepared for the birth of their baby, by providing childbirth education privately and we are now teaching the group prenatal classes at Granite Falls Health. We supported Debbie serving 19 women through midwifery (149 prenatal appointments and 65 postpartum visits).

We trained four new **doulas** and provided labor doula support and postpartum support for women at Granite Falls Hospital and at home. We held a community baby shower to introduce midwives Tina King, CNM, Eileen Carlson, CPM, LM, and Autumn Cavender Wilson, CPM, LM as well as doulas to moms in the area. We have continued to partner with Minnesota Prison Doula Project and are hoping to bring their services to Yellow Medicine County in 2019.

We worked on establishing **breastfeeding** with mother/baby dyads (42 encounters). We provided breastfeeding training for the nurses at Granite Falls Health. We continued working with the **Southwest Breastfeeding** **Coalition** - working on normalizing breastfeeding in partnership with SHIP and other providers in a 5 county area. Working with local employers to create Breastfeeding/pumping rooms and earn the Breastfeeding Friendly Worksite award, we now have a room at ECHO Charter School.

Through our **Mom 2 Mom** program we provided support for mothers in Yellow Medicine County Jail. We plan on continuing to reach out to women in the area and begin support groups.

We have been involved with a local group hoping to open a **birth center** in order to provide women more birthing resources. working with a group of 6 women, led by Jane Wrede, CNM to explore the possibility of opening one in the region

We supported the **Chemical Health Coalition** (7 hours) attending meetings. **LEADERS** (7-20 kids) had meetings with 5th-10th grades, they have continued visiting the residents at the Bellview nursing home, andwalked in the GF, Echo, Woodlake and Bellview parades under the Echo Charter name. We received a grant for Echo Charter to begin a community garden. We procured a grant from Restorative Justice to continue the LEADERS program at ECHO Charter. We procured a grant from to include domestic violence & anti bully training in our LEADERS program. We also supported to families through restorative justice circles and Debbie attended training.

We supported ECHO Charter as they opened Bottle Rockets Childcare- 10 hours of meetings to bring attention to the lack of daycare before the county. ECHO Charter opened its daycare/preschool, Bottle Rockets Childcare Center in fall 2018. Unfortunately, because of delayed licensure and the GF daycare opening prior to BRCC we did not have enough children to offset the expenses so it was closed.

At the holiday season the third annual **Christmas Shoppe** was held on Dec 15 and served over 80 families and 150 children offering gifts for purchase at 25c with complimentary gift wrapping. We also took it on the road to ECHO Charter School. We used the proceeds toward sponsoring a family of four in need in Yellow Medicine County.

In 2019 our goals are to

* restart mom to mom groups to better support local mothers
* begin a breastfeeding café
* grow LEADERS

Within 5 years

* Open a birth center
* Develop more sustainable fundraising
* Develop an afterschool program

We are excited to see what our future holds as we continue to

* *Build Relationships* while getting to know women and their needs in order to understand how to meet them
* *Deliver Lives* physically, emotionally and spiritually
* *Educate for the Future* enabling women and other family members to support themselves in the future

In Him,

*Debbie Eakes*