

# Help!

Here, now and for  
the future.



**HELP US SAVE**

the Maternité Alpine from closure!





# facts.

## THE MATERNITÉ ALPINE BIRTH CENTRE

The Maternité Alpine accompanies women and their families from pregnancy to the end of the post-partum and during the breastfeeding period.



It is the only 24-hour contact point for obstetrical problems and emergencies in the Simmental area, the Saanenland, and the Pays-d'Enhaut.



Safety and competence within easy reach: short journeys in case of emergencies and for every-day questions.



Quality that convinces: 99% positive feedback of women/families.  
(Source: Quality Report Maternité Alpine)



Within 3.5 years: 200 births and 320 women with new born babies in a stationary post-partum period, 1300 prenatal examinations, 2100 post-partum home visits, 400 consultations through the obstetrics services.



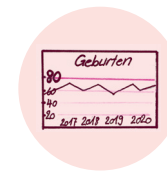
Attractive working and training location: 7.5 full-time midwife positions, 1 nurse, 4 housekeepers, 1 accountant and 4 midwives in training, internships can also be completed.



Voluntary helpers: Working together against the reduction of basic services.



## Why does the Maternité Alpine need support?



In recent years 20 to 50% of the pregnant women wanting to use the services of MA could not be taken on for medical reasons.  
The result: less revenue, but nearly constant costs.



Costs for emergency transport and accompaniment of the midwives remain uncovered.



Longer journeys to the home post-partum are not considered for compensation.  
The annual average of 14 000 km is twice as long compared to journeys in the centres.



No compensation for telephone consultations.

## Operational results 2017, 2019 and prognosis 2021



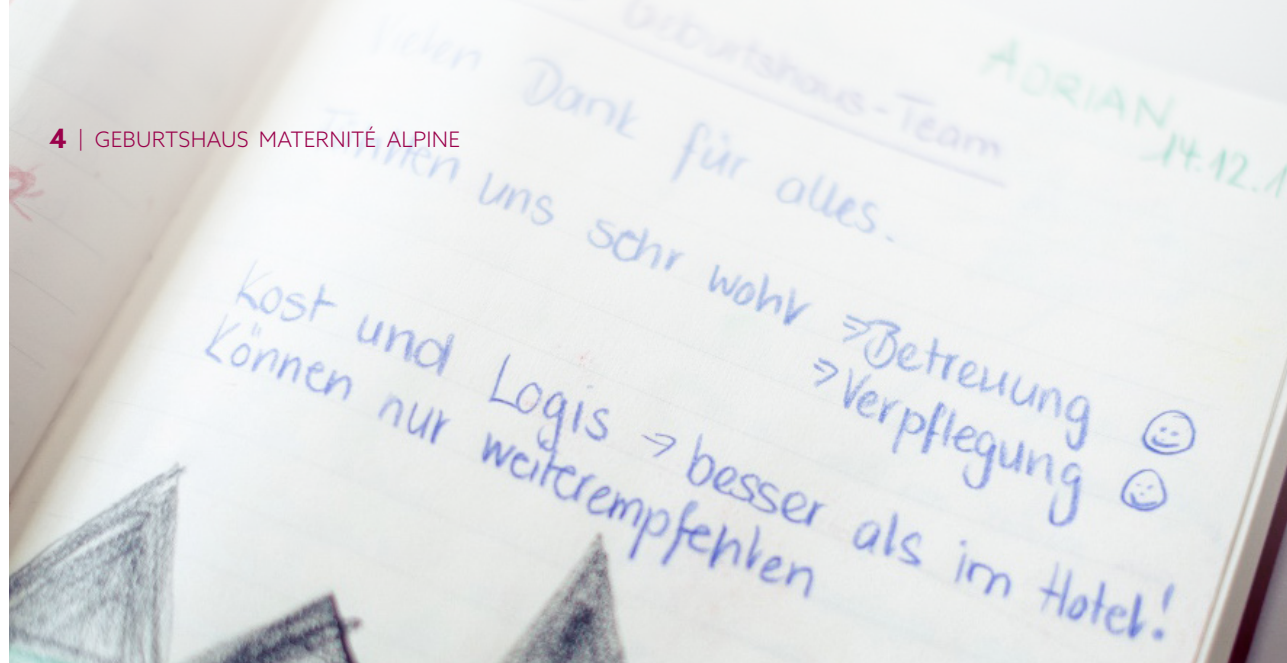
2017: -Fr. 140 000.-

2019: -Fr. 180 000.-

2021: Closure?

