



FUTURE NEW HOME OF

### THE BANK STATEMENT 2017 REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

The mission of Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas is to improve the health & survival of critically ill infants through the safe provision of pasteurized donor human milk.



### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **NEW BABIES ... NEW BUILDING ... NEW BEGINNINGS**

Newborns ... They signify pure joy, renewal, innocence, and hope for the future. However, when a baby is born too soon or with a serious medical condition, nothing instills more fear, shock and anguish. Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas is proud to be a part of the journey to wellness alongside a very compassionate and caring community.

Amy Vickers, MSN, RN, IBCLC, Executive Director

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In 2017, we partnered with more than 900 generous mothers who donated thousands upon thousands of ounces of surplus breastmilk. We collaborated with 85

More Room for More Miracles,

The **Jive** Chypoligh for healthy boloie

hospitals whose devoted nurses and physicians are the "boots on the ground" in life-saving NICUs. A record 568,957 ounces processed in our lab served babies across North Texas and beyond. In November, we broke ground on a new facility, made possible by individuals from all walks of life and occupations. Numerous foundations and organizations also invested generously in this capital campaign, which to date is 95 percent funded

Without advocates for the most vulnerable in our population, we could not expand our services and build a new state-of-the-art laboratory with triple the capacity to process safe, donor human milk. We look forward to finishing our campaign in 2018 and see last year's teamwork and planning come into place.

A heartfelt thank you for your part in such a momentous year. I hope you will stay along for the ride to watch us grow.

600 WEST MAGNOLIA AVE, FORT WORTH, TX 76104 • 817.810.0071 • WWW.TEXASMILKBANK.ORG

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#### \*indicates More Room for More Miracles Capital Campaign contribution

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\*indicates More Room for More Miracles Capital Campaign contribution

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# OUR YEAR IN PICTURES



Donor Appreciation Day at the Fort Worth Zoo



Tarrant County Family Expo & Big Latch On





Bright Beginnings awareness campaign



Groundbreaking at our new location







Volunteer groups from Gainesville WIC, Liberty Mutual and Trinity Valley School







One of many expos MMBNT attended in 2017



HMBANA Symposium





Carmen's Tree Memorial for bereaved milk donors and their families



luncheon, Little Babies & Big Dreams, held at River Crest Country Club



WFAA-TV was live. 1 hr · 🔇

Would you feed your baby donated breast milk? Cynthia Izaguirre talks to the executive director and the spokesperson with Mothers Milk Bank of North

WFAA

Texas.





Filming and Facebook Live segment for WFAA feature

## HEALING AT HOME WITH DONOR MILK



Mikayla with Zae'Lyn

Zae'Lyn was born on February 24, 2017 with a birth defect called gastroschisis, a condition that caused his intestines to extend outside of his body through a hole near his belly button. His mother, Mikayla, found out about the defect when she was only 9 weeks pregnant. She was induced at 36 weeks when doctors discovered Zae'Lyn had stopped growing.

Zae'Lyn weighed 4 pounds, 6 ounces and had surgery to repair the defect within hours of birth. He remained hospitalized for 5 weeks, under close observation for complications like sepsis and necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a life-threatening gut infection.

Although breastmilk can protect babies with

gastroschisis, Mikayla struggled with providing an adequate supply. The NICU ordered donor milk and Zae'Lyn improved and gained weight. He has been receiving it by prescription at home ever since.

Today, you would never know Zae'Lyn started life with a serious medical condition. He weighs 18 pounds, has already started walking, and loves fruit and vegetables. Mikayla says his first birthday celebration will most certainly include his favorite character: Elmo!

Twenty to thirty percent of medically needy babies served by MMBNT receive donor human milk at home. Families are never turned away based on their ability to pay milk processing fees. In 2016, we provided \$430,114 of charitable care for outpatients.

## COMING FULL CIRCLE: CASSANDRA'S DONOR STORY

Cassandra is no stranger to donor milk. It nourished her son, born 9 weeks premature in 2009, until her own supply came in. So when she gave birth to daughter Colbie in May 2017 and developed an oversupply of breastmilk, she knew she wanted to give back to fragile babies, fighting in the NICU like her own son did 8 years earlier.

"I love that I am able to pay it forward," Cassandra said. "I know someone else made the selfless decision and donated milk for my son. It feels good to have the opportunity to do the same for someone else."



Cassandra, baby Colbie and son Connor, with her husband Skyping in from his deployment in Afghanistan

Another thing that feels good? Having the whole family together. Cassandra's husband recently returned from Afghanistan, after being deployed as soon as Cassandra found out she was pregnant. He attended Colbie's birth via Skype and they had a quick visit in September, but there's nothing quite like having the entire family home.

> While Cassandra's experience may seem unique, she has advice that can be helpful for many breastfeeding and pumping moms. She encourages moms to be patient, and to use the resources available to them. "Educate yourself. Ask questions. Talk with other nursing moms," she said. "There isn't one thing that I have questioned or experienced that someone

else didn't reassure me that they experienced too!"

# HELP US GROW

### EXTRA BREASTMILK IN YOUR FREEZER? BECOME A MILK DONOR

If you have extra breastmilk in excess of your baby's needs, become a milk donor and help fragile and premature infants. It's simple! Call 817-810-0071 or visit www.texasmilkbank.org/donate-milk to start the process:

- Complete a phone interview and return a medical history form.
- 2. Have your blood drawn at a local lab (we cover the fees).
- 3. Drop off your frozen milk at donor depot conveniently located near you.



More Room for More

Miracles

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### MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND VOLUNTEER

We love our volunteers! Join our team and help with community education projects, administrative needs, and special events. For more information, contact Mary Ashley Ray at maryashley@texasmilkbank.org.

### HELP US BUILD A BIGGER MILK BANK WITH A GIFT TODAY

Our current growth trajectory can only continue with the completion of a new milk processing facility in southwest Fort Worth. More Room for More Miracles: The Campaign for Healthy Babies will enable us to expand services and process donor milk in a lab with triple our current capacity. Here's how YOU can help us make more miracles:

- Return the enclosed giving envelope or mail a check to: Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas
  600 W. Magnolia Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76104
- Make a gift online at www.texasmilkbank.org/donate
- If you need assistance making your gift, contact Amy Vickers, Executive Director, at 817-810-0071 or amy@texasmilkbank.org





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## **2017 BY THE NUMBERS**



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