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We never give up on a child.

THE BABY FOLD STORY

festival of trees lights up the holidays

Interstate Center will glow with trees, events and more



Your first peak at the holidays is coming November 19-22 as The Baby Fold's Festival of Trees returns to the Bloomington Interstate Center. This year's theme—"Shine the Light"—is sure to illuminate the start of your season with so much to see and do.



Featured at this year's Festival are SPORTStacular! and a Concert Among the Trees with a cappella sensation Chapter 6. SPORTStacular! will feature athletes and mascots from area colleges and professional teams

giving families a chance to shoot, pass, throw, spike and putt as part of games and activities all night long. Chapter 6, featuring American Idol Semi-finalist Luke Menard, brings their comedy-infused blend of pop, jazz, gospel and rock to the main stage for an intimate concert among the trees.



Also back this year are festival favorites including Gingerbread Village, CEFCU's Jingle Bell Junction, The 'Greatest Gifts' Shop, OBGYN Care Associates & Dr. Santiago's Celebrity Place, COUNTRY Cookie Shop, and lots of trees, wreaths and holiday gifts throughout the event. All proceeds from the Festival support the programs of The Baby Fold. For a complete listing of events, attractions and items, to volunteer, or to order tickets, visit www.FestOfTrees.org.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

WEB: www.FestOfTrees.org/tickets
PHONE: (309) 451-7254
LOCAL: The Baby Fold
108 E. Willow St. • Normal, IL



festival special events

Top of the Tree at Opening Night
Nov. 18 • 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. • \$60

Festival Field Trips
Nov. 19 & 20 • times vary • \$3/student

Luther Oaks Senior Social
Nov. 19 • 9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m. • \$5

SPORTStacular!
Nov. 19 • 5 - 8 p.m. • Adults \$10/
Kids 3-12 \$4/Kids under 3 FREE

BroMenn's Spirit of Women Holiday Style Show
Nov. 20 • 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. • \$35

Avanti's Family Night
Nov. 20 • 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. • Avanti's meal:
Adults \$10/Kids 3-12 \$4/Kids under 3 FREE

Adoption Celebration
Nov. 21 • 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. • FREE w/ admission

A Concert Among the Trees with Chapter 6
Nov. 21 • 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. • \$15

Community Thanksgiving Worship Service
presented by College Park Christian Church.
Nov. 22 • 10 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. • FREE

Sunday Brunch
Nov. 22 • 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
• Adults \$20/Kids 3-12
\$7/ Kids under 3 FREE



ask Dr. Rob

What can I expect if my child experiences a traumatic event?

Whether it's a car accident or exposure to a violent situation, children can be exposed to traumatic events that may have lasting effects.

A child experiencing trauma may exhibit feelings of anxiety, worries about safety, and changes in behavior that could include aggression, withdrawal and negative school performance.

Is your child behaving differently since a violent or traumatic incident? Do they seem distracted or distant lately?

When diagnosed early, trauma can be alleviated or eliminated with regular treatment and counseling. Look for a counselor who specializes in working with children and in the areas of trauma and PTSD.

Horizons Counseling of The Baby Fold is the leader in the treatment of childhood trauma, utilizing treatment methods and programs designed by leading experts in the field of childhood trauma. Horizons also accepts major providers including Health Alliance, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Humana/LifeSynch and PHCS.

To schedule an appointment for you, your child, or your family, visit HorizonsCounseling.org or call (309) 557-1124.

Dr. Rob Lusk is the Clinical Psychologist for The Baby Fold and Horizons Counseling. You can hear Ask Dr. Rob on WJBC AM-1230 Tuesdays at 2:05 or on-line at TheBabyFold.org



stepping up for prevention

donors like you commit to keeping children safe from the start

When the State of Illinois announced major cuts for social service agencies earlier this year, things looked grim for prevention programs at The Baby Fold like Healthy Start that had devastating budget cuts projected.

While much of our funding was tentatively restored by the State, we anticipate another round of budget adjustments in January when State funding for prevention services is expected to run dry.



Prevention is at the heart and soul of The Baby Fold's mission. We see first-hand the incredible damage done to children when support for parents is missing. Like you, we would give anything to roll back the clock for these children and families to put them on a new track toward becoming whole and healthy.

Fortunately, many friends have stepped forward to privately support prevention in our community. More than 50 of our donors and the entire Board of Directors

for The Baby Fold have pledged to support prevention. In total, more than \$25,000 have been pledged towards prevention.

Thank you for your part in protecting at-risk children and families.

To learn more about becoming a Prevention Partner, visit us on-line at TheBabyFold.org/prevention.

five healthy hints for first-time parents

It's not easy being a parent. It takes hard work, commitment, and a whole lot of love. But dedicated care for your baby at a young age goes a long way toward a healthy life for that child. The Baby Fold's Healthy Start program has five of the most beneficial ways to care for a new child:



1 Hold your baby ... a lot

Holding your baby will let it know that it is loved and safe. Giving your baby all this attention will NOT spoil it. It will help your baby bloom into a happy, healthy child.

