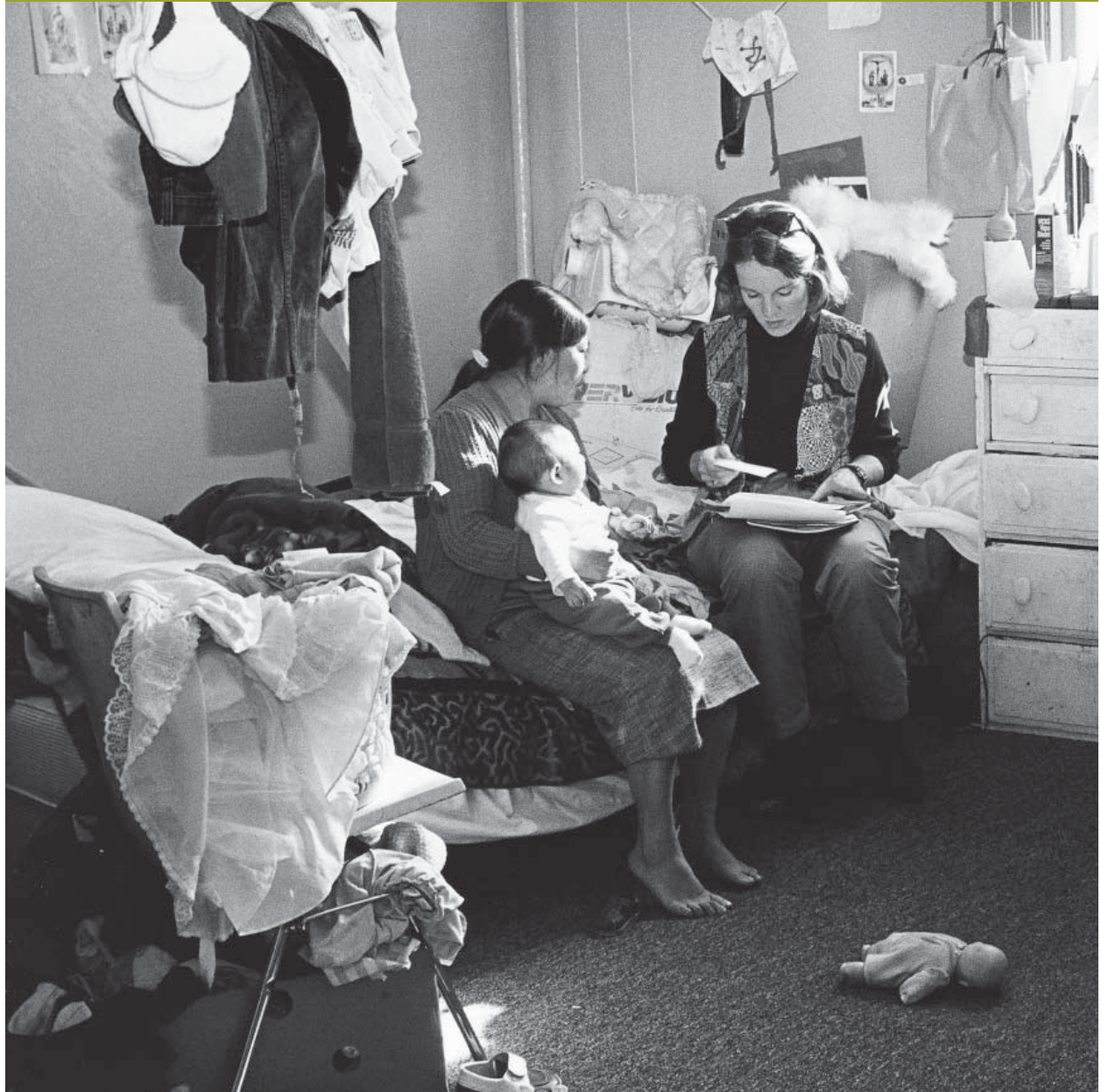


SHARING SOLUTIONS TO A PRENATAL CARE CRISIS



In the early 1990s, a growing number of low-income, expectant mothers lacking prenatal care were delivering their babies in emergency rooms despite the existence of state programs that offered health coverage for safer deliveries. California health foundations felt compelled to address the issue. Having funded a number of projects that sensitively expanded poor women's access to prenatal and obstetric care, a group of three foundations hired Fern Tiger Associates to document exemplary programs.

FTA interviewed and photographed those who knew the programs well – expectant and new parents, obstetricians, and nurses – and conducted its own research into the issue, visiting rural agencies that rewarded women for attending prenatal classes; large urban hospitals, which worked with mothers from the first trimester through delivery; and programs for homeless, migrant, and undocumented women, including a mobile medical van.

These programs were documented in *Models That Work: Solving the Prenatal Care Crisis*, which highlighted creative approaches that increased perinatal access. Written and designed for policymakers, hospital administrators, health clinics, and community leaders, *Models That Work* highlighted each success story in a way that provided tangible suggestions, illustrated the power of collaboration, and demonstrated the importance of crafting appropriate responses tailored to the needs of each community.

THE JAMES IRVINE FOUNDATION, ALLIANCE HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION, and SIERRA HEALTH FOUNDATION joined efforts to fund *Models that Work*, a documentation of programs to increase perinatal care access.

To be sure to capture all aspects of one exemplary perinatal care program, two FTA staff members spent 24 hours at a Los Angeles hospital to witness and photograph successful, healthy deliveries in action. They waited for more than eight hours, but no mothers went into labor, and rescheduling seemed likely – until midnight, when not one but two new mothers arrived, willing to have their birth experiences documented for the publication, Models that Work.

