

2024

# Bank Statement

Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas envisions a future when all babies have the opportunity to receive human milk.



mothers' milk bank  
of north texas

EST. 2004



Dear friends and supporters,

2024 was a year of celebration, collaboration and continued commitment to ensuring fragile infants receive the lifesaving nutrition they need.

We marked the significant milestone of reaching our twentieth year. Over the past two decades, we have witnessed the transformative power of donor milk in improving health outcomes for the most vulnerable infants. **Since 2004, we dispensed more than 8.8 million ounces of donor milk from 14,901 donors.**

Our achievements are a testament to the extraordinary generosity of mothers who are determined to help other families with their extra breastmilk. To each and every donor, I extend my deepest gratitude. Only you can make a difference in this unique way.

I also want to thank our wide range of community partners. Your unwavering support, advocacy and generosity have played an integral role in our mission. Whether you are a healthcare provider, advocate, volunteer, board member or funder, your contributions have strengthened the network that sustains and nurtures what we do.

In 2025, we are excited to expand our efforts in breastfeeding education and milk bank awareness. Through new initiatives, community outreach and strengthened partnerships, we aim to ensure that more families and healthcare professionals understand the critical role of donor milk in neonatal health.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Your support makes all the difference.

## Shaina Starks, MPH, CPH

Executive Director





# Our Team

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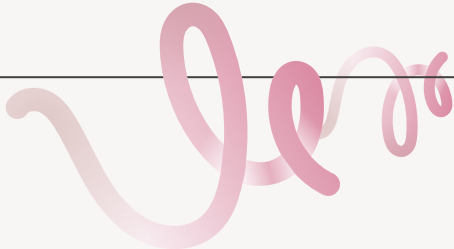
## Lactation Support Facilitators

Amanda Alvarez, IBCLC

Karen Bell

Nicole Miles, IBCLC

Connie Rico, IBCLC



# Twin Acts of Love

Rachel and Sarrah are more than sisters – they are identical twins. They grew up in Fort Worth, Texas sharing a room, a car, a phone, clothes and friends. Now, as adults, they even work for the same pediatric eye clinic.

It seemed only fitting that Rachel and Sarrah ended up pregnant at the same time, and both produced extra breastmilk while breastfeeding their babies, Harper (Sarrah’s daughter) and Gabriel (Rachel’s son). In 2024, they became milk donors and began loading up their coolers and dropping off their milk together at Mothers’ Milk Bank of North Texas.

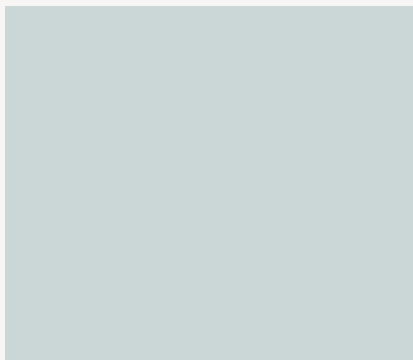
Backtracking to June 2023, Rachel discovered she was pregnant with her third child. On July fourth, Sarrah announced her second pregnancy. Rachel says, “We were in it together every step of the way. Through gestational diabetes and other medical concerns, we supported each other.” The sisters gave birth nine days apart, although quite differently. Rachel brought Gabriel into the world in a hospital. Sarrah had Harper in a car, but that’s a different happy story.



Rachel’s breastfeeding experience with Gabriel was completely different than with her first two children. She says, “While breastfeeding Gabriel, my freezer was running out of room, and I didn’t want that liquid gold to go to waste. Donating my milk means being able to provide antibodies that can help babies get stronger faster and go home to their families where they belong.”

Sarrah’s first-born lost weight while breastfeeding. She says, “Between the stress of keeping a small person alive, latching struggles and multiple lactation specialists both in the hospital and after discharge, we just couldn’t get it completely right.” Sarrah brought her son to Baby Café at the milk bank, where she could get personalized help and have him weighed following feedings. She says, “We finally got him back on track, and he was able to nurse effectively.”

Then, after Harper was born, breastfeeding was so successful, Sarrah ended up with extra milk. To Sarrah, donating that milk is very meaningful. She says, “I can help someone’s sweet baby thrive and give them nutrients and antibodies to help protect them and help them grow.”



