



MOTHERS'
MILK BANK
CALIFORNIA

CELEBRATING
50
YEARS

Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This year marks an important milestone for Mothers' Milk Bank California—50 years of serving the most fragile babies in our communities. This anniversary reflects decades of commitment from our milk donors, hospital partners, and supporters who believe every baby must have access to the life-saving nutrition they need to thrive.



Since our founding, the landscape for donor human milk has transformed dramatically. Hospitals across the state are advancing toward Baby-Friendly designation, families are increasingly aware of the lifesaving benefits of human breast milk, and regulators are establishing clearer pathways to expand access to donor milk.

The passage of Assembly Bill 3059 represents a pivotal milestone. The new law requires health insurance plans in California to cover medically necessary pasteurized donor human milk for medically fragile infants under 12 months—reducing the financial burden on families who depend on it. The bill also streamlines hospital access by removing the requirement for a separate tissue-bank license when donor milk is obtained from a state-licensed milk bank.

Together, these changes make our long-held mission to ensure equitable access to donor human milk more achievable than ever before.

But progress brings a growing call to serve. According to our first California State of Human Milk Banking Report, demand for donor human milk is increasing by 15% annually across the state. In 2024, we provided 1.3 million ounces to infants in need, and we anticipate serving 1.5 million ounces by the end of 2025—reaching even more families whose lives are touched by the generosity of milk donors across California.

Meeting this rising need requires both community generosity and operational excellence. Thanks to the support of our partners and donors, we strengthened our pasteurization capacity, expanded donor recruitment programs, and broadened our ability to serve families in more than 250 languages. We also worked with state legislators to elevate awareness of the growing demand for donor human milk, helping establish California Human Milk Donation Month, recognized every May.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to the high standards that have defined us for 50 years. This year, we continued to adapt and grow to meet increasing demand for safe donor human milk—reaching more medically fragile babies and ensuring donor milk remains accessible to every family who relies on it.

Whether you dispense donor milk to families, advocate for breastfeeding, donate your own milk, or support us financially—thank you for being part of this life-saving mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Benito-Kowalski'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jennifer Benito-Kowalski

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

In celebration of our 50th anniversary, we introduced a refreshed brand identity for Mothers' Milk Bank, California. The new look reflects both our deep history as the nation's oldest operating nonprofit milk bank and reflects both our history and our future by making our mission more visible, approachable, and inclusive while reinforcing our commitment to health equity through safe donor milk.



Senator Dave Cortese and MMBCA Founder, Maria Teresa Asquith





HONORING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

1974

Founder Maria Teresa Asquith established the first non-profit milk bank after she helped save an infant in need of donor milk.

1980s

During the global HIV and AIDS epidemic, widespread fear of transmission led to the closure of many human milk banks. MMBCA experienced its lowest levels of both donor supply and hospital demand.

1985

The Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA) was founded, establishing a national framework for nonprofit milk banking.

1990s

HMBANA implemented donor blood testing standards to further reduce the risk of infection and strengthen safety protocols across milk banks.

2000s

Donor human milk experienced a resurgence worldwide as medical research and clinical practice reaffirmed its value in infant care.

Hospitals increasingly integrated donor human milk into neonatal intensive units' feeding protocols to reduce the risk of necrotizing enterocolitis in premature infants.

2017

The American Academy of Pediatrics formally recommended donor human milk for high risk infants when a parent's own milk is unavailable.

2020

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted supply chains, hospital operations and donor recruitment nationwide. MMBCA adapted quickly to ensure donor screening, milk processing, and hospital deliveries continued during a time of heightened need.

2022

The infant formula shortage brought increased attention to donor human milk, placing MMBCA at the center of infant feeding access during a national crisis.

2024

MMBCA marked its 50th anniversary, reflecting five decades of continuous service providing safe, pasteurized donor human milk to infants in need.

