



Brenda Surabian Emerson has over 25 years experience as a Midwife. She practiced as an advanced EMT in her community for 25 years.

She has attended over 600 births. She started Sacopee Valley Birthing Services in 1994, but credits her many wonderful midwifery partners who have been instrumental in creating and maintaining a sustainable practice. Deirdre Sulka Meister was with her in the early part of 2000. Lindsay Bushnell joined her in 2005. Maureen Smith was a part of the practice in 2008 and continues to lend a hand every once in a while. Jodie Kaufman joined Lindsay and Brenda in 2011 and then Robin Illian joined in 2014.

As of January 2018, Sacopee Valley Birthing Services is managed by Brenda, Lindsay, Jodie and Robin.

Brenda was called to midwifery in 1982, when she gave birth to her first child. A year later she assisted a close friend with her birth. Her desire to increase service options for women was driven by the

limited choices available for women in rural communities of Colorado.

Her second child was born on “The Farm” in Tennessee. These midwives were peaceful birth experts. Experiencing first hand the skill and competence of these midwives set her on the path of apprentice-trained midwifery.

She completed an apprenticeship with Barbara Prose in Maine from 1991-1994. She participated in an intensive practical midwifery program in El Paso Texas in 1994 and sat for the national exam for Certified Professional Midwives In 1995. Brenda has served as a preceptor for students in the US, Jamaica and Senegal and has been an advocate for health promotion in communities at risk. In 2005 after the wake of Hurricane Katrina she worked with the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood on the Women and Infants Service Package.

In 2015 and 2016 Brenda travelled to her family’s home country of Armenia to spend time assisting as a midwife in rural clinics outside of Yerevan in collaboration with the medical team from the Children of Armenia Fund. Brenda has been inspired and motivated by the holistic and comprehensive approach of the midwifery programs she has assisted with and started the Fund for Rural Armenian Midwifery Education (FRAME–project.org) in April of 2015.

Brenda does ongoing continuing education in her field and participates in local peer reviews. She has trained in pelvic floor health care and consults with folks for pessary fittings at her home office. Brenda lives on a peaceful mini farm on the Saco River where she hosts students through the WWOOF program, and houses the Smoke Island Arts Studio.

She has had the great honor to attend both her daughter and daughter in law at the births of their children and have welcomed all four of her grandchildren in their homes. She loves being a grammy and her work with Maine families as they travel the path to parenthood!