

PROGRAM SUPPORT

I. SAFE CHILD

The **Safe Child** program is a sexual abuse prevention curriculum to children age 4-8 in preschools, day care centers and schools in McLean County. The United Way has a particular interest in supporting this program. They have made prevention and early intervention of child abuse and neglect a priority. We are partnering with United Way to make this program possible.

Partnership Opportunities:

- A gift of \$1,500 will fund the Safe Child curriculum for one year
- A gift of \$20,000 will endow the Safe Child curriculum

II. “Baby Think It Over”

Baby Think It Over is a full-sized and weighted infant simulator. It is used as an educational tool to give young people experience in parenting a baby. This realistic doll has a computer chip that makes the baby cry at unpredictable intervals and monitors incidences of abuse or neglect. Research shows that young people who have the baby for a few days generally postpone becoming real parents. They begin to have a sense of how their lives will be disrupted by the birth of a baby and how great that responsibility really is.

The Baby Fold received donations to buy 20 dolls and works with public schools to make the dolls available in classrooms on a rotating basis. We also place dolls in churches, and other community agencies to encourage young people to become better informed about the responsibilities of parenting.

These “simulated” babies receive a tremendous amount of wear and tear each year and must be replaced periodically. There are approximately 20 “simulated” babies in this program.

Partnership Opportunities:

- A gift of \$300 will replace one “baby.”
- A gift of \$3,750 will endow one “baby.”

III. HEALTHY START

Healthy Start is a voluntary home visiting program that assists expectant and new parents in their roles as the child’s first and most important teacher. Healthy Start staff provides information on child development, positive discipline techniques and parenting skills, and links families to needed resources. Education and support groups and developmental screenings are also offered.

Families get "points" for regularly meeting with support workers, attending well-child check-ups with the doctor, having immunizations done, and attending support groups. They can use the points to purchase incentive items, which will be assigned point values. Families can then work for the item they need/want.

Incentives include but are not limited to, cribs, crib mattresses, diapers, swings, infant car seats, regular car seats, dressers, high chairs, and playpens. Services are available for a 3-5 year period with periodic benchmarks to measure outcomes.

Partnership Opportunities:

- A gift of \$100 will provide one backpack for a child whose parent(s) graduate from the program (backpacks include pencil boxes, crayons, scissors, glue, folders erasers and Crayola markers). Graduation is held in April and September.
- A gift of \$200 will provide a layette basket for new mothers in this program (layette baskets include some of the following; diapers, sleepers, blanket, stuffed animal, rattle or small toy, baby wash and lotion, etc.)
- A gift of \$2,500 will fund the incentive program annually
- A gift of \$30,000 will fund the incentive program in perpetuity

IV. RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER

Population served

The Baby Fold's Residential Treatment Center serves children, ages 3 through 12, who are in need of a highly structured, positive living environment with accompanying specialized mental health treatment and/or residential school services. The Residential Treatment Center is licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to serve 24 children. Children served include those with severe behavioral disorders, psychiatric disorders, learning disabilities, and victims of trauma. Treatment typically focuses on reduction of aggressive behaviors, self-harm behaviors, destructive behaviors, and resolution of attachment issues. Positive relationship building allows for growth in social skills and self-esteem. Then aggressive and destructive behavior, sexually problematic behavior, anger control, and self-harm issues can be addressed. Children with attachment disorders can learn to bond and make new, healthy relationships.

Services provided:

- 24 hour per day supervision & treatment
- Behavior modification & cognitive problem solving
- Religious & values education
- Daily living skills training
- Family & sibling visitation
- Community skills
- Individual, group, & family therapy
- Art therapy
- Educational services through Hammitt School or public schools
- Transition and aftercare services
- Social skills training
- Therapeutic recreation

Physical facility

The Baby Fold has provided residential care throughout its history. The current Residential Treatment Center opened in May 2000. It provides a home-like environment that is designed to facilitate close supervision. There are four separate living units housing six children each. Each living unit has six bedrooms, a living room, a dining room, a quiet activity room, bathrooms, and staff offices. Therapy rooms, family visiting rooms, a skate room, and spacious playgrounds complete the setting.

Staffing

Residential treatment specialists provide supervision, care and treatment for children 24 hours a day. The daytime ratio is 1 staff to 2 children and during sleeping hours the ratio is 1 staff to 6 children. Other staff include a full time clinical psychologist, a developmental pediatrician and child psychiatrist consultant, licensed social workers, registered nursing staff and case managers.

