



## COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING MOTHER AND BABY MERMAIDS

PATHWAY: HEALTH EQUITY

### Project Description

- Provide support to expectant mothers by accompanying them to prenatal appointments at EVMS and regularly partner with mothers to identify any challenges that may arise
- Celebrate successes throughout the pregnancy and newborn period
- Particular attention is given to pregnancy related education through the Supportive Pregnancy Care Program; including normal changes during pregnancy, complications, and stages of labor.

### Annual Student Activities

- 16 students per cohort
- Students have the opportunity to attend prenatal sessions and live births
- Students serve in the community through educational sessions and health fairs
- Students form lasting relationships with moms

### Community Outcomes/Results

- ↑ Healthy pregnancies through one-on-one partnerships between at-risk pregnant women and medical students
- ↑ Awareness and access to pregnancy resources
- ↑ Awareness among providers regarding the unique challenges arising during care for patients from underserved communities

### FACILITATOR

Renee Morales, MD

### PARTNERS

- Loving Steps
- Sleep Tight Hampton Roads
- Minus 9 to 5

### THE NEED

- Pregnancy is the gateway to future health of both mother and baby
- Women of lower socioeconomic status experience pregnancy-related complications at a significantly higher rate than those of higher socioeconomic status
- Maternal mortality rates in the U.S. are rising, particularly in marginalized populations (the opposite of trends in other similarly developed countries)