# Outpatient Recipients: Before and After



## Addison

Addison received donor milk following a diagnosis of a rare intestinal birth defect and surviving necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) twice. To the donors who helped her daughter, Hailey says, "Addison being on donor milk has kept my daughter home for good, and that is something I could never take for granted. Thank you to the mothers who donate. You truly are helping babies and families more than you know."



## Alexander

After the diagnosis of a genetic heart defect and a three-month hospital stay, Alexander received donor milk at home. His mother Courtney says, "I truly believe that having breastmilk has helped Alexander heal and grow. He was able to gain weight, and his health has greatly improved."



## Connor

As a cardiac patient, Connor received donor milk at home until he recovered from surgery and gained weight. His mother, Josie, says, "Keeping his body healthy was so important, and being able to provide donor breastmilk for him gave us so much comfort. Connor's body works much harder than a normal baby and burns calories at a very rapid rate, so his nutrition is absolutely critical to his health. I honestly do not know if Connor would be here today without donor milk."



# In 2024:

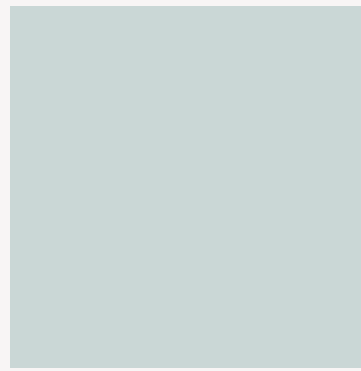
1,272

donors  
approved

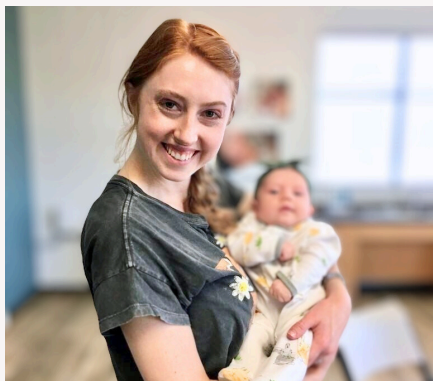
818,580

ounces  
dispensed

8.8 million ounces dispensed since 2004



# Free Breastfeeding Support Empowers Healthy Families



Breastfeeding offers numerous health benefits for both babies and mothers. However, every breastfeeding journey is different, and some families need professional support along the way.

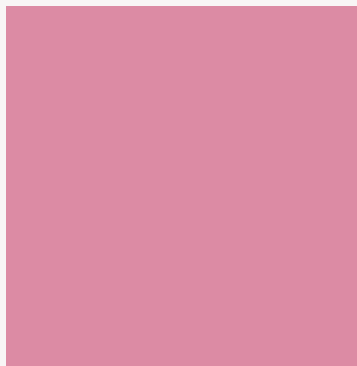
Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas is one of 149 participants in 24 states licensed by Baby Café USA, an organization committed to improving community health disparities through free breastfeeding support programs. Baby Café is hosted by certified lactation consultants who are passionate about helping mothers overcome feeding challenges, gain confidence and reduce feelings of isolation.

Locations include the milk bank in Fort Worth and Abide Women's Health Services in Dallas, plus a virtual option. The milk bank's sessions are hosted by a bilingual lactation consultant twice a month. A new outreach initiative, Pop-Up Baby Café, enables the program to reach more families in conjunction with community partners such as North Texas Area Community Health Centers.

## Baby Café in 2024:

- Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center – Fort Worth generously awarded a grant to support the program, funding that aligns with the healthcare system's goal to improve overall health in the community.
- A makeover of the milk bank's community room created a more comfortable, warm and welcoming space.
- Participation doubled from 2023 to 2024, indicating significant growth in engagement, value of services and positive community impact.





# In Memory of Caroline:

## Helping Breastfeeding Newborns in East Texas

Christus Trinity Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, Texas is among a limited group of healthcare organizations that offer 200ml bottles of frozen donor milk to healthy newborns at hospital discharge. The program, called Donor Milk to Go, was established at Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas in 2018 to support breastfeeding, and it continues to be a vital part of the nonprofit's mission.

Based on donor milk availability, Donor Milk to Go is designed specifically for breastfeeding families. The breastmilk, donated by mothers who have an excess supply, provides a bridge of feedings between leaving the hospital and a successful breastfeeding routine at home. Participating families are typically required to pay a processing fee that covers costs for donor milk testing and pasteurization.

