

# 2021 IMPACT REPORT

Unprecedented Growth

OVER  
9.5 MILLION  
FEEDINGS FOR  
FRAGILE  
INFANTS TO  
DATE



**The Milk Bank**  
HUMAN MILK SAVES LIVES

*At The Milk Bank, our mission is to promote community health by expanding the safe use of human milk for all babies, especially premature and ill infants.*

*Our vision is that every child has access to safe human milk.*

# AN EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY

Babies born too small, too sick, or too soon rely on access to lifesaving donor milk. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our milk donors, financial supporters, volunteers and community partners – vulnerable infants have their best chance at celebrating a first birthday.



Freedom Kolb  
Executive Director

As you review the stories and highlights in this report – know that **you make this possible**. You stood beside bereaved families in their grief. You supported new moms with free lactation services. You protected the supply of donor milk for the most fragile. And you provided pro bono donor milk for families, through our Medical Relief Fund – because the ability to pay should not determine a baby’s health outcome.

Thank you for being part of this **extraordinary community**.

## UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH

118%

INCREASE IN  
DISPENSATION TO  
BABIES AT HOME

13%

INCREASE IN  
DISPENSATION  
TO HOSPITALS

116%

INCREASE IN  
DISPENSATION THROUGH  
MEDICAL RELIEF FUND

4%

INCREASE IN  
APPROVED MILK  
DONORS

## YOUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



15

SITES IN 2 STATES  
FOR FAMILIES TO  
PICK-UP DONOR MILK



25

STATES WHERE  
INFANTS SERVED



41

LIVES HONORED  
WITH BEREAVEMENT  
MILK DONATION



71

DONATION DROP-OFF  
SITES IN **3 STATES**



810

ACTIVE MILK DONORS  
ACROSS 20 STATES



1,244

HOURS OF SERVICE  
BY **61 VOLUNTEERS**



4,488

GALLONS DONATED –  
THAT'S **574,452 OUNCES!**

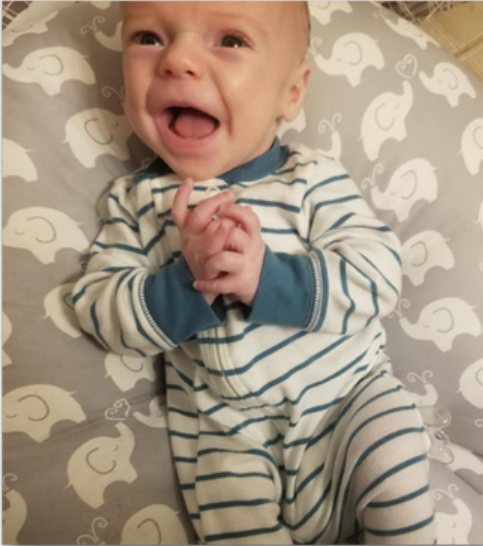


\$225,989

OF SAFE DONOR MILK  
TO FAMILIES FREE OF  
CHARGE



# THE POWER OF YOUR SUPPORT



Following surgery at 10 weeks old, Bailen was in too much pain to nurse. "My pumping output was just under his daily intake, we needed help patching our supply."

**With donor milk from The Milk Bank, "I could focus less on ounces pumped and more on comforting him through a stressful surgery and recovery."**

**Kelsey & Bailen. Ellettsville, IN**



Born during the earliest days of the pandemic, Mateo was delivered via emergency c-section and separated from his mom, Gloria. She was encouraged to pump milk for Mateo and developed an oversupply.

**Gloria overcame a trying start to breastfeeding and decided to use her extra milk to support others, generously donating over 1,000 ounces.**

**Gloria & Mateo. Louisville, KY**



High-calorie nutrition is critical for Mary Therese, who was diagnosed with biliary atresia at just 3 weeks old. Terri turned to The Milk Bank to supplement her own milk supply.

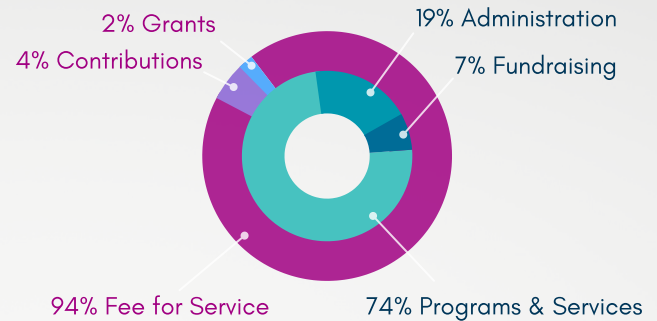
"Although I continue to pump and nurse, The Milk Bank helped fill in the gap that I've struggled to keep up with. **'Thank you' doesn't express the true gratitude I feel for milk donors.'**"

**Terri & Mary Therese. Arnold, MO**



PH. 317-536-1670  
[www.themilkbank.org](http://www.themilkbank.org)  
[engagement@themilkbank.org](mailto:engagement@themilkbank.org)  
 @themilkbank on social

## REVENUE & EXPENSES<sup>1</sup>



## A LIFESAVING NETWORK

Since opening our doors in 2005, The Milk Bank has screened potential milk donors in 48 states. In that time, almost **7,000 approved Milk Donors** generously gave over **5.2 MILLION ounces of donor milk**.

While the work is concentrated in Indiana, Kentucky, and Missouri – The Milk Bank dispensed safe donor milk to hospitals and families across **25 states in 2021**. As our focus remains on premature and fragile infants in the hospital, **81%** of safe donor milk was dispensed for babies in the hospital, and **19%** of milk was dispensed to babies at home.



## INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Infant mortality is the #1 indicator of public health in a community.<sup>2</sup> Use of only human milk to feed preemies & low birthweight infants, **reduces mortality by 75%.**<sup>3</sup> As of 2020, fragile babies continue to fall behind in key service areas<sup>4</sup>:



1. Data submitted for audit.

2. Reidpath DD, Allotey P, Infant mortality rate as an indicator of population health. Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health 2003;57:344-346.

3. Steven A. Abrams, Richard J. Schanler, Martin L. Lee, and David J. Rechtman. 1 July 2014. Greater Mortality and Morbidity in Extremely Preterm Infants Fed a Diet Containing Cow Milk Protein Products. Breastfeeding Medicine. [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/...08.8%E2%80%939327.8%25](https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/...08.8%E2%80%939327.8%25)

4. [americashealthrankings.org/explore/health-of-women-and-children/measure/IMR\\_MCH/state/ALL?edition-year=2020](https://americashealthrankings.org/explore/health-of-women-and-children/measure/IMR_MCH/state/ALL?edition-year=2020)