



## Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee

### PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Distribution: February 29, 2016

#### **IT'S A GREAT DAY FOR TENNESSEE'S MOST FRAGILE AND SICK PRETERM BABIES**

*Two new "Lifelines" for the most fragile Tennessee babies are about to open in Middle and West Tennessee.*

**Nashville, Tenn.** (February 29, 2016) - Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee (MMBTN) is pleased to announce the upcoming opening of two new Milk Bank Depots serving Tennessee Mothers as collecting sites for frozen human breastmilk. Once the milk is collected it will be sent for pasteurization and then distributed to hospitals for feeding vulnerable newborn babies.

Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee approached Nashville General Hospital in Nashville and Regional One Health in Memphis to become the first Depots. The Tennessee Milk Bank, which received two freezers as a gift from the Austin, TX Milk Bank, had them sent to the two Hospitals, who agreed to be Depots.

"Nashville General Hospital is pleased to join Mother's Milk Bank of Tennessee as one of the first donation sites in Tennessee. Our hospital is located in one of the highest areas for infant mortality in the state and by joining their efforts we hope to make a difference in the lives of the babies served," said Joseph Webb, D.Sc., Chief Executive Officer, Nashville General Hospital.

Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee is in its infancy. While it is being developed, MMBTN entered into an agreement with the Milk Bank in Austin, TX to receive and process donor Human Milk from Tennessee Mothers. "Our reputation for providing safe, nutritionally-analyzed, and labeled donor human milk to hospitals and outpatients has led to tremendous growth in demand – a challenge and also a success," says Kim Updegrave, Executive Director of the Mothers' Milk Bank at Austin. "By partnering with Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee and assisting in opening the Depots at Nashville General Hospital and Regional One Health we will raise awareness with a vital audience – breastfeeding women who are uniquely qualified to help save the lives of premature and critically ill babies."

The MMBTN Planning Committee plans to facilitate adding additional Milk Depots throughout the State. "We recognize that Depots will be critical to make it convenient for Mothers to donate their milk anywhere in Tennessee and not have to ship it themselves to the processing facility," said Dr. Susan Campbell, one of the Co-founders of the Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee. "Once the processing facility is up and running in Tennessee (planned for Nashville – late in 2016 or 2017), the Milk Depots will begin sending their milk to MMBTN. In the meantime, Tennessee Milk Depots will collect and send the milk to Austin for processing".

Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee is a not-for-profit organization committed to providing safe donor human milk for Tennessee's most vulnerable Newborns. The first building phase of operation, the Tennessee Pasteurization Facility and first year's operational expenses are expected to cost approximately \$1,000,000. Online donations are welcome and can be made at [www.milkbanktn.org](http://www.milkbanktn.org). Donations of larger amounts can be mailed to Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee, 2201 Murphy Avenue, Suite 207, Nashville, TN 37203: Attention: MMBTN.

**Mothers wishing to donate milk can follow the link on the website [www.milkbanktn.org](http://www.milkbanktn.org).**

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