ENHANCING OUR OPERATIONS TO INCREASE SUPPLY

We are committed to upholding the best practices for our hospital partners and families in need of donor human milk. Thanks to the generosity of our fiscal donors, their support allowed us to upgrade lab equipment, and introduce new programs that make donating easier for families. These improvements ensure milk is delivered with the highest level of safety for hospitals and families. As a result, more infants are able to receive the life-saving nutrition they need.

LAB UPGRADES AND PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

MMBCA invested in infrastructure improvements that increased processing capacity and enhanced the safety and reliability of milk distribution.



“When my baby was born, my milk didn't come in right away, so my baby boy was on donor milk for a few days. When my supply finally did come in and I was blessed with more than enough, I decided to help others so another baby could get the milk they need.” —OLGA R.

HOLIDAY MILK PICKUPS

The winter holidays are often when demand peaks and shipping slows. To bridge the gap, we piloted Holiday Milk Pickups, sending our licensed van directly to donor homes—making the process easier for families during their busiest time of year. In return, we collected more than 8,000 ounces of raw milk over a 2-month period.



Manufacturing Manager, Nhat Nguyen, receiving a cooler of human milk from a donor's home.

LANGUAGE LINE

Mothers' Milk Bank California contracted with Language Line, an on-demand interpreter service that connects families to live, medically trained translators in more than 250 languages. This marks another step in our ongoing commitment to building equity and trust with the diverse communities we serve.

RESPONDING TO THE LA FIRES

During the January 7 to 31 wildfires in Los Angeles, MMBCA mobilized quickly to support displaced families, working closely with hospitals to ensure donor milk deliveries continued without interruption despite widespread evacuations.

“ When I gave birth to my twins via emergency C-section, my milk hadn't come in yet, and both of my babies were in the NICU. Thanks to generous donor moms, they were able to receive donor breast milk during those crucial early days. I'll never forget how grateful I felt knowing other mothers made that possible. ”

—VIVIAN H.

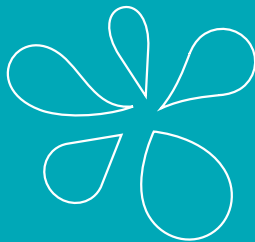




MAJOR SUPPORTERS

We are grateful to the following foundations, organizations and individuals whose major gifts strengthened our mission this year.

- Anonymous
- Good Samaritan
- Hanrahan Foundation
- LGR Foundation
- Joseph and Vera Long Foundation
- Pei Family Foundation
- San Jose Rotary Club



Donor Coordinator Lead, Cynthia Ptacek, receiving \$25,000 from Northern Trust-Good Samaritan Hospital.

“ Franco was born at 38 weeks with his umbilical cord wrapped around his neck and leg, which restricted his airway and left him underweight for his gestational age. Right after birth, he was rushed to the NICU and was given donor milk. After 5 days in the NICU, he was able to come home.”

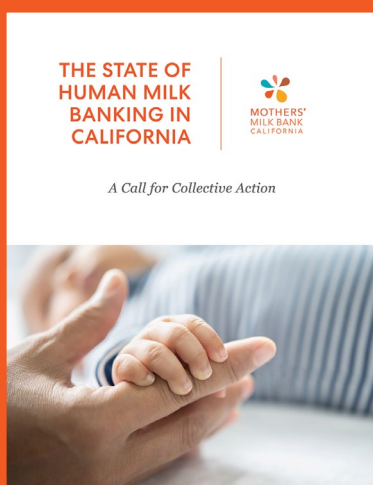
—MAGALI H.



LEGISLATION THAT ADVANCES OUR MISSION

The year 2025 marked important progress in how California recognizes and supports human milk. From new insurance coverage for prescribing donor milk to the establishment of California Human Milk Donation Month and MMBCA's release of the first State of Human Milk Banking Report, these milestones reflect the growing commitment of policymakers, health professionals and families working together to advance infant nutrition and equitable access to care.

CALIFORNIA STATE OF HUMAN MILK BANKING REPORT



We published the first California State of Human Milk Banking Report, distributed to more than 200 hospitals across the state. The report highlights access gaps, best practices at hospitals, and emerging policy opportunities for infant feeding. Many hospitals shared that the report was a valuable tool for strengthening their lactation programs and as a guide for their future planning.

