

**MED  MILK
PROJECT**

Building Georgia's Milk Bank

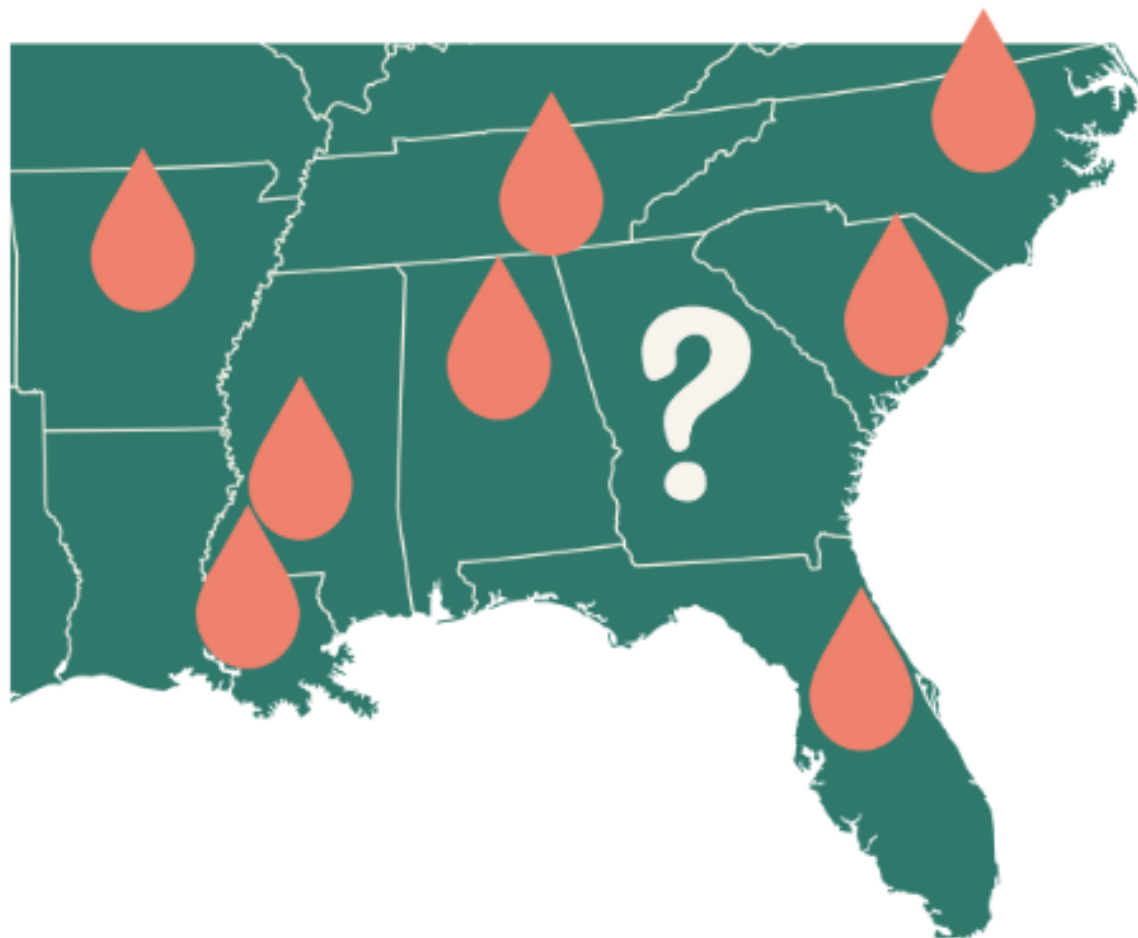
Timeline

- 1990-2020: the need for a milk bank in Georgia discussed by stakeholders
- 2022: Formula shortage spurred serious discussion and research, founders began visiting milk banks
- 2023: Med Milk formed as a non-profit in Georgia
Georgia Breastfeeding Coalition makes Med Milk beneficiary of Express Your Superpower 5k/10k race
Northwest Georgia Breastfeeding Coalition donates \$10k
- 2024: Funding secured in amended FY2024 state budget to support establishment of a milk bank in Georgia
501(c)3 application
- 2025: Research/Strategic Planning/Development & Fundraising
Data Collection
Education and Depot Recruitment





Why do we need a milk bank in Georgia?



