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**Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA)
Supports Donor Milk Needs Due to Hurricane Harvey**

August 31, 2017 - Fort Worth, TX - Human Milk Banking Association of North America, and its 26 member milk banks, stand ready to support donor milk needs in Houston and surrounding areas impacted by Hurricane Harvey. We will continue to assure that premature and fragile babies in need receive life-saving donor milk until their own mothers are able to provide it for them.

Disaster relief involves the effort and coordination of hundreds of trained emergency workers and the good will, support and caring of friends, neighbors, family members near and far. HMBANA is one of many federal, state and local government agencies, community and nonprofit organizations, stores and other companies working together to bring all forms of support, relief and comfort to those affected by this disaster.

We have been receiving calls from generous mothers nation-wide wanting to donate their milk to help those in need in Texas. If you would like to donate milk, please contact the milk bank [closest to you](#) to arrange for screening and donation. We are committed to assuring that the milk reaches the most fragile babies first, wherever they are.

Babies being treated in Houston hospitals have been transferred to other hospitals as needed. The [Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas](#) (in Fort Worth) and the [Mothers' Milk Bank at Austin](#) are working with hospitals throughout the affected region to assure that donor milk needs are met wherever the babies are. In order to avoid confusion and duplication of effort, the Texas milk banks are monitoring the situation and will call upon other milk banks should there be need for additional support.

We encourage nursing mothers in the Houston area to continue breastfeeding. The Texas Department of Health and Human Services offers a [breastfeeding hotline](#) (855-550-6667) for 24/7 breastfeeding support, including for formula feeding mothers who do not have access to clean water.

More information on breastfeeding in emergencies is available at <http://www.usbreastfeeding.org/emergencies> and <http://www.lli.org/emergency.html>.

Your closest HMBANA milk bank can be found at <https://www.hmbana.org/locations>.

HMBANA advances the field of non-profit milk banking through member accreditation, development of evidence-based best practices, and advocacy of breastfeeding and human lactation to ensure an ethically sourced and equitably distributed supply of donor human milk.

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