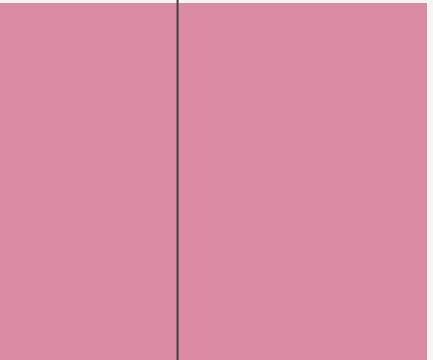
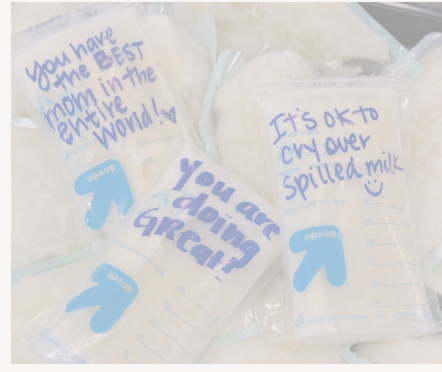
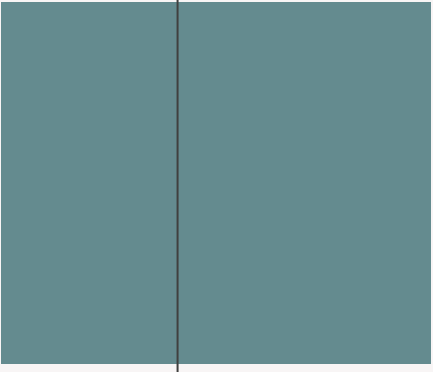
At Christus Trinity Mother Frances, donor milk is now free thanks to generous funding provided by bereaved parents Brett and Jessica Noteware. Employed by Christus in the hospital's pharmacy, Brett and Jessica founded "Compliments of Caroline" in loving memory of their daughter, Caroline Gordon Noteware.

After Caroline was stillborn on March 6, 2018, at 35 weeks, Jessica donated her breastmilk to Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas to ease her own grief and help other families. She says, "Donating Caroline's milk after her stillbirth allowed me to keep a physical connection to my daughter and heal emotionally and physically. The Compliments of Caroline donor milk grant has been a way to continue Caroline's legacy of helping other babies."

Brett and Jessica became aware of Donor Milk to Go and benefited from the program after the birth of their son, Maverick. Determined to breastfeed him, Jessica relied on donor milk until her own milk supply was sufficient, support she describes as vital to reducing her anxiety.

After having such a positive experience with Maverick, Brett and Jessica decided to help other parents receive Donor Milk to Go free of charge. They didn't want donor milk processing fees to be a barrier to the lifelong benefits of breastfeeding.

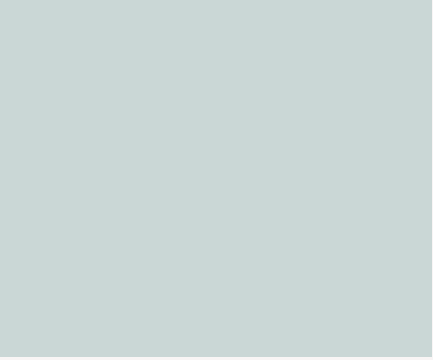
Compliments of Caroline awarded its first grant to Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas in October 2024, coinciding with Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Month. In 2025, Brett and Jessica anticipate helping 500 families through multiple fundraisers including a food and music festival in April. Learn more at [www.complimentsofcaroline.com](http://www.complimentsofcaroline.com).



# Celebrating 20 years!

In 2004, Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas was born. Since then, we have spent two decades connecting generous mothers to the critical needs of premature and fragile infants.





The pictures above tell our story, which reflect a community that believes in the power of human milk, the strength of human kindness and the hope it brings to the tiniest lives.

With heartfelt gratitude, we honor the donors, families and supporters who have made twenty years possible, ensuring that every drop counts.

