MILK BANKING 101

WHAT IS DONOR MILK?
A LIMITED MEDICAL RESOURCE
Donor milk or Pasteurized Donor Human Milk (PDHM) is breastmilk that has been donated by a medically screened and approved milk donor.
Typically, a milk donor has more milk than her own baby needs to grow and thrive or has experienced an infant loss. The donated milk is carefully pasteurized and tested before being distributed.

NON PROFIT MILK BANKS
SAFE. TRUSTED. LIFESAVING.
Mothers’ Milk Bank Northeast is accredited by the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA), an accreditation trusted by major hospitals nationwide for its stringent safety standards.
We are also regulated by the FDA as well as local and state health authorities.

DONOR MILK IS SAFE
SETTING THE STANDARD
Mothers' Milk Bank Northeast follows evidence-based milk donation standards to protect against infectious disease transmission and any medication or drug usage that could harm a baby.
Milk donors are not compensated for their donations to guard against any potential profit motive that could harm their own baby or others.

LEARN MORE:
WWW.MILKBANKNE.ORG
WHO BENEFITS FROM DONOR MILK?

1. For pre-term and/or medically fragile babies, human milk is the safest source of nutrition to guard against further medical complications. If a mother’s own milk is unavailable, donor milk is the next best option.

2. A family has chosen to breastfeed their baby and the mother’s milk supply is still developing. Donor milk can provide a short-term "bridge" to breastfeeding, often improving long-term breastfeeding outcomes which have significant maternal and infant health benefits.

OBTAINING DONOR MILK FOR YOUR BABY

If your newborn is still in the hospital, donor milk is used upon the recommendation of your doctor or nurse. To increase the likelihood of availability, consider:

- Asking your doctor in advance of delivery if donor milk is available and under what circumstances it is provided.
- Requesting donor milk if your baby requires nutritional supplementation while in the hospital and it is not offered.
- Obtaining permission to order donor milk directly from a milk bank and having it sent to the hospital.

Families at home can order directly from a milk bank such as Mothers’ Milk Bank Northeast if they require supplementation.

DONOR MILK AND LONG-TERM FEEDING

There are a limited number of women who can become milk donors AND choose to do so. Since donor milk is essential for the health of medically fragile infants who are unable to safely digest anything except human milk, donor milk is prioritized for newborns in the hospital. When available, donor milk can be obtained directly from Mothers’ Milk Bank Northeast for short term supplementation. Donor milk is not a long-term feeding plan.