

**Contact:**

Amy Painter, Marketing Director  
Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee  
615-971-1932  
Amy.Painter@milkbanktn.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 19, 2022

**Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee Partners with Ascension Saint Thomas Hospital Midtown to Open the 15th Milk Drop Depot**

Nashville, TN – Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee (MMBTN) announces a formal agreement with Ascension Saint Thomas Hospital Midtown to open MMBTN's 15th Milk Drop Depot in the state. A ribbon-cutting will be held at Ascension Saint Thomas Hospital Midtown on October 21 to celebrate the new donor collection site at the hospital's Breastfeeding Outreach Clinic.

Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit milk bank dedicated to providing safe, pasteurized donor human milk to the most vulnerable babies. Milk Drop Depots, like the one at Ascension Saint Thomas Hospital Midtown, serve as a convenient place for pre-screened and approved donors to deliver their donations before they are transported to Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee in Murfreesboro. There, donor milk is pasteurized and cultured before it is distributed to neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) in Tennessee.

"Our donors value being able to drop-off their milk donations at the same hospital where they delivered their babies, and their breastfeeding journeys began. They have a special connection with the staff. I applaud the breastfeeding outreach team at Ascension Saint Thomas Hospital Midtown for their work in supporting breastfeeding mothers and their leadership in opening our newest Milk Drop Depot," said Susan Campbell, MD, IBCLC, and Executive Director of Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee.

"We are thrilled to work alongside the Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee in our shared goal of meeting the nutritional needs of our community's newborns," said Kristen Toth, Vice President of Women's and Children's Services, Ascension Saint Thomas. "It is an honor to serve NICU babies and their parents in this unique way."

"Breast milk is easier to digest, especially for our premature babies. It provides vital nutrients, antibodies that help babies fight infections, and it may improve overall outcomes for our tiniest patients," said Dr. Nicole Schlechter, Physician in Chief of Women's and Children's Services, Ascension Saint Thomas. "This milk drop depot is a significant investment in the health of the next generation of Middle Tennesseans."

Pasteurized human donor milk is prioritized for the smallest and most medically fragile babies. Studies show the use of only human milk to feed preterm and low birth weight infants reduces mortality by 75 percent.

For information on becoming a milk donor, please visit [milkbanktn.org/donate](http://milkbanktn.org/donate).

###

**Contact:**

Amy Painter, Marketing Director  
Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee  
615-971-1932  
Amy.Painter@milkbanktn.org

**About Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee**

Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee is a nonprofit milk bank founded in 2014 by Susan Campbell, MD, IBCLC and Helen Scott, RN, IBCLC to provide pasteurized donor human milk (PDHM) to at-risk babies across Tennessee. Since its inception, the organization has created 15 Milk Drop Depot sites across Tennessee where mothers can drop off excess breastmilk. In November 2021, the organization opened its pasteurization facility in Murfreesboro, Tennessee to serve the entire state. Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee is a Proud Member Milk Bank with the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA) To learn more, please visit [milkbanktn.org](http://milkbanktn.org).

**About Ascension Saint Thomas**

Ascension Saint Thomas operates 12 hospitals in Tennessee and a comprehensive network of affiliated joint ventures, medical practices, clinics and rehabilitation facilities that cover a 45-county area and provided more than \$180 million in community benefit and care of persons living in poverty in fiscal year 2022. Across the state, Ascension Saint Thomas and its affiliates employ more than 10,700 associates. The health system has a 125-year history in Tennessee. Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable, through its more than 2,600 sites of care in 19 states and the District of Columbia.