Donor Milk Depots in Georgia



North Georgia Breastfeeding Center
Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas

Breastfeed Atlanta
Mother's Milk Bank of Alabama

Emory Decatur
Mother's Milk Bank at Austin

AthensBorn Birth Services
Mother's Milk Bank at Austin

Wellstar Kennestone
Mother's Milk Bank at Austin

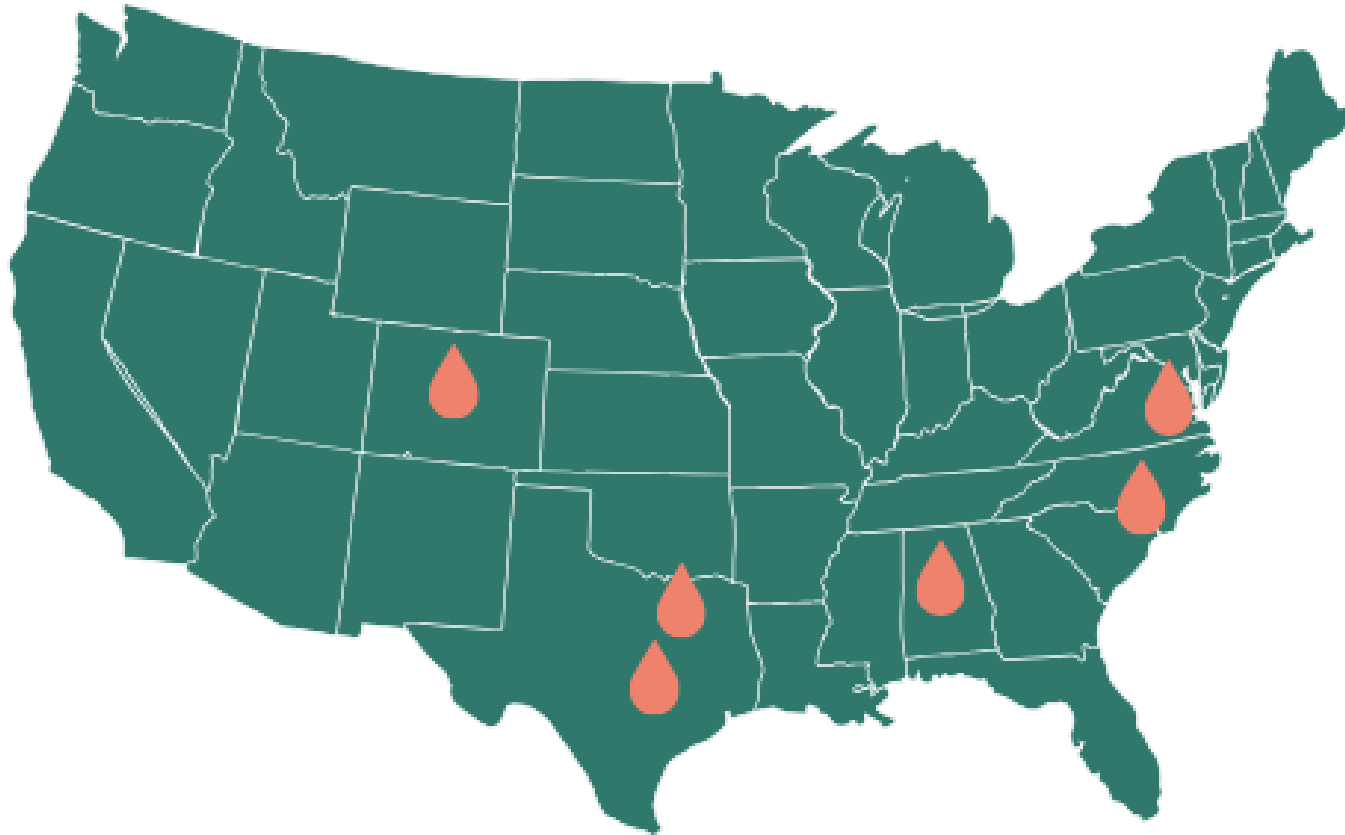
Wellstar Cobb
Mother's Milk Bank at Austin

Wellstar Douglas
Mother's Milk Bank at Austin

Beverly Knight Olson Children's Hospital
The King's Daughters Milk Bank

Doctor's Hospital of Augusta
Mother's Milk Bank at Rocky Mountain
Children's Health Foundation

Where does Georgia's donor milk go?



Safe, high-quality donor milk products require a large investment

- Variety of expertise is needed: food safety and food manufacturing, business acumen, medical knowledge
- A specialized facility must be designed and built or adapted to accommodate a large-scale operation to meet the needs of Georgia's fragile newborns including laboratory, cold storage, shipping, processing, and donor screening.
- Funding from the state is allowing us to develop a business plan and engage development experts to assist with fundraising.
- We need to raise at least a million dollars to establish the milk bank, which would then be able to be self-sustaining as a non-profit business providing safe, high-quality donor milk products





Follow the Milk

*How Pasteurized Donor Human Milk is
Collected, Processed and Distributed*

Donation

- Mothers with extra milk go through a vigorous HIPAA-compliant screening process before qualifying as a donor.
- Donors are screened verbally as well as in writing and provided educational materials.
- Donor qualifications are based on best practices and clinical data and are updated continuously to reflect emerging diseases, new pharmaceutical agents, and new health risks.

Donation

- Serological testing is performed by a certified laboratory to check for bloodborne pathogens.
- Medical release/consent is obtained from licensed health care provider of the donor
- Once the donor is qualified, they can bring their extra frozen milk to a depot or ship the milk frozen to directly to the milk bank.



