



VERMONT DONOR MILK CENTER

AT EVOLUTION PRENATAL & FAMILY

The Vermont Donor Milk Center (VDMC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit run by volunteers. Our mission is to supply lifesaving nutrition and food security to infants in the greater Vermont and Northern New York area by providing access, **regardless of ability to pay**, to pasteurized donor human milk (PDHM). We offer crucial support and education of the health benefits of breastfeeding for families working to establish healthy feeding routines and striving to reach their lactation goals.

All PDHM dispensed from VDMC is from a Human Milk Banking Association of North America approved milk bank.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic the need in our communities for PDHM has more than doubled. Families who are giving birth during this unprecedented time are leaving the hospital early to keep their families safe. New parents are being left with decreased access to in-home support of themselves and their new baby, due to social distancing, fear of exposure, and quarantine. This increases the already stressful postpartum period. We provide resources and PDHM to ensure that babies with a medical need still have access to recommended nutrition during this unprecedented time.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) recommend that infants be *exclusively* breast-milk fed for the first 6 months with continued breastfeeding while introducing appropriate complementary foods for up to 2 years or longer.

Maternity Practice in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINK) survey 2017 results:

	US	VT
Ever breastfed/started breastfeeding	84.1%	90.2%
Breastfeeding at 6 months	58.3%	70.4%
Supplemented w/formula by 2 days of life	19.2%	13.0%

According to WIC data, 40% of Vermont babies are supplemented within the first week of life.

VDMC numbers	
Total # of bottles sold from 1/1/20–8/18/20	2393
Families given financial aid	31%
Financial aid given	\$4,000

No family was denied financial assistance. Many families were unable to receive the amount of PDHM needed due to the limited availability of aid available from the VDMC including requests of PDHM from DCF to supplement high risk babies in custody.

In order to continue to provide PDHM at the increased rate of need that we have seen during this pandemic, we are asking for \$15,000 from the state to equalize nutrition for all new babies in Vermont.

The Vermont Donor Milk Center Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. We note, for IRS purposes, that no goods or services have been or will be exchanged for your gift.



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References

American Academy of Pediatrics. Section on breastfeeding. Breastfeeding and the use of human milk. *Pediatrics*. 2012;129(3):e827–841. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/129/3/e827> (Accessed August 27, 2020).

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