



Mothers' Milk Bank of New England

Fall 2008 Newsletter

www.milkbankne.org

Update on Milk Bank operations

The Mothers' Milk Bank of New England opened a dispensary on June 17th at 225 Nevada Street Room 201, Newtonville, MA.

MMBNE is receiving pasteurized and tested milk from the Mothers' Milk Bank of Ohio and dispensing it, by prescription or hospital purchase order, to hospitals and families in New England.

MMBNE expects to open its own milk bank lab and offices in the next 6-12 months.

For information about donating or receiving milk call 781-535-7594 or info@milkbankne.org

Our milk bank in the news

WBUR: "Banking on Breastmilk"

WBZ: "Banking Milk, Feeding Baby"

Boston Globe Sunday Magazine: "The Story of my Start-up"

Parents and Kids Magazine: "Got Milk?"

Record-Journal: New Mom Donates to Milk Bank

Message from the Medical Director

New England has had an important history in milk banking, with the first milk bank in the United States opening in Boston in 1911, and another in Hartford in 1924. The most recent was in Worcester, Massachusetts from 1975 to 2000, when it was forced to close for financial reasons. Those of us who have used donor milk since then have had to order it from as far away as Raleigh, North Carolina or Denver, Colorado.

Having seen first hand the difference this milk can make in the NICU for a baby whose mother cannot produce the milk her baby needs (and for his/her mother, too), I could not be more excited about the progress this amazing group of volunteers has made toward the reality of the Mothers' Milk Bank of New England! We are not only already able to provide the service of safe donor human milk in the New England region, but are also committed to being intimately involved in the associated education, advocacy, and research that are of equal importance in this area of medicine.

In addition to all the progress we have made finding temporary housing, the important interim step of enabling mothers in New England to ship their milk to our sister milk bank in Ohio, and having a ready supply of milk processed at the Ohio bank here in our local office for use in New England, we are working hard to educate our region's health care professionals on the existence, importance and safety of donor human milk. Naomi Bar-Yam, our Executive Director, and I have been invited to speak at a number of hospitals in the Boston area and are planning on doing this in the early part of 2009. Hopefully, we will be able to initiate education and interest throughout New England as well. And we are well underway in the planning of our first MMBNE day-long conference on April 24, 2009, with our keynote speaker, Dr. Lois Arnold.

So keep any eye out for conference information, and help us spread the word about our educational offerings as we work toward a permanent home and the ability to process the milk of mothers from New England for mothers and babies in New England.

- Kathleen A. Marinelli, MD, IBCLC, FABM
Medical Director, Mothers' Milk Bank of New England

First Milk Donation and Delivery



In August, MMBNE began receiving processed milk from the Mothers' Milk Bank of Ohio and dispensing to families in the greater Boston area. We are dispensing about 500 ounces per week to babies at home and in hospitals in the area.

Pictured at left is Ilene Fabisch, clinical director of MMBNE, receiving the first shipment of milk.

Opening reception



The Milk Bank held its opening reception on June 17th in Newton was attended by about 40 people.

The space for our dispensary has been generously donated by the city of Newton, MA. Special thanks to Mayor David Cohen, Nick Parnell, Newton building commissioner, and Linda Plaut, director of the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs

MMBNE Staff and Boards

Executive Director

Naomi Bar-Yam, Ph.D

Clinical Director

Ilene Fabisch, IBCLC

Medical Advisory Board

Dr. Kathleen A. Marinelli IBCLC, FABM, FAAP, Neonatologist and Director of Lactation, Connecticut Children's Medical Center Associate Professor of Pediatrics, U of CT School of Medicine, American Academy of Pediatrics, CT Chapter Breastfeeding Coordinator, *Medical Director, Mothers' Milk Bank of New England.*

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for their vision and help making it possible for us to open the dispensary and begin to make banked milk available to families and hospitals throughout New England.

Pictured left to right are Arlene Bernstein, Karen Sussman-Karten, Ilene Fabisch (clinical director), Ruth Vishniavsky, Naomi Bar-Yam, Mayor David Cohen, and Jane Crotteau. Seated is Marcia Marker Feld.



Freezer donated by Tufts Medical Center

The Mothers' Milk Bank received a large hospital freezer, donated by Tufts Medical Center.

"The first milk bank in North America opened in 1910 at the Boston Floating Children's Hospital, now part of Tufts Medical Center. We are delighted to be able to donate this freezer to the newly opened Mothers' Milk Bank of New England. This is an important health service for our area," commented Lisa Enger, certified lactation consultant and head of lactation services at Tufts Medical Center.

Picture at left shows the freezer being delivered by crane to the MMBNE dispensary.

Save the date! MMBNE and HMBANA conferences.

MMBNE and Holy Family Hospital in Methuen MA are co-sponsoring a one day conference, Friday April 24, 2009, "Preventive Medicine in Practice: Donor Human Milk." CMEs, CEUs, LCERPS, pending. More details and registration, coming soon on the MMBNE website: www.milkbankne.org

The 2010 Human Milk Banking Association of North America conference will be on Monday and Tuesday, April 13-14, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge. The theme is "One Hundred Years of Milk Banking: Looking Back, Reaching Forward." Details to follow.

MMBNE receives Cox Foundation grant

MMBNE has been awarded a 2 year grant for \$41,800, from the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust for our Medical Education Program and Milk Money Fund. The grant will help to support the one day conference, "Preventive Medicine in Practice: Donor Human Milk" being held at Holy Family Hospital in Methuen, MA on April 24, 2009, grand rounds, and other hospital based educational programs.

The Milk Money Fund helps us to make banked milk available to families in need regardless of their ability to pay processing and shipping fees.

Mothers Day and Launch Appeals

Our annual Mother's Day fundraiser brought in many new donors this spring as we received donations of almost \$2000. Many donors sent contributions in honor of or in memory of their own mothers, grandmothers, sisters or friends, as a tribute to the special mothers in their lives.

In response to our launch appeals we received generous donations totaling \$3000 from several breastfeeding coalitions in New England, including the Vermont Lactation Consultants Association, the New Hampshire Breastfeeding Task Force, the Rhode Island Breastfeeding Coalition and the Massachusetts Breastfeeding Coalition.