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Donation

- Depots accept one time or ongoing donations from approved donors.
- HMBANA.org



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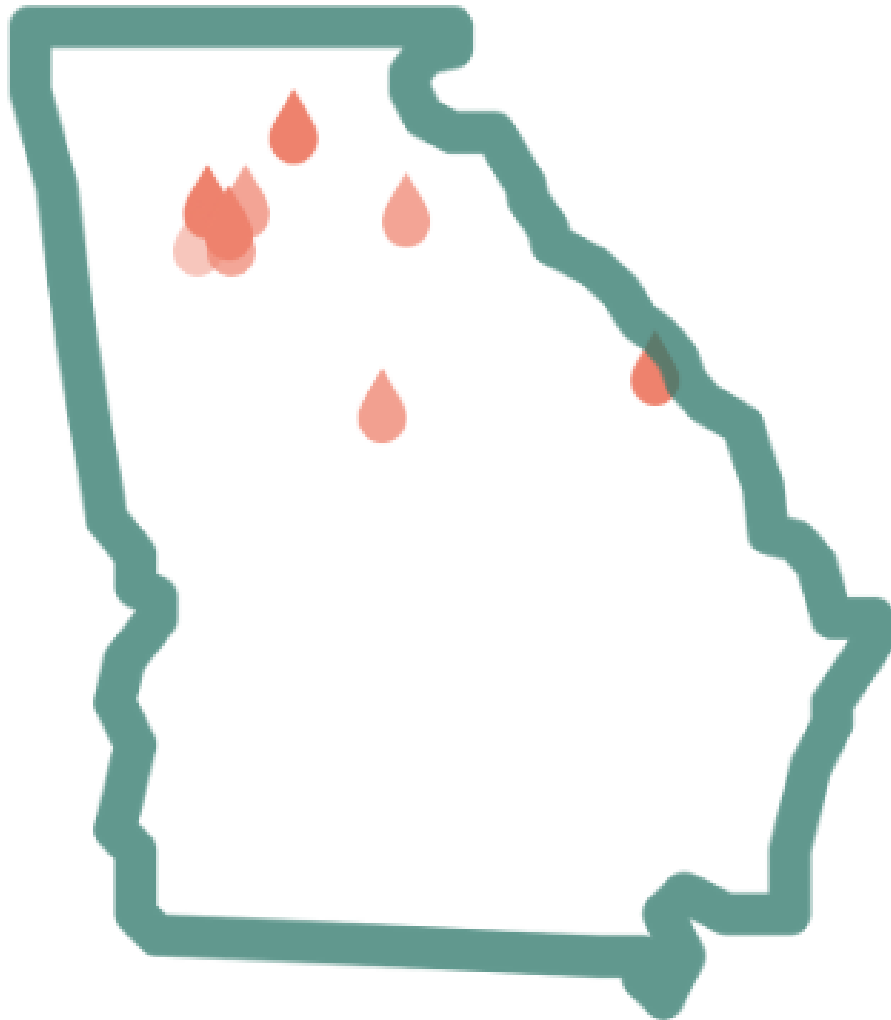
Milk Depots

- Although Georgia doesn't yet have a milk bank, there are several depots here that collect milk from qualified donors and ship to various milk banks across the country. Our goal is to increase donations in Georgia to match the volume of milk needed.



BKO Children's Hospital

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Receiving

- Every container is visually inspected and logged.
- Milk banks use a robust electronic inventory system to account for every ounce received, processed, dispensed, discarded, and used for research.
- Milk is traced to a specific milk donor throughout every step in the process.
- Milk is stored frozen in temperature monitored freezers until it is ready to be pasteurized.



Cleaning & Sanitizing

Strict standards for sanitization and safe milk handling are in place in the milk lab.



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Pooling and Pouring

- Milk from several qualified donors is thawed and then pooled, strained and mixed to make a uniform batch using aseptic technique under clean condition and to ensure even nutrient distribution.



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Bottling

- The batch is then measured carefully into aliquots by qualified milk techs in preparation for pasteurization.



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Pasteurizing

- The prepared containers of milk are sealed and pasteurized using the Holder Pasteurization technique (heated for 30 minutes at 62.5 degrees Celsius and rapidly cooled)



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Testing and Analysis

- Every batch of milk is sent for serological/ bacteriological testing prior to being cleared for distribution.
- Each batch is also analyzed for nutritional content.



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Freezing

- The pasteurized milk is then frozen awaiting distribution.



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Distribution

- Milk is distributed to ordering hospitals via overnight shipping with cold chain verification.



How you can support the work

- Support breastfeeding to ensure the supply of milk to share
- Learn more about pasteurized donor human milk and milk banking
- Be an advocate for clear language in your community
- Encourage mothers with extra milk to donate to a HMBANA milk bank
- Consider starting a HMBANA Milk Depot in your community



MED MILK PROJECT

Building Georgia's Milk Bank

Visit our website to learn more and tell us about
needs in your community!

Sign up to be on our mailing list.

www.MedMilk.org



because milk is medicine