The deficits were balanced by donations.  
See company report [www.maternitealpine.ch](http://www.maternitealpine.ch)





## Heart and soul and passion pay off – 99 percent positive feedback

When I moved to Saanenland with my family, we expected an addition to the family shortly. The fact that we were able to contact very competent obstetric services around the clock helped us to have a relatively quiet start. As a tourism expert I would say that in terms of service and professionalism Maternité Alpine can easily compare with the usual 5-star hotels in the region.

Flurin Riedi, Managing Director Gstaad Saanenland Tourism

I had a great team around me; each midwife was unique and wonderful. I felt very comfortable and above all very safe. I was in the best hands!

A big thank-you to you all. We were very satisfied with the Maternité Alpine. They are wonderful surroundings, thank you for your support, understanding and care, following into the post-partum home visits.

We were very well advised, fantastically looked after and were able to enjoy the almost familiar atmosphere. A thousand thanks for all tips, the good conversations, the «baby-sitting» service, the great food and care. For us this made all the difference!

I would like to thank all of you for your dedication and all the help available to me and my child. Thank you for everything!



## THE MATERNITÉ ALPINE BIRTH CENTRE

### Contact point for pregnant women, women giving birth and the childbed.

Since the start of operations on 1 January 2017, the Maternité Alpine Birth Centre in Zweisimmen has been available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. It is the only 24-hour contact point for emergencies and questions about pregnancy, birth and lactation for the inhabitants of the Simmental region, the Saanenland and the neighbouring Pays-d'Enhaut. Even the tourists can meet the midwives of the Maternité Alpine around the clock, a fact that also contributes to the attractiveness of the area.

#### Cooperative

After the closure of the obstetrics department at the hospital of Zweisimmen in April 2015, the population of the Simmental valley, the Saanenland and of the Pays-d'Enhaut was very discontented with the gap in basic obstetric care. On 30 July 2015, 49 interested parties therefore founded a cooperative. The cooperative now comprises around 320 members (as of June 2020).

With the legal form of a cooperative, the idea of self-help, self-administration and -responsibility stands in the foreground. The cooperative is the financial, ideational and operational representative of the Maternité Alpine and works on a non-profit basis. It does not pursue commercial purposes and does not seek to make a profit.

## our mission.

- 1 To ensure basic obstetrical care close to the patient's home for the Simmental, the Saanenland and neighbouring regions
- 2 The maintenance of high quality, midwifery- assisted birth
- 3 Constant, close contact and exchange with hospitals, general practitioners, paediatricians and gynaecologists, as well as with Spitex organisations and mother/ father advisory centres
- 4 The training of midwife students
- 5 The provision of additional services which are not necessary for a birth centre, but are in the interest of the population: telephone consultations, emergency care, etc.
- 6 Holistic, individualised care and advice – from pregnancy, through birth and post-partum – at the centre and at home



# who we are.

A colourful team with a broad know-how that pursues a common goal: the preservation of the Maternité Alpine Birth Centre.

The cooperative administration manages the cooperative, represents it externally and is responsible for supervising the operation of the Maternité Alpine Birth Centre. It is supported by the technical advisory

board. The use of individual strengths and possibilities of laypeople and professionals is our main aim.



