

## Breast milk bank: a life and hope donation for premature children

**LOCATION:** Seville

**DURATION:** 1'44"

**SUMMARY:** The Virgen del Rocío Hospital of Seville has created a breast milk bank, the second in Andalusia, after the one that was opened in Granada. There they store the most precious food for premature children and other newborns affected by serious pathologies. When mothers can't feed their children with their own milk, other caring women that produce an excess of milk donate theirs to help them survive. 1.500 mothers donate over 7,000 litres of milk a year and 2,000 children are fed by this generosity.

### VTR

In this place they keep the real elixir of life. It is the new breast milk bank of the Virgen del Rocío Hospital.

**MERCEDES GARCÍA**  
Donor mother

*"I am a blood donor and there's nothing better than donating life. So I donate my milk, just like I do with my blood."*

Mercedes breastfed her child and as she produced too much milk, she decided to donate it to the bank. Thanks to that gesture, a premature child multiplied his chances to survive.

**NAZARET BATET**  
Mother of recipient baby

*"Because I didn't produce milk yet. And an anonymous mother, one or two, I don't know how many did it, fed my boy."*

**PEPA AGUAYO**  
Chief of Neonatology

*"And if we don't have the mother's milk, the best alternative is the milk of another woman who is generous enough to donate her spare milk."*

Milk is treated here to avoid any risk. They also make sure that the donor mothers follow a healthy lifestyle. And the donated milk is meticulously analysed.

**PEPA AGUAYO**  
Chief of Neonatology

*"In order to guarantee that the product is completely sterile regarding viruses."*

She is Irene's mother, the baby who was born after only 26 weeks of pregnancy.

**IRENE MACÍAS**  
Mother of recipient baby

*"In the beginning they don't give you much hope but her father and I knew that Irene was going to survive, because she had much energy and vitality."*

They gave her milk from another mother through a tube, to strengthen her defences and avoid intestinal damage caused by artificial milk. And here she is, safe and sound. Her mom, now produces so much milk that she has also become a donor.

**IRENE MACÍAS**  
Mother of recipient baby

*"It comforts you, because this type of situation is very hard to go through."*

In the 12 banks that exist in Spain, 1.500 mothers donate over 7,000 litres of milk a year and 2,000 children receive this gift of life.