



NEWS



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McLean County's First Milk Depot Site To Open at the Health Department

BLOOMINGTON, IL- The McLean County Health Department has partnered with Chicago-area based Mothers' Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes to open McLean County's first milk depot site. The grand opening of the site is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14th with a ribbon cutting and open house for invited members of local healthcare organizations with ties to the breastfeeding community.

The collection site at the health department will provide an easy way for pre-screened lactating women to donate their excess breast milk to help medically fragile babies in central Illinois and beyond. Approved women simply drop off their extra breast milk at the Milk Depot where it will be stored in a deep-freezer unit until it is sent to Mothers' Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes. From there the breast milk will go through a pasteurization and screening process before being distributed to Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) in Illinois and Wisconsin.

The health department began the process to become a human milk depot nearly eight months ago and on September 6th an agreement was established between McLean County Health Department and Mothers' Milk Bank Western Great Lakes to open McLean County Milk Depot. Says Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition, Education, and Supplemental Food Program (WIC) supervisor Tammy Brooks, "This is not just a WIC project, this is a public health initiative. It is much larger than simply providing a storage place for human milk. We are contributing to a process that saves the lives of babies and hope to not only increase awareness of human milk banking but also increase awareness and support of breastfeeding as a public health imperative."

Women interested in becoming milk donors should call Mothers' Milk Bank Western Great Lakes at (847) 262-5134 for an initial phone screening. The entire screening process takes approximately 2-3 weeks to complete. Once approved, donors receive a donor number and can begin to drop off milk at the McLean County Milk Depot.

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The McLean County Milk Depot joins a network of 11 others in the state connected with the Mothers' Milk Bank Western Great Lakes. The McDonough County Health Department in Macomb, Illinois is the next closest donation site in the Mothers' Milk Bank Western Great Lakes network for people who live in McLean County. For more information about the McLean County Milk Depot, visit our website at:

<http://health.mcleancountyil.gov/90/Maternal-Child-Health>.

The McLean County Health Department is dedicated to the prevention and control of disease through health promotion, early intervention and health protection within the county. More information about health department services can be found at: <http://health@mcleancountyil.gov>.

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