



Mothers' Milk Bank of New England

Sharing the Health

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January 2010

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Naomi Bar-Yam, PhD; Executive Director
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MMBNE By the Numbers: Recipient Statistics

312 – 4185 - oz. of milk distributed per month: from a low of 312 oz. in July 2008, to a high of 4185 oz. in Oct. 2009

400- number of email inquiries since July 2008

550- number of telephone inquiries since July 2008

7- states from which inquiries received (NY, ME, RI, CT, NJ, MA, VT)

7- states to which milk sent to families (CT, MA, RI, ME, NH, NJ, NY)

Letter from the Directors

It is a very busy and exciting time at the milk bank! This summer, began construction on our milk-processing lab. As with any renovation, there have been some delays, but we will be processing our own milk in 2010!

We have also been busy with many educational endeavors, including our own conference last spring, numerous grand rounds and lectures at hospitals and conferences throughout New England, and the upcoming international conference of HMBANA, April 12-13, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, MA. Our educational efforts are paying off - we are dispensing about 4000 ounces of milk a month (from our Ohio sister bank); have served about 45 babies in eight states. Word is getting out!

Sadly, we have accepted the resignation (for personal reasons) of our Clinical Director, Ilene Fabisch. Ilene deserves much credit for our progress. She has worked tirelessly answering calls and e-mails from potential donors and recipients. With great care, Ilene wrote our clinical protocols, and chose the equipment for the lab, holding us all to the highest standards. With her endless energy, enthusiasm, and creativity, Ilene has gotten us through some of the toughest times as we start-up. We will miss her in her role as Clinical Director, though she promises that she will continue to be involved with MMBNE. We wish her luck in her future endeavors!

Naomi Bar-Yam, PhD
Executive Director

Kathleen Marinelli, MD, IBCLC, FABM
Medical Director

Connecticut Children's Medical Center—First Donor Milk from MMBNE!

Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC) in Hartford, CT has used donor milk in the NICU intermittently for the past 10 years. The neonatology division is now working on a protocol to supplement mothers' own milk with donor human milk from MMBNE for all babies born less than 1500 gms (3.3 lbs.). Recently CCMC has been caring for a baby boy born at 26 weeks gestation and 800 gms (1.6 lbs). Due to an ileostomy soon after birth, this baby's ability to absorb nutrients is impaired, so growth is a challenge. When his health and growth improve, he will be able to have the surgery to attach his intestines to his colon, improving the absorption of nutrients. Therefore, it is imperative that he receives the best and most easily digested nutrition available—human milk! His mother began expressing her milk soon after birth, but her supply dwindled. MMBNE began sending donor milk when he was 6 weeks old. He currently weighs 1.8 kg (about 4 lbs.) and is doing well. This baby benefited from his mother's and donor milk for his prematurity, the immaturity of his digestive and immune systems, and the potential for temporary "short-gut syndrome" until he has his intestines reconnected in further surgery.

HMBANA Conference

All of us at MMBNE are looking forward to the biannual conference of the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA) that MMBNE will be hosting in Cambridge, MA, on April 12-13, 2010. For a

4- hospitals that have ordered milk: Children's Hospital, Boston MA; Concord Hospital, Concord NH; Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hartford, CT; U. Mass Memorial Medical Center, Worcester, MA

2- hospitals where we have sent milk for parents: Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA; Tufts Medical Center, Boston, MA.

Milk Money Fund

MMBNE is receiving an increasing number of prescriptions for milk and we are committed to making milk available to all babies with medical need, regardless of the parents' ability to pay. To that end, we work with families and hospitals to secure insurance coverage and we have established the Milk Money Fund. This year, our goal is to raise \$10,000 for this fund, allowing us to provide 2,000 - 5,000 ounces of milk free or on sliding scale to babies in need.

