

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Grand Challenges

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Grand Challenge: Health

Title: Lactation Bench at the Topeka Zoo

Why is this issue important?

Breastfeeding is best for mothers, infants, families and our community. The lack of support and acceptance of breastfeeding are barriers that prevent mothers from breastfeeding. If our community embraces breastfeeding as the normal way to feed babies and young children, more women will breastfeed and our community will be healthier.

How was this issue addressed?

Topeka Breastfeeding Coalition (TBC), formerly Kaw Area Breastfeeding Coalition obtained funding to build a lactation bench for nursing moms and infants at the Topeka Zoo. A docent at the Zoo built the bench which is located in the play area. The bench also includes a changing table, and TBC worked with the Topeka Zoo to design signage.

What was the impact?

Moms have a comfortable location at the Topeka Zoo to feed their babies and watch their older children play. The signage educates the public on the benefits of breastfeeding and that this is the normal way mammals feed their babies.



Funding and In-Kind Donations:

Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Kansas Nutrition Council and the Topeka Zoo.

<https://www.topekabreastfeedingcoalition.com/>