## The Administration:

**Anne Speiser**, President, family woman, Grand Councillor, Zweisimmen

**Martin Hefti**, Vice-President, Swiss Federal Diploma in Audio and Video Electronics, Schönried

**Marianne Haueter**, Midwife MSc, Oberwil in the Simmental

**Alexandra Schläppi**, financial manager, family woman, Lenk

**Josefine Stattaus**, tourism manager, family woman, Gstaad

**Hans Schär**, Grand Councillor, Federal Diploma in Electrical Installation, Managing Director, Schönried

**Tabitha Perreten**, saleswoman, family woman, Lauenen

## Technical Advisory Board:

**Fränzi Kuhnen**, family woman, butcher, St. Stephan

**Christa Hefti**, family woman, saleswoman, Gstaad

**Hansulrich Gammeter**,

em. President of the Court, Zweisimmen

**Maria Ader**, Dr. med., specialist in paediatrics and adolescent medicine, neonatology, Zweisimmen

**Martin Rothenbühler**, em. scientific advisor, Bern

**Nadine Kleinebeker**, Dr. med. Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Zweisimmen

**Otto Rychener**, em. spatial and town planner, Zweisimmen

**Peter Dürig**, Dr. med., specialist for gynaecology and obstetrics, Internist, Frutigen

**Rudolf Minnig**, Dr. med., em. Chief physician surgery, Zweisimmen

**Ursula Michel**, farmer's wife, landlady, family woman, Former President of Maternité Alpine, Gstaad

**Rosmarie Willener**, saleswoman, family woman, Zweisimmen

Status: October 2020



**Anne Speiser**

President of Cooperative Birth Centre  
Simmental-Saanenland, Maternité Alpine

Anne Speiser is a family woman, member of the Grand Council and former mayor of Zweisimmen. She is committed to health care in the region and has been an active and supporting member of the cooperative Maternité Alpine since its foundation. In 2018 she took over the presidency.

«I am proud to be belong to such a dedicated team. The gratitude of the parents and the good regional anchoring confirm our then daring step of opening a birth centre. We keep going and do our absolute best, so that the next generation will also be able to see the light of life in our region.»



**Marianne Haueter**

Co-manager of the Maternité Alpine

Marianne Haueter from Oberwil i.S. is a graduate midwife with a master's degree in «Science of Midwifery». She has long practical experience as a midwife and was a lecturer at the Bern University of Applied Sciences in the bachelor's «Midwife» programme. She has played a major role in setting up the structure of the Maternité Alpine.

«It is of great concern to me that women and their families in the Alpine region have access to basic obstetric care close to their homes. The cooperative self-help model is an important alternative to the closures of clinical obstetrics departments in hospitals in rural areas.»



**Maja Hiltbrunner**

Co-manager of the Maternité Alpine

Maja Hiltbrunner, new in Oberwil i.S., is a graduate midwife with a master's degree in «Science of Nursing». In addition to many years of practical activity as a midwife, she worked as a midwife expert at the University Women's Hospital in Bern, the Triemlispital in Zurich and as the person responsible for training at the cantonal hospital in Freiburg.

«The Maternité Alpine is a unique institution in the Alpine region. I have changed to this company, because a small and highly motivated team is able to take care of women and their families throughout the time from pregnancy to birth and the post-partum period at home.»



**Nadine Kleinebeker**

Specialist medical background service

In 2009 Dr. med. Nadine Kleinebeker came to Switzerland after her medical studies in Germany and various stays abroad as a practicing medical specialist for gynaecology and obstetrics. In 2013 she came to Zweisimmen, where she now runs a gynaecological practice. She also works at the hospitals in Zweisimmen and Thun. She was important in the development of Maternité Alpine. She provides background service for the Maternité Alpine if the situation requires support of the midwives.

«The pregnant women and their families need care close to home, especially as obstetrics often lie at the heart of the matter. Obstetrics and gynaecology should be part of the general primary care.»





# what we offer.

The midwives of the Maternité Alpine Birth Centre provide care, professional and comprehensive advice and support from the beginning of the pregnancy until the end of the post-partum and breastfeeding period.

- Contact point around the clock for obstetrical issues and emergencies
- Advice on pregnancy, birth, post-partum
- Pregnancy check-ups
- Birth preparation
- Breastfeeding advice
- Birth in the birth centre, possibility of a water birth
- Post-partum in the birth centre and following care at home
- Specialist medical assistance
- Retraining courses
- Accompaniment of planned caesarean sections in hospital Zweisimmen (temporary pilot project)



# our aims.

The Maternité Alpine Birth Centre fulfils an important task in the health care sector. It is important to maintain and develop the institution – so that the region can continue to be an attractive place for families.

