

March 04, 2013

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

## **Regional Mother's Milk Depot Grand Opening March 5**

A ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony for the Greater Ozarks Regional Mother's Milk Depot will be held at 3 p.m., Tuesday, March 5, in the lobby of the Springfield-Greene County Health Department's Women, Infants & Children (WIC) offices. WIC is located inside the Jordan Valley Community Health Center, 440 E. Tampa St. in Springfield.

Physicians from CoxHealth and Mercy will be on hand to discuss how donated milk can make a difference in the lives of babies and families. Also on hand will be Liz Blackburn, the Depot's first donor, who will be delivering more milk to the Depot as part of the event.

The Greater Ozarks Regional Mother's Milk Depot is co-sponsored by the Greater Ozarks Regional Breastfeeding Coalition and the Springfield-Greene County Health Department. [CoxHealth](#), [Jordan Valley Community Health Center](#) and [Mercy Springfield](#) are also partners in the Coalition. Representatives from all of these groups will be in attendance and available for media interviews.

When it comes to feeding a baby, nothing is better than mother's milk. Premature or sick babies, who benefit most from mother's milk, are often the ones whose mothers need help supplying this milk. For these babies, pasteurized human milk is far superior to formula. Studies show babies receiving donor milk compared to those on formula:

- Were less likely to suffer fatal conditions
- Had much lower rates of infection
- Spent less time in the hospital after birth
- Were more likely to grow and thrive

The Greater Ozarks Regional Mother's Milk Depot is the first human milk collection site affiliated with the [Heart of America Mothers' Milk Bank](#) (HAMMB) at [St. Luke's Hospital](#) in Kansas City, one of 13 such milk banks in North America. Once a mother has completed the necessary health screening and is approved to donate milk, she can bring her milk to the Milk Depot located at the Springfield-Greene County [Health Department's WIC offices](#).

Milk collected locally is shipped to the HAMMB for processing, pasteurization and distribution. Both CoxHealth and Mercy hospitals in Springfield provide donor human milk for premature infants in their neonatal intensive care units, and these hospitals are given priority status for milk because we are now able to collect donated milk in our community.

For more information, contact: Mike Brothers, public information administrator, (417) 874-1205 or [mbrothers@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:mbrothers@springfieldmo.gov).

Further information about the Greater Ozarks Regional Mother's Milk Depot can be found online at: <http://health.springfieldmo.gov/milkdepot>.