

Mothers in danger

Give a Mother's Day gift that can save lives

In the Madison Avenue version of motherhood, well-nourished, educated women smile broadly as they listen to a fetal heartbeat while gazing at an ultrasound image that is baby's first picture. They deftly navigate Lamaze and yoga classes, decorating the nursery and shopping for strollers that are outfitted



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like an Escalade, all while pursuing a rewarding career. And they do all of this with a supportive spouse at their side.

In an ideal world, all mothers would have these options available to them. Unfortunately, there are women all around the world, including in the United States, who live in conditions of

poverty that make their pregnancy a time fraught with risk. The main factor that puts them in danger is a lack of access to medical care during their pregnancies and at birth.

EveryMotherCounts.org is the website of an organization with the mission of providing women everywhere with access to basic, life-saving maternity care. According to the site, 800 women die during childbirth every day, and thousands more suffer long-term disabilities.

The vast majority of maternal deaths during childbirth occur in the developing world, but the United States has a higher rate than 45 other developed nations. The number of women dying during childbirth in America is increasing. A shortage of health-care providers in impoverished areas of the country, a lack of health insurance for many and chron-

ic health conditions — such as hypertension, diabetes and obesity — all combine to make pregnancy riskier, especially for women of color.

Every Mother Counts raises money through its website to provide grants to address the three main barriers to maternal health:

Transportation: Many women live far from health care facilities and lack transportation. The grants help pay for transportation to clinics, for mobile technology to communicate with health care providers, to bring health care workers to remote locations and more.

Education: Having a skilled medical provider at birth is the most important factor to ensure a safe delivery. Grants provide training to health care providers, access to family planning and health education.

Supplies: Many facilities lack basic supplies, medicine, equipment and even electricity and running water. Grants buy supplies and equipment, including solar power to run lights, water pumps and more.

The website is well-designed and easy to navigate. Strong

photos, graphics and video help tell the story. A donate button is available on every page, making it easy to give a Mother's Day gift that can save a life.

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