ASSEMBLY BILL 3059 Human Milk Access through Insurance

California's AB3059 was signed into law in January 2025. The law requires health insurance plans to cover donor human milk when prescribed by a physician for infants under 12 months who are medically fragile. By removing cost as a barrier, AB3059 ensures more babies in California can receive safe, pasteurized donor milk when their own mother's milk is not available.



From left to right: Pauline Sakamoto, Cynthia Ptacek, Rocio Calderon, Jennifer Benito-Kowalski, Senator Dave Cortese, Kavisa Wood, Brittany Estrada, Lena Workman, Patricia Lim

CALIFORNIA HUMAN MILK DONATION MONTH

Senators Dave Cortese and Aisha Wahab, with support from Mothers' Milk Bank, California and UC Health Milk Bank, introduced Senate Resolution 20 to officially recognize California Human Milk Donation Month every month of May. This annual designation raises awareness about the critical need for donor milk and encourages more individuals to step forward as prospective donors.

Mothers' Milk Bank California, together with coalition partners, hosted 18 milk drives across the state to celebrate this momentous occasion. Collectively, the drives gathered more than **20,000** ounces of donor milk. The events brought together many breastfeeding mothers who advocate for providing life-saving nutrition to infants in need.

As demand for donor milk continues to rise, this bill reflects California's commitment to making human milk donation more visible, more accessible, and more widely understood.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Nearly **1,350,000** oz.
of donor human milk dispensed



Over **1,200**
approved donors

Thank you to the incredible community of donors who support our mission. Your time and effort to provide lifesaving milk to babies is deeply valued and felt by every family we served.



Over **1,200**
outpatients serviced



Over **150**
hospitals partners

12 new
hospital partners



10 collection centers

This year we welcomed **The Root** in Sacramento as our newest milk collection center, expanding access for donor moms in the region and strengthening our community partnerships.



DONOR RECOGNITION

Mothers' Milk Bank California would like to sincerely thank our financial donors for their generous support. Your contributions sustain our programs, expand access to safe donor milk, and help ensure that every baby has the chance to thrive.

\$1—\$999

Bruce Adcock
Georg Albrecht
Natasha Allen
Peter Bailinson
Shelly Barker
Heather Barry
Imi Blatz
Saambhavi Vajjiravelu Baskaran
Kristin Bogart
Mark Braverman
Jane Byran-Jones
Carissa Cartalemi
Joshua Chavez
Eileen Chou
Rachel Christopherson
Roman Coloma
Daniel Connolly
Patricia Connolly
Rita Dietrich
Teresa Ewell
Give Lively Foundation
Megan Goldsby
Regina Harnish
Nancy Held
Miranda Juan
Jill Kagle
Pablo Kenney
Marla Koosed
Kenny Lam
Christine Lambrecht
Laura Lowrey
Lori and Dennis McBride
Shelley McCarthy
Nenad Milanovic
Lauren Morgan
Timothy Morrison
Kasey Noble
Joslyn Nolasco

Gina Oneto
Jennifer Parrish
Brittany Pieper
Laura Pirri
Karen Plarisan
M Poonkundran
Sharon Rabichow
Junk Removal
Srinidhi Selvaraj
Christina Serrano
Amanda Smith
Roberta Spike
Elinor Stetson
Christina Tang
Sherly Tay
Augusta Tigrett
Jonathan Tran
Brittany Weldon
Shannon Woods
Linda Rice Zamora

\$1,000—\$4,999

Katie Anderson
Crystal and John Ciancutti
Sheila Dukas-Janakos
The Moran Foundation
Rick Paul
Anthony Redmond
Zachary Shapiro

\$5,000—\$9,999

Anonymous
Hanrahan Foundation
Pei Family Foundation

\$10,000—\$49,999

Anonymous
Good Samaritan
LGR Foundation
San Jose Rotary Club

\$50,000+

Joseph and Vera Long Foundation

On behalf of Mothers' Milk Bank, California, hospital partners and outpatient families, we are deeply grateful to every milk donor whose generosity made it possible to provide safe, life-saving nutrition to premature and medically fragile infants. Your collective contributions have helped thousands of families.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COMMITTEES

