

“This is a call for each of you to say, “Yes I can and will!” and get on with it. Your children, your grandchildren and all future generations are counting on you.”

- Kitty Ernst



Kitty Ernst with Frontier graduate, Mandi Murray

“To teach is to touch a life forever”

A sofa pillow with this needlepoint on it was sent to me many years ago by a family physician who attended the first *“How to Start a Birth Center Workshop”* in Nashville. Dr. Barbara Levin became a consummate and passionate supporter, establishing Tennessee’s first public supported, rural birth center in Madisonville.

Your teaching is the most important part of the student learning experience and is what touches a life forever. In spite of distance education and the plethora of visuals, advanced technologies and simulators for learning, academics alone cannot produce the midwives needed to meet the growing demand for their services. You are where “the rubber hits the road” for the student trying to put all the knowledge, skills and judgment together. All practicing midwives have the challenge and the opportunity to share their expertise to help meet this growing demand at this critical juncture in the development of the profession. It is a simple fact that if we cannot produce qualified and confident midwives, we cannot fully integrate midwifery into our health care system. On-line training is available to help you accept this challenge with confidence. Preceptors before you have testified how teaching students enriched their lives and their practice. This is a call for each of you to say, “Yes I can and will!” and get on with it. Your children, your grandchildren and all future generations are counting on you.

Kitty Ernst