



mothers' milk bank
of north texas
EST. 2004

THE BANK STATEMENT: 2021 IMPACT REPORT



7617 BENBROOK PARKWAY • FORT WORTH, TX 76126
817.810.0071 • TEXASMILKBANK.ORG

STOP, START, STALL, GO!

A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AMY VICKERS

Do you remember reading *The Little Engine that Could* as a child? In 2021, many of us at the milk bank could relate to the book's inspirational motto, "I think I can. I think I can. I think I can." With the pandemic still lurking, we had to adapt, stop to change course, find solutions and most importantly, keep going.

Repercussions of a strained healthcare system kept us on our toes month after month. Our biggest hurdle was a significant increase in hospital demand for safe donor milk. Complexities of COVID-19, a baby boom, population growth, employment and economic issues were, and still are, many of the reasons behind full North Texas NICUs. Remarkably, we filled every hospital order and reached three extraordinary milestones.

MOST BABIES SERVED

By dispensing an all-time record of 765,672 ounces, we served more fragile babies since opening in 2004, a 34.5% increase from 2020.

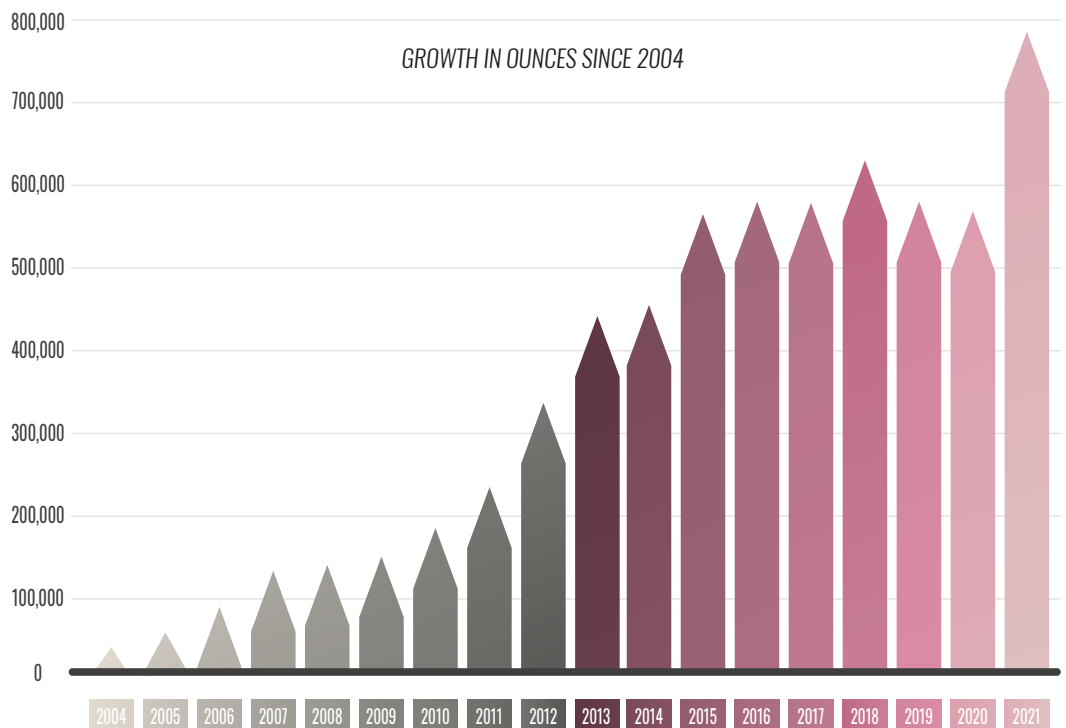
MOST MILK DONORS APPROVED

There was a 28% increase in donors from 2020: 1,161 generous mothers enabled us to meet demand.

MOST CHARITABLE CARE

In 2021, we helped more outpatient babies with qualifying medical and financial conditions. A 29.6% increase from 2020 ensured these families received donor milk regardless of their ability to pay milk processing fees.

With a devoted staff and an army of community partners . . . we thought we could, we thought we could, we thought we could. AND, we actually did!





MISSION

We strive to improve the health and survival of infants through breastfeeding advocacy and the safe, equitable provision of pasteurized donor human milk.

VISION

We envision a future when all babies have the opportunity to receive human milk.

OUR TEAM

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Tina Passah
PASTEURIZATION TECHNICIAN

Nansy Sanchez Perez
DONOR COORDINATOR

Guadalupe Silva Morales
SHIPPING AND RECEIVING

Lindsey Stecker
LAB SUPERVISOR

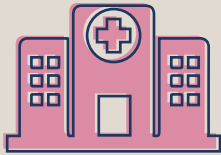
Nancy Thomas
COURIER

Carver Upton
SHIPPING AND RECEIVING

2021 BY THE NUMBERS



RECORD-BREAKING
765,672 OUNCES
dispensed to babies in need



72
hospitals accounts served



98%
of milk was dispensed to
Texas hospitals



1,161
record-breaking number
of donor moms



\$691,719.96
record-breaking amount
of charitable care



47
milk drop off locations/depots



61,521
miles traveled picking up and
delivering milk

babycafé FREE BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT

Thanks to gifts from Lockheed Martin's AeroCARES program and the Tarrant County Breastfeeding Coalition, we revived our breastfeeding support program after the pandemic shut down in-person visits.