## Short term objectives

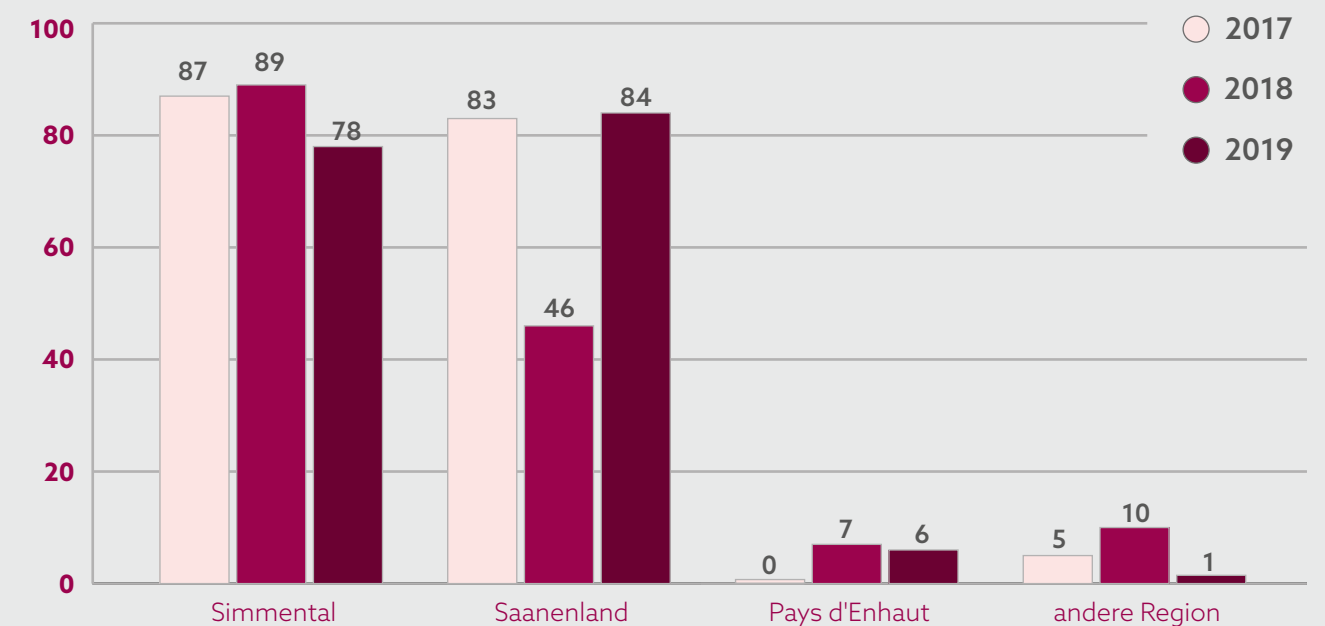
With the donation target of Fr. 400 000.-, the operating years 2022/23 are guaranteed. Gain time to

- avert a closure
- achieve long-term objectives
- increase the level of awareness

## Long-term objectives

- become self-supporting through an even stronger cooperation with the canton and the regional health partners
- enlarge potential catchment area
- use French language skills to advertise the Maternité Alpine in the adjacent Pays-d'Enhaut

**Mother and child inpatient stays:** Compare 2017–2019







# situation & problems.

**Without donations the Maternité Alpine will have to close their doors on 31 December 2021!**

The Maternité Alpine is one of 23 birth centres in Switzerland. In addition to the high requirements for the 24-hour operation that everyone must comply with, the unique situation of the birth centre in Zweisimmen adds additional challenges.

## Coverage of 24-hour operation

Since births cannot be planned, a 24-hour operation seven days a week is essential and requires a permanent availability of at least two midwives. The work takes place in a 12-hour shift operation. The majority of midwives are not resident in the region and commute to the workplace. In order to guarantee the presence of a second midwife at short notice, on-call services must be provided with sleeping and catering facilities. Due to the limited space in the Maternité Alpine we have had to rent a small flat in the town centre for this purpose.

