

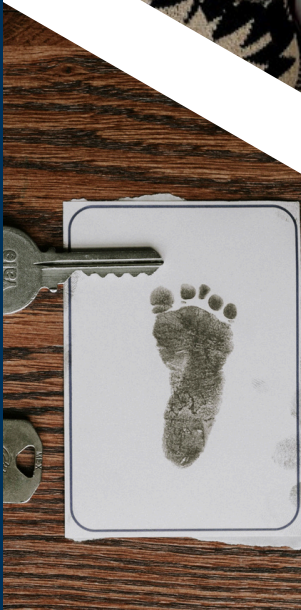
# Donor Milk Laboratory further for easy understanding. Equipment Package



MINNESOTA  
**Milk Bank**  
FOR BABIES

# Meet Rachel & Adelaide

23 weeks



Adelaide (Addi) was born early at 23 weeks and 3 days and spent her early months in the NICU. Her mom, Rachel, provided her breastmilk by pumping and doling it out in tiny increments, giving Adelaide the best intervention during this critical time.

Rachel donated her extra milk at the time to the Milk Bank, providing many other babies this lifesaving intervention.



## About The Minnesota Milk Bank for Babies

### MISSION

We improve infant health outcomes by ensuring that medically vulnerable babies in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest have access to safely pasteurized life-giving donor human milk when mother's milk is unavailable or in low supply.

### HISTORY

The Minnesota Milk Bank for Babies (MMBB) has been connecting generous mothers to fragile infants since 2018. We are a community-based 501c3 nonprofit organization, accredited by the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA), and licensed by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture as a food manufacturer.

In 2019, the MMBB operated out of a rented facility in Golden Valley to process donated human milk for distribution to medically fragile infants. In March 2024, we moved to a larger facility in Roseville to meet the need to safely and efficiently process donor milk and address the increase in demand for babies in hospitals and as outpatients.



HELPING BABIES CLOSE TO HOME



## About The Minnesota Milk Bank for Babies



### OUR WORK

Minnesota Milk Bank for Babies (MMBB) provides pasteurized donor human milk to infants from all backgrounds, genders, ethnicities and income levels. MMBB serves inpatient hospitals throughout Minnesota, providing critical donor milk to 39 hospital units, including all NICUs and maternity centers in the Twin Cities metropolitan area in addition to regional hospitals throughout Greater Minnesota. MMBB also distributes donor milk through 14 outpatient distribution sites located in retail pharmacies, public health, and Indigenous organizations as bridge milk until mothers' milk supply increases.

Pasteurized donor human milk (PDHM) is breast milk which has been donated to a milk bank. Donated milk is received from thoroughly screened milk donors using HMBANA standards. Upon donation, the milk is logged, tested, pooled, and pasteurized using the evidence-based Holder method to preserve essential nutrients and immune factors. Statements by the American Academy of Pediatrics in 2012, 2016 and 2022 recommend donor milk for high-risk infants if a mother's own milk is not available.

### *Increasing Demand for Human Milk*



Each year, demand for safe donor milk continues to increase. This is due to increasing use of donor milk in hospital NICUs and high preterm birth rates.

# Rachel & Adelaide

2 years



After Addi left the NICU, healthy and strong, Rachel continued to donate her milk to the Milk Bank, supporting other fragile infants:

“While our breastfeeding journey looked a little different at the beginning, Addi loves to snuggle and nurse, and I am honored to have the opportunity to share my extra milk with those little ones who need it most.”

## About The Minnesota Milk Bank for Babies



### HOW A MILK BANK OPERATES

Similar to how a blood bank operates, a milk bank collects, processes and distributes donated breastmilk for infants in need. Providing safe donor human milk for this vulnerable population requires a specialized laboratory equipped with the latest technologies and quality infrastructure. Since 1985, the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA) has set the standards for food safety and quality of human donor milk. As an accredited member, milk banks must demonstrate meeting the standards and are monitored yearly. The Milk Bank is also licensed by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture as a food manufacturer.