Partnership Opportunities:

Food

- \$6 provides food for one child for one day
- \$180 provides food for one child for one month
- \$2,160 provides food for one child for one year

Clothing

- \$25 provides clothing for one child for one month
- \$600 provides clothing for one child for one year

Medical

- \$100 provides the medical needs for one child for the year

V. PREGNANCY COUNSELING

Individuals experiencing an unplanned pregnancy are offered free comprehensive counseling in their home community to assist them in making informed decisions that will influence their future and the future of their child. Both parents of the child and other family members can be involved in services. Planning for adoptive placement of the child is available when requested.

Partnership Opportunities:

- A gift of \$180 will provide booklets to birth mothers each year (30 @ \$5.95)
- A gift of \$2,500 will provide 25 video resources (*Healthy Steps for Teen Parents, From a Teen Dad's Point of View, Abstinence: It's the Right Choice, etc.*)
- A gift of \$40,000 will provide the necessary counseling services for one year
- A gift of \$500,000 will endow this program in perpetuity

VI. ADOPTION

The Baby Fold provides adoption services to children of all ages, their birth parents, and their adoptive parents. Adoption is a service that is available to children who can not be cared for by their birth families. Most of the children receiving adoption services are in foster homes and are adopted by their foster parents. The Baby Fold recruits adoptive homes for children who are not adopted by foster parents. The Baby Fold also works with birth parents of newborn infants when those birth parents wish to make an adoption plan for their children.

Adoptive parents become licensed and receive training to help prepare them for the challenges of adoptive parenting. Post adoption services are available to adopted individuals, adoptive parents, and birth parents whose children have been adopted.

Partnership Opportunities:

Training

Staff: (1) A gift of \$1,500 will allow two adoption unit members to attend the International Adoption Conference in Washington, D.C
(2) A gift of \$1,000 will allow two adoption workers to attend Open Adoption Training in Traverse City, MI. Training and resources are needed for our adoptive parents and birth parents to facilitate openness in adoption.

Adoptive Families: A gift of \$1,000 will allow one adoptive couple and one adoption worker to attend the National NACAC training in Chicago.

Library Resources

A gift of \$500 will replenish our outdated library resources (*The Day We Met You, Adoption is Okay, Secret Thoughts of an Adoptive Mother, How to Adopt Internationally, Telling the Truth to Your Adopted or Foster Child, etc.*)

VII. FOSTER CARE

The Baby Fold's foster care programs (Home of Relative, Traditional, Specialized, and Professional) provide safe, nurturing home environments for children referred by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Case management, counseling, and advocacy services are provided to children, birth parents, and foster parents alike. The goal of the foster care program is to provide temporary care until permanence can be achieved for the child through return home, adoption, or guardianship.

Partnership Opportunities:

Children

- A gift of \$150 will send a child to a sports camp, music lessons, dance lessons, etc.
- A gift of \$1,000 provides counseling services for children and or families who are seeking healing in the areas of domestic violence or substance abuse.

Foster Parents

- A gift of \$200 will allow foster parents to transport children in their care to doctor visits, counseling sessions, visits with siblings or visits with biological family members.
- A gift of \$400 will provide a weekend of respite for foster parents

Staff

- A gift of \$200 provides training for one staff person
- A gift of \$8,000 provides training in this program for one year
- A gift of \$100,000 will endow the training program

VIII. HAMMITT SCHOOL

Specialized Education

Hammitt School at The Baby Fold provides specialized educational services for children ages 3 to 15 with autism, pervasive development disorders, emotional disorders, and behavioral disorders. Children are referred by their local school districts within about a 50-mile radius of Bloomington-Normal. Children at Hammitt School have the benefit of classrooms with no more than eight children and two teacher therapists per classroom. In addition, they may receive supportive services including home intervention, nursing, speech and language therapy, resource teachers, and psychological services. Approximately 100 students are currently enrolled at Hammitt School.

Home-based services and support

Hammitt School staff reaches out to rural McLean County families to assist them in accessing needed resources. These families have children with special needs who attend their local schools. The goal of these intensive services is to strengthen families and to maintain students within their local school districts.

In-service and staff training

Hammitt School staff provides in-service training and staff training, not just for Hammitt School staff, but also for school districts and agencies in surrounding communities.

Case consultation

Hammitt School staff offer child-specific consultation to school districts that request assistance in designing effective interventions for particular children and their families. These services are particularly beneficial with children who have multiple disabilities and when the school and family team need an outside party to help them collaborate on a plan that will meet a particular child's needs.

