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HMBANA MATTERS

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Greetings

We want to wish each and everyone a very happy holiday season!

Thank you for your continued support of non-profit milk banking in North America. We hope you will enjoy this issue of HMBANA Matters. Please help us advocate HMBANA's mission by forwarding this newsletter on to a colleague.

If this newsletter was shared with you by a friend or colleague, please visit our website to be added to our mailing list so you don't miss an issue, at www.hmbana.org.

HMBANA Press Release December 9, 2014

Human Milk Banking Association of North America Takes a Stand against Paying for Donations

The Human Milk Banking Association of North America advocates volunteer donations as most ethical method

Fort Worth, Texas – December 9, 2014

With recent news that Medolac Laboratories plans to financially compensate mothers for breast milk donations, nonprofit milk banks all over North America are speaking out to explain why they believe recruiting donors without financial compensation is the most ethical way to provide donor human milk to critically ill infants. A *New York Times* article published on December 3 examines Medolac's strategy to target low-income African-American women for selling breastmilk.

The Human Milk Banking Association of North America, the accreditation and oversight body for all nonprofit milk banks in North America, takes the position that accepting milk donations from volunteer donors is the most ethical way to ensure that milk donations will be shared with the most critically ill of infants. Through following the nonprofit model of milk banking, HMBANA milk banks prioritize infant health when distributing donor milk to fragile infants. When donors contribute their milk to a for-profit breast milk operation, they do not always have the level of certainty about the destination of their donation.

HMBANA milk banks follow procedures based on scientific evidence and recommendations from the FDA and CDC. All

milk banks affiliated with HMBANA follow the same rigorous standards for screening, processing and distributing donor human milk to fragile infants, which have produced incredibly positive results for fragile infants and their families. In the past twelve months, HMBANA-affiliated milk banks have distributed 3.8 million ounces of donor human milk to fragile infants in all 50 United States and most of Canada.

Non-profit milk banks currently process milk using the Holder method of pasteurization. There is evidence that has shown that this method of pasteurization is gentle enough to preserve the important immunological properties that make donor human milk lifesaving for critically ill and premature babies. Fort Worth neonatologist and Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas medical director, Erin Hamilton-Spence, MD explains, "Holder pasteurization (62.5 degrees C/144.5 degrees F) preserves most of the heat sensitive components of human milk. At twice this temperature and with the addition of pressure, these properties would likely be obliterated. Unfortunately, there is no published clinical or laboratory data that reassures NICU providers that milk processed in this way is safe."

HMBANA milk banks only accept human milk donated from volunteer donors who are not compensated financially for their gift. HMBANA president, Pauline Sakamoto adds, "Throughout our history, we have learned that mothers are generous and willing to share their extra milk with critically ill babies and want to know that the sickest babies, the babies that have the greatest need, are receiving their milk. By donating their milk with a nonprofit milk bank, mothers can be sure that their milk will be allocated to the sickest babies in their area. Babies are not prioritized based on their ability to pay for milk. HMBANA vehemently defends this model. We believe this is the ethical way to dispense this vital resource."

HMBANA milk banks continue to believe that relying on volunteer donors is the only ethical way to collect and distribute the human milk donations critically ill infants desperately need. Donor human milk is often the most effective nutrition and medicine for premature infants or those with life-threatening illnesses. Through the kindness of donor mothers and competence of HMBANA milk banks, donors can be sure that their donations are going to the infants that truly need donated milk throughout the United States.

About Human Milk Banking Association of North America

In the past 12 months, HMBANA's 18 member milk banks have dispensed 3.8 million ounces of lifesaving donor human milk to critically ill hospitalized infants in all 50 states and most of Canada. Visit www.hmbana.org for more information and member milk bank locations.

Small Businesses - Big Hearts!

You don't have to be a milk donor to participate in HMBANA's mission. Northwest Mothers Milk Bank (NWMMB) was recently the recipient of funds raised due to the efforts of two dynamic women from Newberg, Oregon. Newberg is located approximately 25 miles southwest of Portland in the beautiful Chehalem Valley.

Busy mom and entrepreneur Rebekah Osowick teamed up with NWMMB Board Secretary Amber Pucci to create the Newberg Small Business Fair which serves the dual purpose of benefiting the milk

bank and showcasing the goods and services of small businesses.

The Pacific Northwest knows that “Local is Better”, which is why Rebekah and Amber created this opportunity for community members and entrepreneurs to connect, and what better cause than benefiting our regional, not-for-profit milk bank—getting local milk to local babies? This 1st annual Newberg Small Business Fair took place in the beautiful Chehalem Cultural Center, raising over \$800 for the milk bank through a silent auction with donated items from area businesses!

“Our mission serves a local need so we were excited to have this unique opportunity to experience community support!”, stated Lesley Mondeaux, NWMMB Director. “We can’t wait for next year and our participation in the 2nd Annual Newberg Small Business Fair.”



Amber Pucci Heckman (left) and Rebekah Osowick (right)

[Oklahoma Mothers' Milk Bank Celebrates First Anniversary of Dispensing Milk](#)

The Oklahoma Mothers' Milk Bank (OMMB) celebrated its first anniversary of dispensing pasteurized milk in August. A



celebration was held with approximately 100 guests, and tours of the milk bank were given. While OMMB was incorporated as a 501c3 in 2011, full operations did not begin until 2013 after two years of fundraising. OMMB has passed two HMBANA assessments and is currently providing safe, pasteurized donor milk to seven of the eight level-III Neonatal Intensive Care Units in Oklahoma hospitals. Prior to the establishment of OMMB, only one Oklahoma hospital was providing pasteurized donor milk in its NICU. OMMB met its first-year goal of dispensing 30,000 ounces of pasteurized donor milk and continues to increase capacity with a second-year goal of 60,000 ounces. OMMB recently screened its 400th donor mother and is seeking funding to begin providing pasteurized donor milk on an outpatient basis. To see the new professional video about the

milk bank, go to <http://okmilkbank.org/oklahoma-mothers-milk-bank-promotional-video>.



Mother and recipient of pasteurized donor milk from the Oklahoma Mothers' Milk Bank

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