

## Biography for Dominique Bellegarde, CLC, CLE

This lovely woman has scented calming oils in her long dreads. Dominique Bellegarde is married to her chief and is mom to 4 beautiful children (2 boys ages 12 & 6, 2 girls ages 8 & 2) each of whom she breast-fed for over 18 months. She is currently nursing her youngest girl. Dominique calls herself the "Woman of the community leaving a Legacy." She has reached out to many families in the Haitian community and is always lending a helping hand from giving hugs, to providing community resources, to empowering mothers with encouraging and motivating words of affirmation. Dominique is a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) who has worked with Women, Infant & Children for more than 10 years as a peer counselor helping mothers meet their breastfeeding goals from home and hospital visits to supportive text messaging and video chats. Dominique has received a Peer Counselor of the Year in 2017 award and teaches a Breastfeeding class every other week at Codman Square Health Center for pregnant women and their partners. She also co-facilitates the well-known Baby Cafe at Codman Square Health Center with IBCLC Jenny Weaver. Dominique graduated from UMass Boston with a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services. She is currently focused on becoming a certified lactation educator and is working towards her IBCLC requisites