The "Baby, We're Back" initiative enabled three locations and virtual sessions to resume, providing parents with the help they needed for breastfeeding success.

Sessions are continuing in 2022, including one in Spanish. For details, visit the *Lactation Support* tab at www.texasmilkbank.org.



NEVER FORGOTTEN NOOR'S LEGACY OF DONOR MILK



MOM VERDA AND BABY NOOR

While the primary service area of Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas (MMBNT) encompasses NICUs located in the upper part of the state, there is one exception in the greater Houston area: Texas Children's Hospital's main campus in Texas Medical Center and its satellite facilities in west Houston and The Woodlands. While Texas Children's facilities utilize donor milk from MMBNT, they also connect Houston area mothers with an excess supply of breastmilk to the milk bank's donor program.

One of these milk donors is Verda, who lives with her family in Sugar Land, 19 miles from Texas Medical Center. Her fourth child and third daughter, Noor, fought a valiant battle against leukemia diagnosed shortly after birth and died five months later. In her own heartrending words, Verda shares how donating breastmilk after such a monumental loss has acknowledged, honored and celebrated her beloved baby girl.

“Noor had a normal delivery. However, when concerning spots presented on her skin eight hours later, she was taken to the NICU at Texas Children's Hospital (TCH). Soon after, we found out that Noor was born with a rare type of leukemia. She started chemotherapy immediately and continued to do five more rounds. Her journey was difficult, but she was so strong.

Noor was never able to come home, so we moved into the hospital. Because of COVID-19, her siblings were only able to visit her a few times. She went outside twice for a walk which was very special for our family. She passed away on her fifth-month birthday due to complications of her leukemia.

Losing a child is the hardest thing I have ever experienced. I don't think I have the words to articulate the feeling of loss I have experienced. It is painful and has forever changed my family and myself. So much time is spent preparing for the arrival of a child, but no one can ever be prepared to handle what comes when that child passes away. We are still navigating daily how to learn to live with the loss we have experienced.

Despite Noor's difficult journey, she was such a happy little girl. Noor loved to be snuggled. We tried to make everything as “normal” as we could for her. We celebrated all her little milestones, even the NICU/PICU ones that other children don't get to experience. We celebrated her life, and we plan to continue to do so even though she has left us. Seeing all the babies in the NICU was startling to me. It's a world that I never knew existed until I got there myself. When I would go to the TCH milk bank to pump or drop off my milk, I noticed how many parents were getting donor milk. I didn't realize that there was such a demand, and the idea of donation ended up sticking with me.

I worked really hard to provide breastmilk for Noor. I was very blessed to have a strong supply. I have to credit the lactation consultants at TCH for being my support system. I stored my milk at the hospital and in my deep freezer at home. My frozen milk supply started to build up very fast and I ended up with more milk than Noor would ever need. I didn't realize how meaningful donating would be. It took me some time to get the energy to pack up the milk and send it off, but when I did, I felt proud.

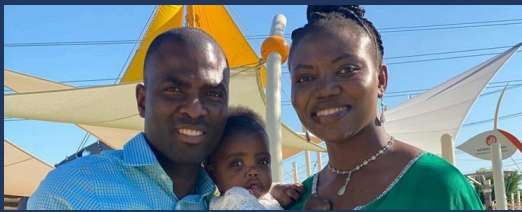
I felt so proud of Noor, that even in a tragic situation, she was still living on by helping other babies have a chance.

We feel very blessed to have had the time that we did with Noor. I'm honored to be her mother. I love my sweet daughter and miss her with all my heart.



Verda with a photo of Noor and a shipment of milk. She says, “After Noor passed away, I remember standing one day in front of the two deep freezers in my garage and thinking I would donate for her and for those little ones and families who needed the support. It was just an obvious solution to me.”

WHAT OUR DONORS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT HELPING OTHER BABIES



“ Mary wants mothers everywhere to know they can save lives with their extra milk and don’t have to throw it away. She says, “We see extra milk as a God-given opportunity to help other infants and we are so grateful for this unique privilege.”



“ Tiffany with 14-month-old Blake in front of a freezer full of milk, says, “[Donating] makes me feel good knowing that all of that time spent pumping was not for nothing. I was able to provide food for babies other than my own!”



“ While her daughter, Louise, fought to recover from numerous medical challenges, Katie donated more than 2,100 ounces of her extra milk. She says, “Because of Louise, I can help another baby.”

WHAT PARENTS OF RECIPIENTS HAVE TO SAY WHEN THEIR BABIES RECEIVE DONOR MILK



“ Miles struggled in the NICU for 101 days and came home with complications. His mom says, “[MMBNT] worked with me and my doctors to get him his much needed nutrition and I will forever be grateful. He is truly a miracle.”