2 Massage your baby

Regular infant massage promotes strong brain development, enhanced parent-infant bond, increased muscle tone, and releases tension - along with other benefits.

3 Accept that your baby will cry and have fussy moments

Your baby is adjusting to his new world and all these new things can be stressful for him. Utilize community resources if you have any questions.

4 Ask for help, seek support and educate yourself

Talking to other parents, attending a support group, reading about newborns and parenting are all important to help yourself feel comfortable in your new role as a parent.

5 Let go of your preconceived notions of parenting

Parenting is an adventure that is challenging, fun, frustrating, rewarding, and exhausting all at the same time. Take a deep breath and enjoy the ride!

your gifts, our treasure

friends of the fold provide unique support for our children

The Baby Fold is fortunate to be supported by a community who provides unique and generous gifts to help support the staff, the children and the families of our organization.



Verizon donated \$24,900 to The Baby Fold, providing a much-needed technology overhaul for the Hammitt School classrooms, including touch-screen monitors, upgraded PCs, color laser printers, video/dvr system, digital cameras, and a literacy program for our Challenges autism classrooms.

Jackie Haggerty at **Studio J. Photography** raised \$5,819 for The Baby Fold by hosting a "Every Child is a Masterpiece" Baby and Child Portrait Contest. Plans are already forming to run the contest again next year.



The Residential Treatment Center received a new outdoor basketball court from the **McLean County Sportsmens Club** to keep our kids active outside.

Peoria First United Methodist Church revamped our family visiting rooms, providing flooring and furniture to help visiting families and siblings feel at home.



Target awarded \$4,000 in grants to The Baby Fold's Healthy Start program and the Hammitt School art program. Healthy Start will receive books for every family participating in their "Reading is Fundamental" program, encouraging literacy for at-risk children and parents. Hammitt Elementary will be able to purchase looms and weaving supplies in using art as therapy for our students.

Thank you to everyone using your gifts to bless others!

To find out how you can support The Baby Fold with your unique gifts, visit TheBabyFold.org/give

GIFTS (March - August 2009)

The Baby Fold would not be able to provide the services we do for children and families who need it most without the financial support of these donors (the honoree is in bold italics with donors following):

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a chance to learn to dance

This year at summer camp, there was a child from The Baby Fold who was hesitant about camp, to say the least. Christopher would find any excuse he could for not participating. It was uncertain whether he would even come to camp. One day, the rest of the campers were dancing to music. A teacher asked Christopher to dance but he just stood there, admitting, "I don't know how." So the teacher looked Christopher square in the eye and said, "Put your right arm out in front of you like this." And he did. Then she said, "Put your left hand out behind you like this." And he did. And in just a few minutes, Christopher was dancing like crazy.

*May we all have such opportunities in life!
TheBabyFold.org/camp2009
to hear more stories from
camp.*

Don't Forget!
The Festival of Trees
is Nov. 19-22 at the
Bloomington Interstate Center
www.FestOfTrees.org

leaner & greener

In times of economic uncertainty and social accountability, The Baby Fold is doing all we can to be good stewards of our resources. One way we're being responsible is in the number of newsletters we print and mail every year.

The Baby Fold Story newsletter is now available on-line and via e-mail, so you can get the same great information without an additional cost to The Baby Fold. If you would like to start receiving The Baby Fold Story electronically, please sign up with your e-mail on the front page of www.TheBabyFold.org or call Lacey at (309) 451-7202.

Thank you for helping us cut costs and focus our funds on families.

reaping the harvest

Harvest time brings significant blessings to The Baby Fold. Through the years, generous farm families have given their properties to The Baby Fold to provide a lasting legacy of support for our children. Last year the bounty of these ten farms provided an all time high of \$339,206 in additional revenue.

In August The Baby Fold hosted a lunch to honor and thank the current farm operators and our long-term farm manager Brian Thompson, Vice President and Regional Manager at Soy Capital Ag Services. The ten farms are located in seven Illinois counties including McLean, Champaign, Dewitt, Macon, Sangamon and Iroquois. Our thanks again to the donors of these farms and the dedication of these farm operators:

Burton Farm, Hoopeston Mr. Dan Houmes; Casey Farm, Decatur, Mr. Colby Schwarze; Cornell Farm, Mansfield, Mr. Lee Whitehouse; Courtney Farm, Sheldon, Mr. Jeff Hopkins; Goodin Farm, Weldon, Mr. Steve Perring; Johnston Farm, Lexington, Mr. Mark Freed; Blum Farm, Farmer City, Mr. Larry Ruch; Baker Farm, Rantoul, Mr. Kurt Kesler; Waters Farm, Dawson, Mr. Richard A. Young and Mr. Robert L. Young; Decker Farm, Hoopeston, Mr. David Olson.

To learn more about these farms, visit TheBabyFold.org/farms



THE BABY FOLD

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