

# Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas Provides Aid During Formula Crisis

A limited supply of donor human milk is now available for North Texas families.

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More and more parents are calling Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas in desperate need of nutrition for their babies while others have offered support by becoming breastmilk donors. These developments have prompted the milk bank to extend operations, creating an increase in the supply of pasteurized donor human milk. With more capacity, the milk bank can now help healthy babies on a limited basis while maintaining its mission of prioritizing dispensation to hospitalized and fragile infants.

#### Formula Aid Guidelines

- This program provides a one-time dispensation of 34 ounces of frozen pasteurized donor human milk.
- Donor milk is free. Parents will not be charged regular milk processing fees.
- Pick-ups are required <u>by appointment</u> during regular business hours (M-F 9-4:30) at 7617 Benbrook Parkway, Fort Worth, Texas 76126.
- Babies must be six months and under.
- Please note that shipping and delivery services are not available.
- Dispensation is based on availability.

#### How to Receive Milk

- Call **817-810-0071** to place an order.
- Schedule a pick-up time.
- Bring proof of baby's birth and relationship to the baby being served (example, birth certificate & ID).
- Bring a cooler for milk transport. Thawing and milk handling guidelines will be provided.

# How YOU Can Help

### **Donate Milk**

Our supply of donor human milk is dependent on the generous mothers in our community who donate their extra breastmilk to help other families. If you have extra breastmilk your baby won't need, call us at 817-810-0071 or visit <a href="www.texasmilkbank.org">www.texasmilkbank.org</a>, click "Donate Milk" and fill out a pre-screening form online.

#### **Donate Money**

Visit <u>www.texasmilkbank.org</u> and click the "Donate Money" tab. Gifts will support donor milk processing expenses that include donor screenings, lab processing, packaging and freezer storage.

# Medically Needy Babies Affected by the Formula Crisis

Babies diagnosed with special medical conditions can qualify for donor milk; for example, a baby who relies on nutrition from a recalled specialized formula for kidney failure. <u>Parents of babies with a medical need are</u> urged to call the milk bank at 817-810-0071.

# **Breastfeeding Support**

As an advocate for breastfeeding mothers, the milk bank offers <u>free breastfeeding support groups</u> where families can get help from a certified lactation consultant. This program, called Baby Café, is available in Fort Worth, Dallas and on a virtual platform. Details can be found at <u>www.texasmilkbank.org</u> under "Lactation Support".

# Our Work

The milk bank <u>serves infants in crisis every day</u>. As a consequence of the pandemic and other factors, <u>demand for donor milk has increased significantly</u> over the past two years. From 2020 to 2021, dispensation increased by 35 percent.

# Safety

Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas has safely connected generous mothers to fragile babies for more than 17 years. <u>Strict safety protocols</u> protect vulnerable infants through rigorous donor screenings, milk processing standards and third-party testing.

# **Processing Fees**

Fees typically charged for donor milk cover expenses for ensuring donor milk is safe (donor screenings and milk processing including pasteurization). As a nonprofit, the milk bank will incur processing fees and seek outside funding for support. <u>Safety and quality assurance measures will not change.</u>

# Milk Donors

<u>Mothers with extra breastmilk</u> complete a screening that includes a medical history and blood test. They are not compensated for their milk donations and make milk banking possible.

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