



OSF[®] HEALTHCARE

OSF HealthCare, Mothers' Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes opens 24/7 donor human milk dispensary

For Immediate Release:

Contact: [Matt Sheehan](#) | Media Relations Coordinator | (314) 402-8884

(March 15, 2024 | PEORIA, Illinois) – OSF HealthCare and [Mothers' Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes \(WGL\)](#) have opened an easily accessible donor milk dispensary at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois.

"The milk dispensary is a great option as a short-term bridge while families work to determine the best long-term feeding plan. Most often, a mom is working to build her milk supply and is able to use the donor milk from the dispensary while she consults her lactation team," says Susan Urbanski, program manager at Mothers' Milk Bank WGL.

The milk offered is safe, pasteurized breast milk collected from healthy, lactating women in Illinois and Wisconsin. Each donor undergoes a thorough screening process, including clearance by a physician. The milk is also tested multiple times before distribution.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), children who are breastfed experience improved dental health and neurodevelopmental outcomes. They also have decreased risk of diarrhea, respiratory tract infection, SIDS, asthma, Celiac disease, Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, being overweight and obesity.

There are also maternal health benefits to breastfeeding such as decreased risk of excessive menstrual blood loss, breast, ovarian, endometrial and thyroid cancers, hypertension, Type 2 diabetes, and rheumatoid arthritis.

Kelsie Schlueter, a registered nurse and lactation consultant at OSF Saint Francis, says this milk dispensary will help many local families.

"Having the option of donor milk helps many families meet their breast milk feeding goals. Many moms struggle initially to establish a good breastfeeding relationship, and it can take time for mom and baby to both learn this new skill," Schlueter says. "Having good lactation support is critical for these families, and outpatient donor milk is an important piece of that puzzle when supplementation is needed."

In addition to an in-house breastmilk dispensary at the hospital located in OB triage, families can pick up from the Breastfeeding Resource Center at 5114 North Glen Park Place, Ste. 1143, in Peoria, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

About OSF HealthCare

OSF HealthCare is an integrated health system founded by The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. Headquartered in Peoria, Illinois, OSF HealthCare has 16 hospitals – 10 acute care, five critical access, 1 transitional care - with 2,131 licensed beds throughout Illinois and Michigan. OSF employs nearly 24,000 Mission Partners across 150+ locations; has two colleges of nursing; operates OSF Home Care Services, an extensive network of home health and hospice services; owns Pointcore, Inc., comprised of health care-related businesses; OSF HealthCare Foundation, the philanthropic arm for the organization; and OSF Ventures, which provides investment capital for promising health care innovation startups. In 2020, OSF OnCall was established, a digital health operating unit, including a hospital-at-home. OSF OnCall delivers care and services when, where and how patients prefer to receive them. OSF HealthCare has been recognized by *Fortune* as one of the most innovative companies in the country. More at osfhealthcare.org/.

About Mothers' Milk Bank

Mothers' Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes provides pasteurized donor human milk to premature and critically ill babies, supports moms who donate milk after loss, and distributes reduced cost or free donor milk to chronically ill middle and low income children. As a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit member of the Human Milk Banking Association of North America, we are proud to serve over 50 hospitals and hundreds of families throughout Wisconsin and Illinois.

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