

WESTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST

**March 2009
Newsletter**

Welcome to our new Newsletter from the milk bank.

2008 was one of our busiest years ever. We distributed 1136 litres of milk to units and babies all around Ireland. We can only do this due to the incredible work of all our tremendous donors.

For the end of year 2008 we had 113 wonderful donors supplying us with all their hard work. This milk went to help an incredible 703 babies, that's more babies helped in one year than ever before, of which there was an incredible 62 sets of twins and 15 sets of triplets..... WOW !!!!

What's New

- We now transport and receive milk by express post to the Republic of Ireland - which is working really well. Thanks to all the wonderful post masters both for posting and delivering it.
- Due to Milk Banking Guidelines/ Blood Transfusion Service - We now have two ways of becoming a donor involving one or two blood tests to be taken depending on your choice of donating. Thanks to all our donors this is working incredibly well.
- We are continuously looking for donors and thanks to all our previous and existing donors the good work of the Milk Bank is spreading around and our donors are increasing year on year - So please keep this good work up girls !!! Your all Stars !!!

Babies Helped Stories



Baby Poppy

During her early pregnancy a mummy from Australia came here to visit relatives, when things went terribly wrong: She developed very high blood pressure and was immediately admitted to hospital where she had to stay (unable to travel home) - during this time her poor husband had to commute as and when he could. At 37 weeks baby Poppy arrived by caesarean section as mummy became terribly ill and had to be admitted to Intensive Care. Baby Poppy was born with heart failure and was transferred to another hospital where Poppy had major heart surgery and was put on donated breast milk to make Poppy's less stressful for her heart as breastmilk is easier to digest. Due to mummy's illness and medication she was unable to breastfeed Poppy and so all our dedicated donors helped supply the milk for Poppy and mummy wishes you too know that she is extremely grateful for all your tremendous help.

Thankfully to date mummy and Poppy are both doing well and hope to get home to Australia, when well enough to fly, she is now able to breastfeed Poppy herself but will never forget the wonderful help of our donors.

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Baby Sean

Baby Sean was born by C-section at approximately 31 weeks. He was immediately taken away and given Cardiac tracing and found he needed emergency surgery. At the same time mummy took ill and was unable to produce any breastmilk for baby Sean, due to the medication she was on. The hospital unit requested a supply of donor milk as this was all that baby Sean could tolerate - so again due to all our wonderful donors we were able to oblige and Sean is now making a wonderful recovery. Mummy expresses her Thanks to all our donors for their help.

Baby Erin

Little Erin was born at 34 weeks gestation she was very ill at birth and at delivery mum could see a blueness to her hands, feet and lips. She was whisked away and mum was later told that little Erin has a cyanotic heart condition that would require urgent surgery.

Mummy tried to pump enough milk for her but found it nearly impossible to get enough milk together for Erin as she was so sick that mummy was not allowed to handle her.

The unit knew that Erin needed breastmilk only as she would be prone to bowel infections due to being so poorly.

So donor milk was requested for her and used where mums supply was not enough.

Mummy has asked to thank all our donors for this very special help they gave Erin when she was so poorly.

Baby James

Baby James was born 27+6 weeks unexpectedly at home. After birth James had breathing problems and was urgently

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taken to hospital only to find that they did not have the necessary equipment to treat him and was then transferred to another unit where he was diagnosed as being jaundiced, put on a ventilator and a long line attached. To ease the stress on his digestive system baby James was immediately put onto donor milk and is now making extremely good progress, is off the ventilator and breathing on his own. Mummy would like to thank all of our donors for their help.

Baby Stephanie

Baby Stephanie was unexpectedly born at 29 weeks while mummy was busy doing her shopping she went into labour, an ambulance was called and mummy was rushed to hospital. Mummy began to breastfeed Stephanie but was found to have Beta Haemolytic Strep and put on long term antibiotics which unfortunately meant she was unable to continue breastfeeding Stephanie - but you donors to the rescue stepped in and helped baby Stephanie till mum was able to start breastfeeding again.

I am sure it goes without saying that ourselves and all our donors would like to Thank All the wonderful people who help transport all the precious donations around the country - So to all these Wonderful people THANK YOU !!!!

We always like to hear from new or prospective donors, or parents who have received milk for their babies. We can be contacted at

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