Executive Director
Summer Kelly, MS, RN, IBCLC

President
Marissa Grossenbach, BS

Secretary
Jequeatta Upton Smith, MPH

Director
Ann Conway, MSN, RN

Director
Susan Lampert Smith, BS

Medical Director
Anne Eglash, MD, NABBLM-C, IBCLC, FABM

Vice President
Krystal Revai, MD, MPH, FAAP, CHIE

Treasurer
Katherine Mowen-Matz, MAcc

Director
Maura MacDonald, BSN, RN

Director
Kevin Hoey, RPh

MISSION
Mothers’ Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes (Milk Bank WGL) is the only non-profit HMBANA accredited milk bank serving Wisconsin and Illinois. We provide pasteurized donor human milk to premature and critically ill babies, support moms who donate milk after loss, and distribute reduced cost or free milk to outpatients with a financial or medical need.

VISION
Leading safe and innovative milk bank programming to save tiny lives and improve pediatric health.
In 2022, Milk Bank WGL partnered with 85 hospitals in Wisconsin and Illinois to provide donor milk to thousands of inpatients. We served 23 dispensaries, more than 100 outpatients, and dispensed over 500,000 ounces of donor milk to infants and pediatric patients across the Midwest.

SAVING TINY LIVES
Hospitals use donor milk to reduce the risk of necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) for preterm infants. This dangerous condition can lead to significant complications or death. Combined evidence suggests donor milk reduces the risk of NEC by about 79%.

ACUTE NEED
Donor milk provides antibodies and other immune properties that protect an infant’s microbiome and program the developing immune system. Clinical indications for donor milk include prematurity, hypoglycemia, sepsis, and failure to thrive.

COMPLEX CONDITIONS
Milk Bank WGL provides long-term nutrition required for complex pediatric conditions such as metabolic or genetic disorders, gastrointestinal complications, organ dysfunction, and feeding intolerance.

REACH
Milk Bank WGL supports 52 milk collection depots located in hospitals, pharmacies, WIC offices and other supportive organizations. These organizations graciously spend their time and volunteer their space to collect milk from local donors.
Our generous milk donors spend countless hours pumping, preparing milk for donation, and working with our donor screening team. Some donate because their freezers are full, many donate because they have an oversupply, and all donate because their hearts are aligned with our mission.

KINDNESS OF COMMUNITY

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BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION

Milk Bank WGL participated in a Wisconsin landscape analysis of breastfeeding care and support. We also actively engage in regular activities with both the Wisconsin and Illinois perinatal quality collaboratives in order to support perinatal health and nutrition.

ADVOCACY

In Illinois, the milk bank’s advocacy efforts were successful in securing insurance & medicaid coverage of donor milk for outpatients and children with spinal muscular atrophy. In Wisconsin, advocacy work to secure insurance coverage is ongoing. At the federal level, the milk bank partnered with Senator Tammy Duckworth to support the Access to Donor Milk Act, a bipartisan effort to support non-profit milk banking.

"I thought to myself, what an awesome thing for a nursing mother to do... to share her liquid gold with babies she’s never met."
HONORING BABIES

After perinatal loss, milk donation can be an outlet of hope and healing. We educate and empower parents to determine if milk donation is right for them. In 2022, 81 families donated milk to honor their child’s legacy. Each baby’s name is painted on a star and lovingly added to Poppy’s Dream Memorial.

RESEARCH

Physicians from Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago presented joint research with our staff on the characteristics of bereavement donation in the NICU. Also, our Medical Director, Dr. Anne Eglash, shared research on the effects of freezer storage and pasteurization on Vitamin C in donor milk.

EQUITY

Milk Bank WGL prioritizes health equity in milk banking. We strive to reflect the communities we serve in order to establish genuine, long-term community partnerships. Our work extends to the national level, via leadership in HMBANA’s Equity Task Force, a stakeholder workgroup funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.
We are grateful for the individuals and organizations that contributed to our overall growth and development in 2022. Financial donations also support Charity Care, Poppy’s Dream Bereavement Memorial, Access Donor Milk, and Research & Innovation programs.

For over ten years, friends, partners, and healthcare advocates have provided Milk Bank WGL with financial and in-kind support. Hundreds of community members and organizations have been cheering us on. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for believing in us and our mission to save tiny lives.
SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to express gratitude for the special advocates that contributed to our founding.

Greg & Elaine Anderson
Friends of Poppy Babinski
Todd & Megan Benn
Evelyne Blaikie
Dr. Anne Eglash & Mitch Rosefelt
Eli’s Hope
Marilyn & Frank Fergus
Julia & Justin Fry
David Gardstrom
Marissa & Scott Grossenbach
Summer & Rich Kelly
LoMastro Performing Arts Academy
Maura MacDonald
Kathie Marinelli
New Mother New Baby
Hung A. Nguyen
PPD GMP Lab
Dr. Krystal Revai
Dr. Jennifer Thomas
UW Health
Wildwood Family Clinic

Milk Distribution (ounces)

Expenses: $1.96M

Revenue: $2.75M

Fee for Service

Individual Giving 2%
Grants 4%
Other Income 4%

69% Milk Processing
16% Education
15% Administrative Expenses
COMING SOON!

Milk Bank WGL is preparing for a significant expansion with the recent purchase of a 15,000 square foot building in the heart of Elk Grove Village, IL. Full renovation of 560 Bonnie Lane is targeted for completion in fall of 2024. We look forward to serving more families in Wisconsin and Illinois!