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MILK WARRIORS ANSWER THE CALL FOR BABIES IN NEED
Healthy moms continue pumping as The Milk Bank prepares for increased demand

Indianapolis, IN: As the Milk Bank takes steps to protect the region’s supply of pasteurized donor human milk (PDHM), local moms have stepped up to help hospitals and NICUs. While much is still unknown, the virus has not been detected in breast milk.

Executive Director, Freedom Kolb, reports, “Within hours of our appeal, forty (40) new donors begin the screening process and four (4) previous donors responded they would resume pumping to help NICUs during this time. It is cliché, but we literally can’t thank these women enough. Their efforts will absolutely save lives.”

Many mothers expressed gratitude to be able to help during the outbreak. Christine Nufer shared, “I was lucky to have a surplus of milk and was home for most all feeds. We also had a freezer that was being overtaken by milk! I was happy to pass along what extra milk I had.” Similarly, Suzanne Gillies-Smith made the extraordinary decision to not only resume pumping, but to share her story as an inspiration to others. She described her decision by saying, “We do what we can when we can.”

The Milk Bank is single-source, essential medical service. Kolb elaborates, “What many people do not realize is that donor milk isn’t just nutrition, it is medicine for the most vulnerable and medically fragile infants. It is tissue, just like blood or organ donations. For those who cannot donate milk, we ask them to consider sharing the message of our spike in need or make a financial donation to combat infant mortality.”

Milk donations are still needed to prepare for increased demand associated with COVID-19. Any healthy mother who has extra milk supply is encouraged to visit www.themilkbank.org to begin the screening process. Milk pumped and frozen up can be accepted up to the infants second birthday. The Milk Bank can also provide shipping materials and supplies if donor mothers are unable to bring milk to us or to a depot in their local area.

Kolb reflects, “The generosity of moms has truly been a bright spot during these challenging days. While the world responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, a NICU family’s world is entirely focused on their child’s survival. These donor moms are saying we see you and we’re here to help.”

About The Milk Bank (TMB):
Research has consistently demonstrated that breastmilk provides significant immunological, nutritional, physiological and psychological benefits that protect babies against many illnesses and last well beyond infancy. TMB was established to improve health outcomes for premature and ill infants, foster better health for children and decrease health care expenditures. TM is dedicated to public health by providing a reliable supply of pasteurized donor human milk to infants in need. TMB is an independent, 501c3 non-profit accredited by The Human Milk Banking Association of North America. For more information about TMB, visit www.themilkbank.org or connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and
Additionally, The Milk Bank has provided an online toolkit for media and public health partners to remain current regarding the COVID-19 outbreak.