

## TSE'HOOTSOOI' Branch Activities

### Walking for Global Health

To mark International Day of the Midwife, the Fort Defiance Service Unit midwives, hospital staff, and their supporters around the world are walking to raise awareness and to tackle global inequalities in maternal and newborn health.



**TSE'HOOT SOOI' Branch Officers and Women's Health Staff**

Over 340,000 women die each year, with millions more suffering infection and disability, as a result of preventable maternal causes. The International Confederation of Midwives is committed to reducing inequality, through greater access to essential midwifery care worldwide, particularly in developing countries where 90% of maternal deaths occur.

‘The world needs midwives more than ever.’ Access to essential midwifery services reduces maternal and infant mortality and reduces the cycle of poverty in developing countries. We want

to demonstrate our commitment to tackling maternal and newborn mortality by walking shoulder to shoulder with midwives and mothers around the world.

While inequalities are a global issue, we also want to raise awareness of local challenges. Right here in the Fort Defiance Service Unit the quality of maternal and newborn care is being affected by nutritional factors and diabetes. We want to see mothers and babies start a healthy life through healthy foods and exercise.

The walk on the 5th of May is the start of a journey that finishes at the International Confederation of Midwives Congress in Durban South Africa, a global gathering where 3000 midwives will share evidence of what works to reduce maternal mortality and improve the care and support available to mothers and newborns around the world.

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