Donated milk comes from lactating mothers who have extra breast milk beyond what their babies need. Donors are screened, tested, and approved by a licensed provider. Once approved, the donor's frozen milk is transported to the milk bank where it is thawed, pasteurized, tested, and frozen until it is shipped to hospitals for medically fragile babies in NICUs, Special Care Nurseries, and other inpatient settings. If available, infants can also receive donor milk after leaving the hospital.

#### Benefits of Using Pasteurized Donor Human Milk



## About The Minnesota Milk Bank for Babies

### POPULATION SERVED

MMBB serves premature and critically ill infants whose own mothers' milk is not available. Mothers own milk (MOM) is the best source of nutrition for their baby. When MOM is not available, donor human milk is recommended as the next best option. Essential nutrients, antibodies and growth factors aid recovery and development. Vulnerable infants are protected from life-threatening infections such as necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a devastating intestinal disease with a high mortality rate.



Across Minnesota, Native, Black, and Hispanic mothers and families experience greater health disparities than White and Asian mothers and families, due to environmental factors, socioeconomic status, and historical and systemic policies and bias. By ensuring access to safely pasteurized donor human milk through our hospital and community partners, we improve health outcomes and address health disparities for these vulnerable populations. Our service ensures vulnerable infants have access to life-saving donor milk regardless of geographic location.



## Impact

### *Reaching underserved populations :*

### *MMBB's Bridge Bag Program*

Our Bridge Bag programs provide up to 10 bottles of PDHM at no cost to newborns through food pantry and public health programs. Our Bridge Bag programs provided 1,450 bottles for premature babies in 2024. In 2025, we aim to increase this impact to 1750 bottles and by establishing additional Bridge Bag programs at partner distribution sites.

## OUR REACH

In 2024, MMBB helped more babies than ever before after dispensing an all-time record of 290,844 ounces, or about 872,500 meals for very low birthweight babies, and reached a record 435 screened and approved breastmilk donors. We served 39 hospital accounts and provided \$24,000 through our Community Care Fund, serving low-income families intending to breastfeed with a bridge until mother's milk supply increases or becomes available. Bridge Bag programs are a key focus area for growth and expanding our impact to underserved populations.

Since opening, our number of staff has grown from four to 12 people. Today, **MMBB is the only dispensing nonprofit milk bank in Minnesota and the Dakotas.**



## HOW WE MEASURE IMPACT

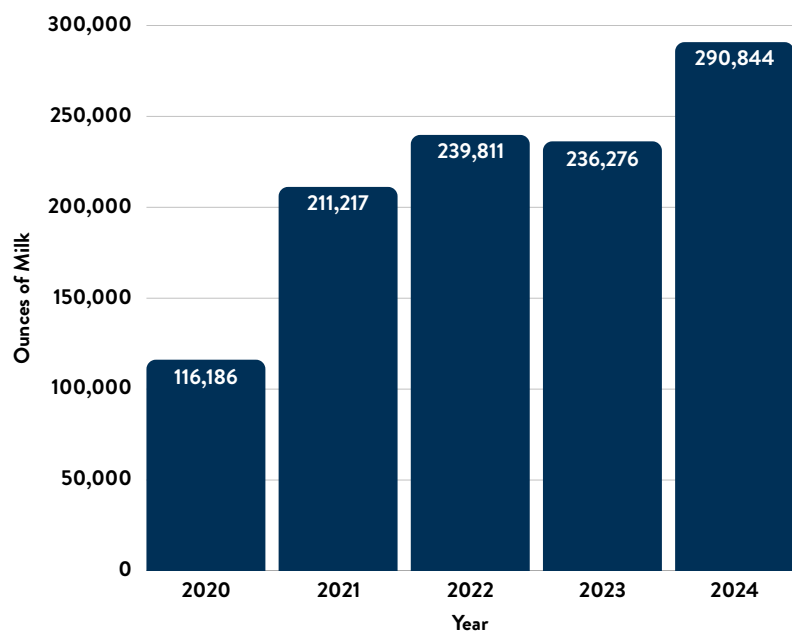
MMBB's impact is measured through the volume of pasteurized donor human milk (PDHM) we provide to medically fragile infants, the number of babies we serve, the number of donors and our number of participating hospitals and distribution sites.

