

2024

# IMPACT REPORT



EST. 2006

## MOTHERS' MILK BANK NORTHEAST

*We are public health*

Approx.

**17,000**

**BABIES  
NOURISHED  
IN 2024**



## MOTHERS' MILK BANK NORTHEAST

### OUR MISSION

Driven by the belief that every baby deserves the chance to thrive, we support family and community health by providing equitable access to safe, lifesaving, pasteurized donor human milk.

### FULFILLING OUR MISSION

Mothers' Milk Bank Northeast is one of the largest accredited nonprofit milk banks in the country.

In 2024 we:

- Served **116** Hospital Units and Outpatient Dispensaries across **11** states
- Fed approximately **17,000** babies
- Delivered **178,933** bottles of screened and pasteurized donor milk
- Provided approximately **1.5M** feedings
- Worked with **1,291** generous milk donors

### PREEMIES NEED DONOR MILK!

Babies born at a very low birth weight require human milk to protect them against serious, sometimes fatal medical conditions. Most neonatal intensive care units use donor milk when a mother's own milk is not available. This vital medical resource is known to be safe and highly beneficial.

### A BRIDGE TO BREASTFEEDING

Donor milk is increasingly used as a "bridge to breastfeeding." When used as a supplement instead of formula, donor milk can lead to better breastfeeding outcomes. This results in significant health benefits for both mothers and babies. Moreover, it is estimated that every \$1 invested in donor milk yields up to \$37 in future healthcare savings.

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**87%** OF US HOSPITAL NICUS RELY  
ON DONOR MILK IN THEIR  
CLINICAL PRACTICE

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## DRIVEN BY SCIENCE, FUELED BY GENEROSITY:



“I GIVE BECAUSE I WORKED HARD TO COLLECT THE MILK I DONATED, AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT IT MAKES ITS WAY TO THE BABIES THAT NEED IT MOST. THIS MEANS THAT I NEED PEOPLE TO PROCESS IT; PEOPLE TO DELIVER IT; AND PEOPLE TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT IT SO THAT OTHER WOMEN WILL DONATE MILK TOO. ALL THAT TAKES A LOT OF RESOURCES! I DONATE MONEY TO MAKE SURE THAT MY INITIAL TIME INVESTMENT HAS THE GREATEST IMPACT IT CAN.” ~ **CARYN D., OLYMPIAN, RECEIVED AND DONATED MILK WITH BABY DAVYS**





178,933

BOTTLES OF SCREENED,  
PASTEURIZED, AND OFTEN  
LIFE-SAVING DONOR MILK  
DELIVERED IN 2024

## WE ARE PUBLIC HEALTH. WE ARE PREVENTION.

Donor milk is prioritized for hospitalized premature and medically fragile babies. It protects against serious medical conditions, especially necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a complex intestinal condition.

Every year in the US, thousands of babies develop NEC and premature babies are most at risk. Studies show that NEC is the leading cause of death among preterm babies between two weeks and two months of age.

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NEC IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH  
AMONG PRETERM BABIES AGED TWO  
WEEKS TO TWO MONTHS.

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Survivors of NEC experience short and long-term complications including liver failure, poor growth, and neurodevelopmental impairment.

Research indicates that an exclusive human milk diet reduces the occurrence of NEC by 50 - 75%. Roughly 90% of NICUs nationwide use human donor milk as the standard of care for very preterm babies, if a mother's own milk is not available.

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AN EXCLUSIVE HUMAN MILK DIET  
REDUCES THE OCCURRENCE OF NEC  
BY **50 - 75%**.

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***Proudly trusted by hospitals across the northeast***

“CARING FOR INFANTS IN THE NICU IS A GREAT PRIVILEGE AND A PROFOUND RESPONSIBILITY, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE CHALLENGES POSED BY CONDITIONS LIKE NECROTIZING ENTEROCOLITIS (NEC), A SEVERE BOWEL DISEASE THAT DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTS PREMATURE NEWBORNS. RESEARCH CLEARLY SHOWS THAT A HUMAN MILK DIET SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCES THE RISK OF NEC. THEREFORE, WHEN MATERNAL MILK IS UNAVAILABLE, PROVIDERS PRIORITIZE THE USE OF HUMAN DONOR MILK.” ~ **GINA TRACHIMOWICZ, M.D., MEDICAL DIRECTOR, MOTHERS' MILK BANK NORTHEAST**

1,291

GENEROUS MILK DONORS MADE A DIFFERENCE FOR BABIES IN NEED



*record breaking!*



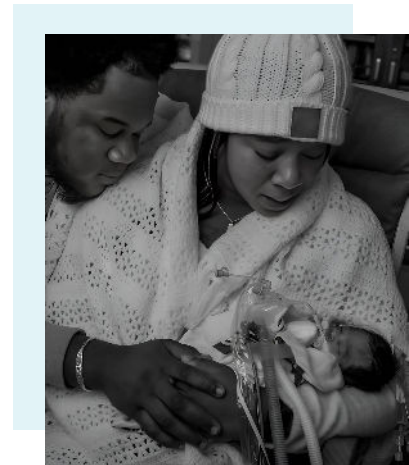
116

HOSPITAL UNITS & OUTPATIENT DISPENSARIES SERVED - IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR THOUSANDS OF BABIES EVERY YEAR

NICU mom Destiny on what inspired her to donate after the loss of her daughter, Miracle:

“I donated my milk in memory of Miracle. And I chose Mothers’ Milk Bank Northeast because they understood that and helped me donate in her honor. I gave this gift that should have been my daughter’s, to another family who desperately needed it for their baby.”