Lab Construction

Since August 2008, we have been dispensing milk from Mothers' Milk Bank of Ohio to families and hospitals throughout the northeast. We are now in the process of building a small milk-processing lab in our office in Newtonville. Labor and equipment to set up the lab are expected to cost about \$50,000. We expect to be processing milk in the next few months.

Tax deductible contributions to the Milk Money Fund or the lab construction fund will be most gratefully acknowledged. We are happy to send acknowledgment to a designated honoree.

Send contributions to: MMBNE, POB 60-009, Newtonville, MA 02460.

Or, through PayPal on our website: www.milkbankne.org

Painless Fundraising

You can help the milk bank in other ways, at no cost to you. Please see www.milkbankne.org/support.shtml for more details.

Newsletter

This newsletter was edited by Tsila Sloane with assistance from Naomi Bar-Yam and Heather Greene. Please direct questions to bostonsloanes@verizon.net

full schedule and registration see HMBANA's website at www.hmbana.org.

The Sponsorship Committee, led by Maleah Gustafson, is contacting local organizations and corporations regarding sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities. If you are interested in sponsoring or exhibiting, or know of individuals, corporations, or organizations that would support our mission, please contact maleah@gusweb.com

Concord Hospital Introduces Donor Human Milk as Standard of Care

Read the entire story on our website: www.milkbankne.org/ConcordPR.shtml

Concord Hospital, located in Concord New Hampshire, is the first hospital in New England to introduce the use of donor human milk as standard of care for all babies whose mothers' supply is temporarily compromised.

"...Recent recommendations from CDC and other major medical organizations urge use of human milk when mothers cannot provide fully for their babies," noted Jan Greer-Carney, director of Nutrition at Concord Hospital. MMBNE is providing milk to Concord Hospital.

Nationally Ranked Boston Hospital Introduces Donor Human Milk to the NICU

Read the entire story on our website: www.milkbankne.org/BWHpr.shtml

Brigham and Women's Hospital will team with MMBNE to distribute donor human milk in its NICU as standard of care for babies born under 1500 grams and less than 30 weeks. "This is putting into practice our knowledge that breast milk is not only nutritional but medicinal," commented Dr. Robert Insoft, Medical Director of the NICU at BWH.

Recipient Profile: Baby Olivia

Olivia Renee Rego was born June 17, 2009, a healthy baby girl, at Women and Infants' Hospital in Providence, RI. Her mother, Tauri Harrison, breastfed her in the hospital, but her supply dropped off at home despite attempts to express through the day. Gradually, Olivia was getting more baby formula than breastmilk. At about two weeks old, Olivia began vomiting up every feed. Olivia's parents and pediatrician tried



Tauri and baby Olivia, December 2009.

different formulas to address Olivia's unexplained problem. Although she continued to gain weight, she suffered terribly from gas, pulling her legs up to her belly in agony after every feed. At six weeks, Olivia had to be hospitalized for dehydration. After discharge, her situation did not improve. Her parents, her pediatrician and the gastroenterologist whom they consulted were all perplexed. One month later, following another episode of vomiting that caused her to stop breathing, Olivia would drink only Pedialite in the hospital, and she could not be discharged in this condition.

Olivia's grandmother, Renee, remembered that donor breastmilk was available for premature infants when Tauri's brother was born, and the connection was made with MMBNE. Olivia's prescription for breastmilk was filled and frozen milk was on its way to her. She had no problems digesting the breastmilk; her vomiting symptoms disappeared and she went home happy and thriving.

Despite the fact that donor milk was the only food that Olivia could tolerate, her family's insurance would not cover its cost of \$1000.00 per week. Thanks to Tauri's and Renee's perseverance, they were able to secure Medicaid coverage for Olivia, which will pay for donor milk from MMBNE until Olivia is one year old. Olivia's family are relieved and grateful that six-month old Olivia is growing happily and healthily thanks to donor breastmilk from MMBNE. They are optimistic about unraveling her mysterious GI symptoms as she encounters solid foods in the near future.