Standing Beside Families
2023 Impact Report

The Milk Bank
HUMAN MILK SAVES LIVES
I feel lucky to have been able to breastfeed Hayes for as long as I did. I feel grateful to be able to hug my wild boy every day, knowing that not everyone got the chance to do the same. To all my mamas out there who have experienced pregnancy loss: I see you and am praying for your comfort and healing.”

Camille was inspired to become a milk donor after a friend experienced a 2nd trimester pregnancy loss.

“I was diagnosed with cholestasis (a liver disease) while pregnant with my first child. As a result, Elian was born at 36 weeks. I was so thankful for the option of pasteurized donor milk during my recovery.”

Jessica and Elian

2023 brought both progress and heartache as we confront a troubling rise in infant mortality and pre-term births both in our priority service area and across the country. We expanded our dispensation of lifesaving pasteurized donor human milk (PDHM) by 16% (an increase for 6th year in a row), maintained a 100% order fill rate, and intensified our commitment to bereavement care.

Our mission is possible because of our generous milk donors & volunteers, our dedicated staff and board members, and our financial supporters who commit to saving infant lives. Thank you for your loyal and enduring support.

With gratitude and determination, Freedom Kolb, CEO

FROM FREEDOM KOLB, CEO

CONTINUOUS CARE – FROM THE NICU TO HOME

From the careful processing of donated milk to advocacy for breastfeeding, every aspect of our work is dedicated to the well-being of the most vulnerable. Most families who need PDHM have a seamless transition between hospital and home. 1,093 families chose Pasteurized Donor Milk from our Outpatient Program in 2023.

52,654
Ounces dispensed through our Medical Relief Fund

86
Donation drop off locations for milk donors

29
Convenient PDHM order pickup sites for families

Camille relied on PDHM for her son Elian as she recovered from birth and illness. She shared,

2023 BY THE NUMBERS

562,171
Ounces to fragile babies in the hospital & at home

1.69M
Feedings for preemies

16%
Increase in total dispensation over prior year

789
Active milk donors across 24 states

50
Milk donors who made a milk donation after infant loss

1,093
Families served with PDHM at home

71
Hospital units served across 66 hospitals

22
Families received PDHM pro bono through our Medical Relief Fund

LOGAN, ANNABELLE AND FAMILY

Logan and Annabelle found healing and hope in the midst of tragedy. Their family has experienced maternal loss, infant loss, and NICU care – all transformative moments that collide with donor milk. Their full circle journey has led to enhanced services for bereavement donation families and reduced the isolation that can happen after a loss.

Use the QR code to watch their story.

STANDING ALONGSIDE GRIEVING FAMILIES

While we work to help more families celebrate first birthdays, we stand with grieving families and offer the opportunity to donate breast milk in memory of their infant.

Our bereavement program is an integral part of our mission, providing grief support, specialized lactation guidance, and memorial opportunities.

Our bereavement donor families are resilient in the face of loss, and provide a lifeline of pasteurized donor human milk to fragile babies in honor of their own. They drive us to innovate and expand our reach, ensuring that lactation care is addressed during every bereavement experience.
Power of Philanthropy

Our mission doesn’t stop at Pasteurized Donor Human Milk. Philanthropy makes possible:

- Medical Relief Fund to ensure that finances never determine health outcomes
- Lactation care & support groups for bereaved parents
- Advocacy, policy work, and research
- Equipment in our laboratory
- Clinical education to advance evidence-based care
- Outreach to families in your community, in a variety of languages

---

**August**

August was born early, at 36 weeks.

I know breast milk is important for a million reasons, including immunity reasons. Because August has down syndrome, he’s more susceptible to illness, and breast milk helps protect him from that.

At birth, August received PDHM until Brittlyn’s milk arrived. After leaving the NICU, August has received PDHM during growth spurts and during an overnight sleep study. PDHM has been an integral part of August’s healthcare plan. “It’s good for him and it’s good for me.” To milk donors, she shares “I really appreciate you. It’s a lot of work to pump milk. Thank you for sharing that with August.”

BRITTLYN AND AUGUST

---

**MISSION**

Our mission is to save infant lives and improve health outcomes by providing access to safe human milk.

**OUR VALUES**


---

**REVENUE**

- 89% Fee for Service
- 5% Grants
- 3% Contributions
- 2% Other

**EXPENSES**

- 6% Fundraising
- 16% Administration
- 79% Programs & Services

---

Subscribe to The Milk Bank’s bimonthly newsletter, The Drop.