

GATEWAY to EQUITY AWARD presented to MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH CONSORTIUM (MCHC)

Natalie Coughlin, Director of Development and Communications, received the award. In her acceptance speech, she noted that Maternal and Child Health Consortium (MCHC), established in 1991, emerged from a collaboration between the Chester County Health Department, March of Dimes of Southeastern PA, League of Women Voters, Planned Parenthood of Chester County, and other local stakeholders.

MCHC was founded on the understanding that health care goes beyond the doctor's office and the belief that quality health care should be accessible to all. The mission of MCHC is to advocate for and empower prenatal and parenting families to achieve healthy beginnings and a bright future through a caring culture of service. During home-visits and out in the community, MCHC supports families with programs and services to realize its vision of a community supporting all families with children in having equitable access and opportunity to ensure that they start healthy, stay healthy, and succeed in school.

Every year, MCHC serves over 5,000 individuals across numerous family support and educational programs. It operates with a \$3 million budget thanks to community partnerships and generous supporters. MCHC's programs includes Healthy Start, focused on pregnancy and infants through 18 months. Family Benefits Enrollment Assistance



**Maternal and
Child Health
Consortium**

and the Family Navigator Program help families to obtain health insurance and access other social

services. The Family Center's programs include a Home Visiting Program helping children 0 to 5 succeed in starting school; the Fatherhood Program supports fathers with parenting skills; and Child Welfare Programs support at risk families. Information about volunteer involvement is on the MCHC website, <https://ccmchc.org/volunteer/> for interested AAUW members.



Natalie Coughlin of MCHC receives the Gateway to Equity Award from Alice Lenthe and Nancy Paiste-Riches