



MATERNAL & CHILD *Health Update*



Maternity care—women being able to get prenatal care and having a place to deliver their babies—is something most of us believe is readily accessible in our community. Until recently, this was the case. Recent changes though have made it much more difficult for women in our community to get prenatal care and have a place to deliver their babies.

Nearly half of the babies born in Martin County are delivered at Cleveland Clinic Martin North in Stuart. Last month, the hospital stopped offering labor & delivery services. Women who would have delivered in Stuart now are expected to deliver at Tradition in St. Lucie County and Jupiter Medical Center in Palm Beach County. There is no hospital in Martin County where Martin County women can deliver. Where it once took a woman 20 minutes to get to the hospital, it now takes 40 minutes to an hour.

Efforts are underway to address these issues. The Martin County Healthy Start Coalition has recently introduced the MOM Mobile, a doctor's office on wheels, that provides prenatal care in the neighborhoods where pregnant women reside.

In addition to the MOM Mobile, the Healthy Start Coalition is hoping to fill the gap and bring a community-based birthing center to Martin County. The Hobe Sound Community Chest, State legislators, County Commissioners, and the Cleveland Clinic are working together to make this birthing center a reality. The biggest challenge is that, at best, the center will be operational in the Summer of 2027.



The Hobe Sound Community Chest supports agencies that are passionate about prenatal and postnatal care and improving health outcomes for pregnant women and their babies. With Martin County Healthy Start, along with the over 40 social service agencies we support, we help families flourish. Thank you for your support in helping make this possible for the residents of Hobe Sound.