



**PRESS RELEASE
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The Milk Bank Opens Expanded Facility to Meet Growing Demand



INDIANAPOLIS, October 7, 2022 – In the last two years there has been a 185% increase in donor milk dispensed to families at home. In the same time period, orders from hospitals rose 25%. This staggering growth was driven by mounting evidence for the use of donor milk as a medical intervention for the most fragile NICU patients, as well as the formula crisis.

“In some situations, donor milk is life enhancing. But in other situations, for the babies I see, it is lifesaving” says Eka Akinola, MD, neonatologist

and Medical Director of The Milk Bank. “Safe pasteurized donor human milk, processed in an accredited facility, gives babies best chance to survive and thrive. **This building is more than a lab space to me. It is a place of hope for all those born too small, too sick, or too soon.**”

Through generous philanthropic support, The Milk Bank was able to move in late August, effectively doubling in size. The expansion resulted in additional lab equipment for pasteurization, along with ability to add an on-site generator. Most importantly, The Milk Bank can provide more lifesaving donor milk to hospitals and families as treatment for premature and fragile infants.

Recently, The Milk Bank welcomed milk donors, recipient families, policymakers, healthcare providers, and advocates to join in a ribbon-cutting and grand opening celebration at their new facility. The new location at 8020 Castleway Drive, features an expanded milk lab and production space, dedicated lactation room for free private consultations, and a convening space to host community groups and pre-service students. Across Indiana, The Milk Bank provides donor milk to 69 locations, and offers 47 convenient locations for milk donation. This additional space ensures that The Milk Bank can continue to serve hospitals and hundreds of families across Missouri, Kentucky, Indiana, and beyond.

“This new facility means we don’t have to say no to families in need simply due to lab capacity. It means we can extend our outpatient services and our bereavement supports – because even as we work to combat infant mortality, we must also stand alongside those who have experienced unimaginable loss” said Freedom Kolb, Chief Executive Officer of The Milk Bank.



To learn more about how The Milk Bank can serve infants in your community or to support The Milk Bank, visit [themilkbank.org](https://www.themilkbank.org).

About The Milk Bank:

The Milk Bank is a non-profit tissue bank dispensing more than 400,000 ounces of pasteurized donor human milk to hospitals and families throughout the region every year. The Milk Bank improves health outcomes for premature and ill infants, foster better health for children and decreases health care expenditures. The Milk Bank follows the strictest safety standards informed by the CDC and FDA and is a proud member of the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA). Visit <https://www.themilkbank.org> to learn more.

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Get to know The Milk Bank in [20 seconds](#) and for additional resources, contact Diane Wade, dwade@themilkbank.org, 317-777-7717.