“ Moroni’s mom connects his recovery from open heart surgery to the immunological powers of human milk. She says, “I am eternally grateful for the mothers who donate. They have been a true blessing in my baby’s life.”

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 SUPPORTERS

FOUNDATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS AND CORPORATIONS

AeroCARES
Albertsons Safeway
Amazon Smile Foundation
America's Charities
Anova Benefits Management, Inc.
Fash Foundation
Frill Foundation, Houston Trust Company
Frontstream
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
Higginbotham Community Fund, North Texas Community Foundation
Kendra Scott, LLC
Kroger Community Rewards
Liberty Mutual/Benevity Community Impact Fund
Microsoft/Benevity Community Impact Fund
My Pure Delivery
Network for Good
Newborn Nightingales
Range Resources Corporation
The Ryan Foundation
Nancy and John Snyder Fund, North Texas Community Foundation
Tarrant County Breastfeeding Coalition
Yardi Systems, Inc.
Your Cause



INDIVIDUALS

George Abraham
Kimberly Allers
Patricia Alridge
Anonymous
Anonymous
Andrea Arabie
Sharnet Arberry
Rosie Balbo
Hollie and Chad Barber
Christopher Barrow
Adrien Beggerly
Taylor Bunn
Anjie Butler
Lauren Butschek-Neisler
Kelly Cao
Michelle Caraballo
Anastasia Cavanaugh

Amanda Cernicek
Jason Chandler
Lulu, Jill and Adam Chittum
Deborah Clay
Sharon Cooper
Alondra Criss
Melissa Cuellar
Meredith Daigrepoint
Dara Dallas, M.D.
Deborah David
Ricki Davis
Carolyn A. Dobson
Julie Etter
Raquel De Fraites
Jennifer Gage
Craig Gildea
Kailey Gonzales
Erin Grover
Michele Hahnfeld
Bill Hallgren



Danielle Hamilton
Kelly Hanes
Lauren Headley
Gina Hill
Katie Hoefert
Jennifer Hua
Amna Iftikhar
The Irvin-Martinez Family
Carrie Ives
Kathryn and Benjamin Jacob

INDIVIDUALS CONTINUED

Mark E. Jacobs
Prameela Karimi, M.D.
David Keane
Linda Kiraly
Emily Latiolais
Leslie Leach
David Lee
Marissa LePak
Valerie Loehr
Karen Lugay
Collin and DeeDee Lynn
John Martini
Brian Meadors
Winjie and Darryl Miao
Claire and Herd Midkiff
Joe and Nancy Moore
Melissa O'Neill
Jyoti Rawat
Mary Ashley Ray
Ashley Robbins
Pam Robbins

Sarah Romack
Megan Schmidt
Sean and Brooke Scogin, Clark,
Graham and Maxwell
Julie Seale
Shelby Sides
Michael and Kristin Sloane
Erin Hamilton Spence, M.D.
Carrie St. Croix
Shaina Starks
Christi Stinson
Susan Sward-Comunelli, M.D.
Tabitha Theriot
Shannon Thompson
Brett and Heidi Tomlinson
Genna Tucker
Samantha and Cesar Valadez
Abbey Van Booven
Kimberly Wagner
The Wetzler Family
Shanequa Williams
Sally Zukoski

In honor of Grace Chen
Jessica WebsterLove

In memory of Joann Wood
David Clemons
Donald Dittmer
Vanessa Enloe
Sue Fisher
Clark Jensen, OD
John T. Manly
Lori Muncy
Daniel R. Rees
James and Janet Slusser
Oma Wilke

In memory of Daphne Violet O'Gorman
Sara Catherine Ainsworth

In memory of Edna Manning
Communeli Family Fund
Sterling and Larry Lauer
Amy and Eric Trotter
Amy and Keith Vickers

In memory of John Major Walker
Susan and Bobby Richardson
Elise and Ross Richardson

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE MIRACLES



JOIN OUR MISSION



Call us to donate your extra breastmilk:
817-810-0071



Make a gift to support programs: *DONATE MONEY* tab at www.texasmilkbank.org



Volunteer to make a hands-on impact:
maggie@texasmilkbank.org



Learn more about milk banking on our website:
www.texasmilkbank.org

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



MILK DRIVES - COMING TO A NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR YOU

To better serve our milk donors and fill our freezers, we successfully launched several milk drives in 2021. Akin to community blood drives, this brand-new outreach initiative is continuing in 2022 in a variety of North Texas neighborhoods through partnerships with hospitals and milk collection depots.

Milk drives provide convenient and safe locations for mothers to drop off extra frozen breastmilk. For those who would like to start and/or complete the donor screening process, on-the-spot medical questionnaires and blood draws by certified phlebotomists are also available. Some events can even be held outside featuring curbside or drive-thru assistance.



While our facility and laboratory are located in southwest Fort Worth, you might see us on a faraway road in a pink van stocked with coolers and dry ice. That's us headed out on a special mission for fragile babies.