## Capacity limits

Although the number of rooms in comparison to the average number of stays per year is sufficient, it is often the case that several women give birth at the same time and the three available rooms are not sufficient for the following post-partum period. In these cases, women in particular, who have to give birth in hospital due to risks but would like to spend the recovery time in the Maternité Alpine, have to be turned down.

## Break-even due to natural fluctuation not achieved

Although the regional demand for births in the Maternité Alpine is high, the birth figures vary. One important reason for this is that women with medical risks cannot be admitted to the birth centre. The unusually long journeys/transfer times to the next hospi-

tal increase the problem. As long as the birth figures (70–80 per year) are not achieved, there is an annual operating deficit of Fr. 150 000.– to Fr. 200 000.–.

## Pending collective bargaining procedures with health insurance companies

The birth centres in Switzerland receive per case/per woman payment of a flat rate by the insurers and by the canton, depending on the services provided. However, the definitive compensation for the services has not yet been defined. Until now, the cooperative has had to have a reserve of Fr. 35 000.– per annum for a possible repayment.

## Services with insufficient or unfunded compensation

In the interest of the regional population, the Maternité Alpine offers public services (post-partum visits, telephone consultations, emergency transport to the nearest hospital) beyond its performance mandate. These services, which are only partially or not at all compensated, cost between Fr. 22 000.– and Fr. 30 000.– per year.

### An example:

Long journeys to post-partum visits at home: In 2019, 608 visits resulted in more than 14 000 km. On average the journey takes 50 minutes (there and back). These travel times are twice or three times longer than in centres or in the midlands. This is not reflected in the compensation paid by insurance.



## Why preserve the birth centre?

- The Maternité Alpine fulfils an important function in the primary health care of the region. Minor problems or concerns can be solved by telephone or during a consultation in the birth centre.
- The relief on doctors who practise medicine on a freelance basis and doctors at the emergency units of hospitals should not be underestimated.
- The care close to home saves the affected women and family unnecessary travel, costs and stress.
- Obstetrics close to home promote the health of mother, child, and family considerably.
- The birth centre is very popular as a training- and workplace and contributes to the diversity and attractiveness of the whole Simmental/Saanenland region.

## What happens without a birth centre in the region?

- Without the Maternité Alpine birth centre there will be unreasonably long journeys to the nearest
- obstetrics centre (Thun and Frutigen) (Example: Gstaad to Thun, 60km, travel time at least one hour with very good traffic conditions and without road works). This means uncertainty, stress, and higher costs for the families.
- Lack of basic obstetrical care reduces the quality of life in the region and makes emigration of young families more probable.
- Well trained personnel will not choose the region as their work place.

**The financial situation of the birth centre is precarious. The Maternité Alpine can only continue to exist in the future with your financial support.**



# How can you support the birth centre?

## Become a member:

A membership for individuals is Fr. 200.-/share certificate. For legal entities this amounts to Fr. 1000.-/share certificate. The quantity of certificates can be chosen individually. In addition, there is an accession fee of Fr. 50.-. The cooperative is a non-profit organisation. It does not pursue commercial purposes and does not aim to make a profit. Any net income is used for the purposes of the cooperative.

## Donations to the Cooperative

With a donation you help to pay for the uncovered costs.

The cooperative is tax exempt. You will receive a donation receipt. The money you donate will be fully invested in the long-term maintenance of the Maternité Alpine Birth Centre, for the benefit of the whole region.

## Any questions?

The midwives and the administration will be happy to answer all your questions.

### MATERNITÉ ALPINE BIRTH CENTRE

Eggetlistrasse 5a | 3770 Zweisimmen  
Tel. +41 33 722 71 61 | [verwaltung@maternitealpine.ch](mailto:verwaltung@maternitealpine.ch)  
[www.maternitealpine.ch](http://www.maternitealpine.ch)



**ACCOUNT DETAILS:** IBAN CH20 8080 8005 4873 2893 2

**[www.maternitealpine.ch](http://www.maternitealpine.ch)**

Full proposal, impressions, annual reports, income statements, compensation reports, etc.



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