Some of our quantifiable metrics include:

- Volume of PDHM (pasteurized donor human milk) processed and distributed monthly, currently averaging 26,600 oz/month, or the equivalent of 79,800 meals for infants.
- Number of approved milk donors, currently averaging 40/month.
- Number of participating hospitals and distribution sites (53).

Our impact is also evidenced by our increase in partnerships. We began with just two hospitals and 14 depots in 2020, we now serve 33 depots, 14 distribution sites and 39 hospital units as of May 2025.

### OUNCES OF MILK DISTRIBUTED PER YEAR



## Overview & Funding Request

# THE DONOR MILK PROCESSING LABORATORY

At the Minnesota Milk Bank for Babies (MMBB), saving little lives isn't possible without the donor milk processing laboratory, a dedicated space in our facility that functions as the heart of everyday operations. From storing and thawing donor breastmilk to gentle pasteurization and testing, specific processing procedures are required to ensure safety for vulnerable infants. Numerous safeguards protect the quality and safety of donor milk to meet accreditation standards set by the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA) and licensing requirements as a food manufacturer of the MN Dept. of Agriculture.

## EQUIPMENT CHALLENGES

After 7 years of operations and a move to larger facility in 2024 to meet the increased demand and unprecedented growth, upgraded lab equipment is needed to 1) build capacity, 2) introduce new technology and 3) replace current assets that are aging and in need of replacement.

## OUR ASK - YOUR IMPACT

MMBB would like to invite you to join a group of supporters to fund our lab equipment package totaling \$129,500 in 2026. Funding the equipment package will yield substantial benefits for MMBB and most importantly, for fragile infants. Improved productivity will reduce downtime due to repairs and maintenance. Higher quality output and enhanced capacity will help the milk bank meet growing demand. New and improved technology will advance milk processing services. Finally, reduced maintenance expenses will impact long-term cost savings.



## Funding Details



## WHAT OUR LABORATORY NEEDS

MMBB is pursuing joint funding to add, upgrade or replace multiple equipment items for its milk processing laboratory. The need for new instrumentation, machinery and appliances has accelerated due to unprecedented growth over the years, daily wear and tear and new advancements in technology.

- High-temperature commercial dishwasher - \$7,500
- Two circulating waterbath systems with accessories - \$5,000 total
- Microbiological pre-testing lab for common pathogens - \$20,000
- Second Sterifed S180 Pasteurizer with accessories/installation - \$77,000
- Induction Cap Sealer (Enercon or similar) - \$20,000 plus shipping

Equipment items, listed above, have been assessed, researched and selected by MMBB's executive director and lab supervisor to enhance pasteurization processes and operational capacity.

After new equipment is installed, tested and integrated into daily operations, key performance indicators will be monitored and documented, including productivity, quality improvement, downtime reduction and reduced maintenance costs. Collecting and analyzing this data will involve tools already in place including MMBB's system database and inventory/batch tracking methods.

## PAST EQUIPMENT SUPPORTERS

Otto Bremer Trust  
Chorzempa Family Foundation  
Mount Sinai Community Foundation  
Mardag Foundation  
CentraCare Foundation  
Roseville Area Community Foundation

# Rachel & Adelaide

4 years

*"Even looking back now I can't believe where she started."*



*Rachel shared, "I remember our nurse helping us give Adelaide Q-tips of milk in her mouth and explaining how much even just teeny tiny drops made a difference. I want that for all babies."*

*- Rachel Naumann*

Addi is now a thriving, vivacious little girl who recently celebrated her 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Because of the Milk Bank, Rachel was able to donate her milk and provide many other babies like Addi the opportunity to thrive and celebrate their birthdays in style.

# Donors & Recipients