# In Remembrance of Brooks

## Giving Hope Through Grief

In the depths of unimaginable sorrow, Laura and her husband, Logan, transformed the pain of losing their newborn son into helping other fragile infants. Brooks was born on November 30, 2021, in Frisco, Texas with an anomaly that affected his airway. After corrective surgery, he developed a life-threatening infection and passed away at one week old. Laura says, "Brooks fought like a true warrior, and his spirit was so much bigger than what he had to endure here on earth."

To honor Brooks, Laura donated 164 ounces of breastmilk to Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas. Like many bereaved families, Laura and Logan found comfort knowing Brooks' milk would help other babies. A wall memorial called Carmen's Tree in the milk bank's reception room lovingly displays a leaf engraved with his name and birthdate.

Then Laura and Logan wanted to do more. Beginning in 2022, they've organized GoFundMe fundraisers each November for the milk bank in memory of Brooks. In 2024, they expanded the fundraiser to include a 3-mile walk/run. Trails for Brooks was held on November 30, the date that would have been his third birthday.

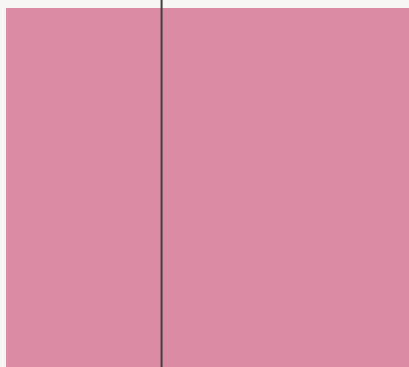
When asked how they came up with the idea, Laura explained that staying active has always been a big part of their lives. After they lost Brooks, they made a promise to take care of themselves. Laura says, "We also feel the closest to Brooks when we are outdoors, so it just made sense for us to combine those things this year. It felt right."

Coping with loneliness during grief can be very difficult. Laura reflects, "To have so many people from all different parts of our life come together to be there and support us is something I will never forget."

On the day of the event, a half mile down the trail, Laura remembers seeing a collection of trees with their trunks painted in vibrant rainbow patterns. Laura says, "It was a meaningful analogy to us - to hide something beautiful only to be found by the few that might find themselves on the same path. It's not unlike the meaningful moments we find in our communion with other parents who've lost their babies."

Next year, Brooks' two-year old sister, Noelle, will be old enough to participate. Laura says, "We are very much looking forward to having her be a part of honoring her brother."

**Since 2022, Brooks' family and friends have raised \$14,510 to help fragile babies.**



Anonymous  
George & Ginny Abraham  
Kathy Adcock-Smith  
Mahender Akula  
Cassy Albrecht  
Katherine Albritton  
Patricia Alridge  
Chelsie Andrews  
Tatyana Araiza  
Rosie Balbo  
Rob Bartley  
Nancy Barton  
Sol Basabe  
Melissa Beiler  
Maddy Blomquist  
Ben Brann, MD  
Megan Brosius  
Jason Brown  
Amanda Bryant  
Natalie Burris  
Henry Campos  
Michelle Caraballo  
Eric Chang  
Caleb Clark  
Hailey Corbitt

Ross Couvillon  
Alondra Criss  
Dara Dallas, MD  
George Davis  
Carolyn Dobson  
Sarah Dudley  
Alex Elfenbein  
Stephanie Eng  
Lauren Ford  
Ceressa Foster  
Christopher & Jennifer Gage  
Adrienne Gilligan  
Anna Goodman  
Kailey Gonzalez  
Meghan Gora  
Bill Hallgren  
Kelly Hanes  
Levi Hein  
Karen Hersh  
Danielle Hicks  
Gina Hill  
Katie Hoefert  
Tenise Hordge  
Carrie Ives  
Kathryn Jacob

Brianna Jimenez  
Vivian Jishkarani  
Kara Kaiser  
Vanessa Kelly  
Kim Kilpatrick  
Linda Kiraly  
Jake & Gloria Kuykendall  
Emily Latiolais  
Anne Marie Levi  
Jeremy Levine  
Cynthia Loe  
Nataly Lugassy  
DeeDee Lynn  
Claire Jordan Manning  
Kimberly Lee Martin  
Laura Maxfield  
Nicole McCameron  
Orla McCormack  
Melinda McCullough  
Winjie & Darryl Miao, MD  
Claire & Herd Midkiff  
Maddie Miller  
Priscilla Miller  
Lakshmi Mogilineedi  
Victoria Montgomery