Destiny received and donated milk with twins Faith and Miracle, who were born at 31 weeks



A thank you from NICU mom Jodi to our milk donors:

“Thank you for giving of yourself. For providing what Jenna needed when I couldn’t. Thank you for being so selfless, for giving something so personal to someone you don’t even know. She had the best milk available, donated milk. And for that I’m so thankful.”

Jodi received donor milk with baby Jenna, who was born at 28 weeks.

“TEN PERCENT OF BABIES ARE BORN PREMATURELY. WHEN THEY NEED DONOR MILK, OUR MILK BANK MAKES SURE IT’S AVAILABLE. WE PROCESS MILK DONATIONS FROM GENEROUS MILK DONORS UNDER STRICT HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES. THEN OUR TINY BABIES RECEIVE NUTRITIOUS AND PROTECTIVE MILK, MILK THAT THEIR DOCTORS AND PARENTS KNOW IS SAFE. MOTHERS’ MILK BANK NORTHEAST IS HERE FOR EVERY BABY BECAUSE EVERY BABY MATTERS.”

~ MARK ROSEN, BOARD CHAIR AND DEBORAH C. YOUNGBLOOD, CEO



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LOWER RESOURCED  
FAMILIES SUPPORTED  
THROUGH OUR  
CHARITABLE GIVING  
PROGRAMS

UP 45% SINCE 2023



## BRIDGING THE CARE GAP

Every baby deserves a healthy start in life. At Mothers' Milk Bank Northeast, we strive to ensure that every baby who needs donor milk has access to it. Our goal is to provide life-changing nourishment and support to those who need it most.

This year we invested in several initiatives to improve equitable access:

- We **translated key materials** into seven sought-after languages, including Brazilian Portuguese, Cape Verdean Creole, French, Haitian Creole, Spanish, and Vietnamese, to expand access to donor milk.
- Introduced **a professional medical interpreting** service enabling us to screen prospective milk donors and recipients in their native language.
- Grew our **maternal and infant equity partnerships** across Massachusetts with funding from Attorney General Campbell's office.

## WE ARE COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING PATHWAYS

Last summer, we partnered with Project Onramp, a program of Life Sciences Cares, to offer two college internships. This program is designed to create specific pathways for less-resourced and often first-generation students, reducing opportunity gaps and promoting a well-prepared, diverse workforce.

What did our interns have to say?

"HAVING COMPLETED ANOTHER INTERNSHIP WITHIN THE NICU, I KNEW THAT DONOR MILK EXISTED, BUT I NEVER GAVE IT MUCH THOUGHT BEYOND THAT. IT'S BEEN EYE-OPENING TO SEE JUST HOW MUCH WORK GOES INTO COLLECTING AND MAKING IT SAFE FOR THESE BABIES."

~ MARYONA, BIOCHEMISTRY STUDENT

*We are looking forward to welcoming our 2025 interns!*

## THE NONPROFIT DIFFERENCE

### We focus on mission, not profits.

We triage our milk to the most medically fragile babies. Milk donors are never recruited or compensated for their gift of milk. This ensures that mom's own baby receives all the nutrition they need first. Keeping financial incentives out of the equation also minimizes other risks to the process. Both the milk donors and the staff are here for the same reason, to help babies who need donor milk receive it safely, so they can grow and thrive.

### KEY INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

- CATHOLIC HEALTH FOUNDATION OF GREATER BOSTON, INC.
- COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS - OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
- CRANE CHARITABLE FUNDS
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1300

HOURS LOGGED BY OUR  
IN-OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

## THE ROBERT & ANDREA INSOFT FUND

### Growing the Future

A huge thank you to Rob and Andie Insoft for their generosity in creating this new fund to support our mission now and in the future. They launched this fund with a challenge, offering a 1:1 match for all gifts up to \$150,000 over three years. Growth capital funds raised through this challenge will aid in the strategic expansion of our milk bank and our impact.

[milkbankne.org/insoftfund](https://milkbankne.org/insoftfund)



**Your generosity makes a lasting difference for babies and families in need!**

**View our 2024 Donor Roll here: [milkbankne.org/donorroll](https://milkbankne.org/donorroll)**

1.5M<sup>+</sup>

ESSENTIAL  
FEEDINGS FOR  
FRAGILE INFANTS  
EVERY YEAR



## THANK YOU

OUR WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE MANY VILLAGES IN OUR COMMUNITY – HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS, VOLUNTEERS, FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS, PARENTS, BABIES, AND, OF COURSE, MILK-DONOR HEROES.

THANK YOU, EVERY ONE OF YOU, FOR HELPING US BUILD FAMILIES, FUTURES, AND HOPE.

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SCAN TO LEARN  
MILKBANKNE.ORG

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