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IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday September 14, 2011

Walk for Moms and Midwives Event – October 1st in Raleigh Area

RALEIGH, NC (Sept 14, 2011) – North Carolina Friends of Midwives (NCFOM) is organizing a second annual Triangle Walk for Moms and Midwives that begins at 10:00 am on Saturday October 1st at Lake Benson Park in Garner. The walk is to help raise community awareness about the important role midwives play in maternity care in North Carolina. The walk will benefit NCFOM's efforts to increase access to evidence-based midwifery care for North Carolina's pregnant moms. The specific focus for 2012 is passing legislation in North Carolina to license and regulate Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs), who are trained as specialists in out-of-hospital maternity care, as 27 other states have done. Currently, only Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM) may be licensed in North Carolina. House Bill 522 to license Certified Professional Midwives was introduced in the legislature during the 2011 session, and unanimously passed its first committee reading before the legislature adjourned. The bill will pick up where it left off when the 2012 NC legislative session convenes.

North Carolina midwives serve pregnant women in hospitals, a free-standing birth center, and homes. More pregnant women are seeking out midwives for care in all birth settings because of the lower rates of intervention, significantly lower c-section rates, and the high degree of patient satisfaction. NCFOM strongly supports increasing the autonomy and number of midwives as a key to the serving the needs of North Carolina families and improving infant and maternal health outcomes.

“There is a crisis in maternal and child health in the United States and in North Carolina, especially,” says Nancy Harman, CNM, and one of three Triangle area licensed midwives who delivers babies at home. “Access to safe care during pregnancy and birth is what midwives provide with a high level of expertise and compassion. In order to improve health care outcomes and stem the rising maternal and infant mortality rates, we must increase the number of midwives practicing in North Carolina. The countries that use more trained and licensed midwives than the United States have better outcomes than we do. Even in resource poor areas, midwives provide a level of excellence that drastically improves the health of moms and babies.”

“Now more than ever it is crucial that North Carolina's families that choose to have a home birth have access to trained midwives,” says Amber Craig, NCFOM President. “Homebirths have increased dramatically in North Carolina in the past few years. Each year, more North Carolina families choose out-of-hospital birth for religious, cultural, philosophical or financial reasons. These families deserve safe and affordable maternity care, and the midwives who provide it need legal recognition.”

The Triangle Walk for Moms and Midwives is being sponsored by HYPERLINK "http://www.birthrightservices.com/" \t "_blank" Birthright Services - Audrey Trepiccione, CPM, HYPERLINK "http://www.ncmidwives.org/for_consumers/out_of_hospital.html" Birthwise

of Central NC - Nancy Harman, CNM, Birthways and Babydays, Blissful Births -
HYPERLINK "<http://www.blissfulbirths.net/bfw>" Julie McBurney, Coalition for Improving
Maternity Services (CIMS), HYPERLINK "<http://www.trianglediapercompany.com/>" \t
" _blank" Diapering Doula - Karissa Binkley, HYPERLINK "<http://www.dynamishomeopathic.com/>" \t " _blank" Dynamis Homeopathic Healing - Hart
Matthews, HYPERLINK "[http://www.grayfamilychiropractic.com/doctor/chiropractor/76L/
raleigh-chiropractor/dr-alisha-davis.htm](http://www.grayfamilychiropractic.com/doctor/chiropractor/76L/raleigh-chiropractor/dr-alisha-davis.htm)" Gray Family Chiropractic, PLLC - Dr. Alisha
Davis, DC, DACCP, Hypnobabies, HYPERLINK "<http://www.journeyofmotherhood.com/>"
Journey of Motherhood - Joanne Dahill, LMBT, Birth Transforms - HYPERLINK "<http://katekatahdin.com/>"
Kate Katahdin, LMBT, Keystone Chiropractic – Donna J. Hedgepeth,
DC, DACCP, North Carolina Midwives Alliance (NCMA), PC Specialty, HYPERLINK "<http://www.preciousarrows.com/>"
Precious Arrows-Kelley O'briant, Singing Stitches
Quilting Studio, HYPERLINK "<http://www.trianglebirthnetwork.org/>" Triangle Birth
Network, Whole Family Chiropractic - Dr. Debra Bell, and HYPERLINK "<http://www.ncbirthcenter.com/>" \t " _blank" Women's Birth and Wellness Center.

North Carolina Friends of Midwives is a grassroots organization of midwife advocates
dedicated to promoting, supporting, and protecting midwifery in North Carolina. For more
information on the walk, visit: HYPERLINK "<http://www.ncfom.org>" www.ncfom.org.

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