Valencia Moore  
Melissa Morgan  
Naga Indrajya Mudunuri  
Nuala Murphy  
Meghana Mutnuri  
LeelaKrishna Nalluri  
Melissa O'Neill  
Joel & Kathy Parker  
James R Peacock IV  
Cheryl Pelzel  
Caroline Pillsbury  
Sonya L Plowman  
Linda & Al Pugh  
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Sheila Marie Ratcliffe  
Mary Ashley Ray  
Ashley Robbins  
Sarah Romack  
Stacy Rosebrook  
Jake Sallaway-Costello  
Megan Schmidt, MD  
Melissa Smith  
Beverly & John Snyder  
Erin Hamilton Spence, MD  
Ila Srivastava

Shaina Starks-Solis  
Christi Stinson  
Bethany Stokes  
Katie Stone  
Yara Suki  
Susan Sward-Comunelli, MD  
Maci Talley  
Hiten Thakore  
Brett & Heidi Tomlinson, MD  
Amy & Eric Trotter  
Genna Tucker  
Abbey Van Booven  
Jessica Walsh  
Joshua Warner  
Sarah Wetzler  
Jordan Whitfield  
Shanequa Williams  
Penny Willis  
James Wilson  
Samantha Wise  
Meghan Womack  
Abigail Ysasi  
Elie Zammar  
Sally Zukoski



## Our Supporters in 2024

### Organizations & Foundations

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Abide Women's Health Services  
The Amy E. Shewbart Foundation  
Ann & Charles Florsheim  
Family Foundation  
Baby 360  
Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Baylor Scott & White All  
Saints Medical Center  
Ben C. Delatour Foundation  
Compliments of Caroline

Comunelli Family Fund  
Cook Children's Medical Center  
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Custard Core Supply  
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Fidelity Giving Marketplace  
The Frill Foundation  
Frost Bank  
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Texas Health Harris Methodist  
Hospital Fort Worth  
Texas Health Harris Southwest  
Texas Instruments  
The Jeppson & Hall Family Charitable Fund  
Vantage Bank Texas

### IN MEMORY OF BROOKS WASSAM

Stephanie Arnold  
Brittney Avila  
Hali Battle  
Ashley Costales  
Brittney Davis  
Rachel Davis  
Jennifer Del Rio  
Adrian Fernandez  
Arik Flanders  
Timothy Hambelton  
Denise Hantak  
Sarah Hantak  
Valley Havens  
Amy Montgomery  
Stephen Ray  
Allie Savage

Timothy Simeone  
Laura & Logan Wassam  
Lori Wassam  
Kenna Webber  
David Yaeger  
& 15 anonymous donations

### IN MEMORY OF:

Barbara Guinn by John & Tracey Engel  
Christian Kelly Hanes by Kelly Hanes  
Greg Hauer by John & Tracey Engel  
Diane Moncher by John & Tracey Engel  
Katherine Louse Senter by Susan Sward-Comunelli, MD  
Amy Shewbart by Julie Ostransky  
Shannon Elizabeth Etter Thompson by Julie & Jeffrey Etter  
John Major Walker by Elise & Ross Richardson  
Enid J. Witter by Patricia Alridge  
My Dad by Tejaswini Mahandatappa


### IN HONOR OF:

Aida by Jennifer Kauffman  
Asha by Daksha Thakore  
Chloe Awar by Mona Duna  
Hilda Jordi  
Bayan Saab  
Magida Sabra  
Grace Chen by Jessica WebsterLove  
Millie H. Hall by Matthew & Kristen Hall  
Dr. Gina Hill by Susan Weeks  
Leslie Leach & Greg Makarwich  
by Sabrina Martin Ball  
Ramadan by Amna Iftikhar, MD  
Rel the Second by Jane Albritton  
Connor Sewell by Josie Sewell  
Amy Trotter by Larry & Sterling Lauer  
Our grandson by James Jim & Carol Fowler



# Thank You

For supporting our mission to improve the health and survival of infants through breastfeeding advocacy and the safe, equitable provision of **pasteurized donor human milk**.

 817-810-0071

 7617 Benbrook Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76126

 [www.texasmilkbank.org](http://www.texasmilkbank.org)