We thank our board of directors for guiding the strategic direction of the organization. Learn more about the board members who joined us this year.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laura Pirri
Kristin Bogart
Lauren Morgan
Lizzie Johnson
Peter Bailinson
Lydia Elle
Brittany Weldon
Tony Redmond
Natasha Oiyee
Katie Anderson
Elinor Stetson
Nicole Anderson
Ali Starling

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Katie Anderson
Brittany Weldon
Laura Pirri
Lizzie Johnson
Peter Bailinson
Lauren Morgan

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

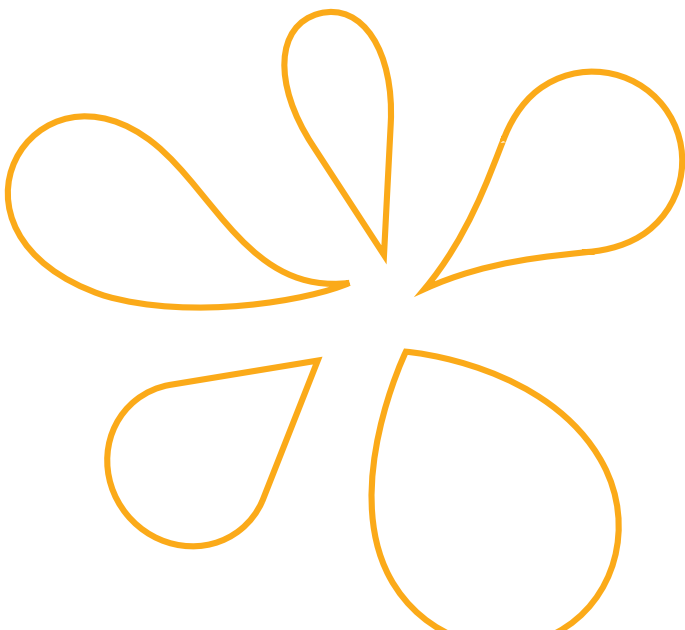
Kristin Bogart
Lauren Morgan
Sharon Rabichow

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Lizzie Johnson
Tony Redmond

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Brittany Weldon
Laura Pirri
Lizzie Johnson



STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JUNE 30, 2025

JUNE 30, 2024

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,152,305	\$ 381,323
Investments	2,264,813	2,153,560
Accounts receivable	776,393	851,035
Allowance for credit losses	(57,962)	(70,202)
Prepaid expenses	91,258	40,105
Operating lease right-of-use asset	361,176	511,013
Property and equipment, net	158,364	311,007

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 4,746,347

\$ 4,177,841

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES:

Accounts payable	163,466	186,120
Accrued expenses	161,757	147,588
Operating lease obligation	372,069	522,617
TOTAL LIABILITIES	697,292	856,325

NET ASSETS:

Without donor restrictions	3,855,939	3,321,516
With donor restrictions	193,116	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	4,049,055	3,321,516

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$ 4,746,347

\$ 4,177,841

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended June 30

	2025			2024		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	TOTAL	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	TOTAL
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:						
Fees for services	\$ 5,930,369	-	5,930,369	\$ 5,251,876	-	\$ 5,251,876
Investment income, net	177,523	-	177,523	273,917	-	273,917
Contributions and grants	81,195	203,116	284,311	84,708	-	84,708
Net assets released from restrictions	10,000	(10,000)	-	6,304	(6,304)	-
Total Support, Revenue, and Reclassifications	\$ 6,199,087	\$ 193,116	\$6,392,203	\$ 5,616,805	\$ (6,304)	\$ 5,610,501

**Mothers' Milk Bank California is a nonprofit
dedicated to advancing infant health through the
generosity of mothers nationwide.**

**Mothers' Milk Bank California is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
human milk bank organization accredited by HMBANA**

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