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**Mothers' Milk Bank at Austin Reaches Another Milestone**  
*Celebrating Five Million Ounces of Human Milk Dispensed*

**AUSTIN, Texas – December 14, 2017** – [Mothers' Milk Bank at Austin](#) (MMBA) announced today that it has dispensed five million ounces of donor human milk since opening its doors in 1999. This breast milk was donated by more than 8,000 mothers, and more than 29,000 preterm and medically fragile babies have received its lifesaving nourishment.

MMBA was founded by two Austin-based neonatologists with the mission of saving babies' lives through the gift of human milk. Human milk is best for all babies, but it is critical to survival for preterm and medically fragile infants. Human milk facilitates the maturation of the infants' organs, drastically reduces the leading cause of death for the infants (necrotizing enterocolitis), and improves feeding tolerance. Donor human milk is provided to those babies whose mothers are unable to produce their own breast milk, or who don't have enough of their own milk.

"Every ounce of milk dispensed represents a compassionate gift from a donor, and a lifesaving gift to a recipient. Over the past 18 years, with the support of our community, we have expanded our impact to serve babies in need across Texas and 22 other states," said Kim Updegrove, MMBA executive director. "We couldn't save lives without the dedication of the mothers who donate their milk, the financial supporters who make sure that we have the resources to never turn someone away, and the volunteers who make our work possible."

This milestone comes at the end of a big year for MMBA. In addition to reaching five million ounces, the Milk Bank also saw its largest number of new milk donors approved in a single year: more than 1,000 women have been screened and approved in 2017.

MMBA also purchased and moved into a larger, state-of-the-art facility in order to continue its leadership in advancing the use of donor human milk to improve infant survival and quality of life. This new building will allow the Milk Bank to double its milk processing capacity, provide state-of-the-art laboratories to support development of new milk products specifically created to meet medical challenges, and furnish space and facilities for free community parenting and breastfeeding classes.

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“Seventy-two thousand infants are born annually with a medical need for milk,” said Updegrove. “The staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, and milk and financial supporters will not rest until all have access to safe, life-saving human milk.”

The Milk Bank relies on support from the community to feed the next generation. Mothers who are able to produce extra milk are encouraged to call today to be screened. Everyone can contribute, in some way, to MMBA to help improve survival rates and the health of pre-term and ill babies.

To learn more about the Milk Bank and show your support by donating milk, money or time, visit <http://www.milkbank.org/>.

### **About Mothers’ Milk Bank at Austin**

Babies born early need human milk to survive and thrive, however, their mothers often do not have the milk supply needed. The Mothers’ Milk Bank at Austin has been meeting that need for more than 18 years. Mothers’ Milk Bank at Austin is a non-profit milk bank whose mission is to save babies’ lives by providing prescribed donor human milk.

### **Learn more about Mothers’ Milk Bank at Austin:**

Website: [www.milkbank.org](http://www.milkbank.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/donatebreastmilk](http://www.facebook.com/donatebreastmilk)  
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