Program Development

Hammitt School staff assist school districts, day care centers, churches, and other child-serving entities to shape their programming in order to accommodate the needs of children with multiple disabilities.

Diagnostic Assessments

Hammitt School staff work with local school districts in order to diagnose and develop educational and treatment plans for children with a variety of disabilities, including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism, speech and language disorders, and social emotional disorders.

Partnership Opportunities:

Food

- A gift of \$40 provides a month of lunches for one child
- A gift of \$500 provides a year of lunches for one child

Classroom Supplies

- A gift of \$500 provides supplies for one classroom for the year
- A gift of \$6,500 will endow the supplies for one classroom

Special Events

- A gift of \$500 provides supplies and materials for one of the following special events:
 - * Track and Field Days
 - * Christmas Program
 - * Graduation

IX. FAITH PARTNER PROGRAM

As we begin our second century of ministry to children and families, we are especially grateful for the opportunity to share Christ with our twenty-four children who live in the Residential Treatment Center. Our Christian Life Coordinator, Hammitt Chapel, and commitment to share the love of God with those He sends to us are working together to bring God's hope and healing to our children, families, and staff. As more energy is being channeled into the faith development of our children, we need your partnership.

We need your prayers. This is serious business. Many of the children we serve have been traumatized and have complex questions about God, their families, and their place in the world.

Your financial partnership is also needed. Curricular materials are needed to provide Sunday School lessons and Vacation Bible School. Each child needs a Bible to keep. Song books for worship are needed. Contemporary Christian music CDs are an excellent witness to our children.

Curricular Materials

- A gift of \$ \$40 provides curricular materials for one child
- A gift of \$1,000 provides curricular materials for the Christian education program for one year
- A gift of \$12,500 will endow the curricular materials for the Christian education program

Christian Life Coordinator

- A gift of \$20,000 will help staff this position for one year
- A gift of \$250,000 will endow the Christian Life Coordinator position

X. LIFE BOOKS

Unfortunately, many of our children are responsible for safeguarding their own histories and mementos. Often we do not empower them in this endeavor. Perhaps we feel that adults, surrogate

parents/caretaker should do the job for them, but significant history building is rarely done. Children move and their school mementos such as pictures, yearbooks, etc. are lost or retained by their foster families. These children are losing part of themselves and their identities, resulting in gaps in their lives.

Life Books are designed to meet the need of providing children with a scrapbook and the materials needed to build the book. Necessary materials are included such as; a disposable camera for each child, glue sticks, fancy edged scissors, stencils, and binders with plastic pages to preserve the memento.

The **Life Book** will be made up of two sections. The first will be designed like a scrapbook and will include pages for school awards, places to list best friends, and places for current pictures and memories. These pages are designed to be age appropriate and interactive for the children. These pages include things that the children would feel comfortable sharing with friends and important people in their lives. The second section focuses more on therapeutic and family of origin issues. This includes a page with instructions to the child or caseworker that will help create a genogram (like a family tree) to help maintain the family history, possibly an explanation of why the child is in care, and interactive therapeutic pages.

The book is designed so those pages will be preserved but the can also be removed if the child does not feel comfortable sharing some of pages with others. It is flexible with pages that can be added or deleted without much effort and it is easily individualized for each child.

Partnership Opportunities:

- A gift of \$40 will provide one child with a **Life Book**
- A gift of \$200 will provide five children with a **Life Book**
- A gift of \$400 will provide ten children with a **Life Book**

CAMPS

I. CAMP TAKE-A-BREAK

Camp Take-A-Break is available to children ages 6-13 who are having difficulty adjusting to a newly adopted family. The camp is a great respite for children and families who may need to spend a weekend apart from time-to-time.

Camp Take-A-Break occurs once a month. Activities are provided by the staff of The Baby Fold and include; hiking, swimming, canoeing, arts and crafts, games, sports, movies and more!

Partnership Opportunities:

- A gift of \$50 provides one child with a fun-filled weekend
- A gift of \$250 provides five children with a fun-filled weekend
- A gift of \$750 provides for one weekend of *Camp Take-A-Break*
- A gift of \$100,000 will endow the *Camp Take-A-Break* program

II. SUMMER CAMP

The Baby Fold Summer Camp is a delightful and rewarding outdoor experience. Each year nearly 100 children who receive services from TBF attend a week of camp on the grounds of East Bay Camp at Lake Bloomington.

Approximately 40 senior high school students from within the United Methodist Church work along side the staff of The Baby Fold to provide a wide variety of activities including; hiking, swimming, canoeing, arts and crafts, games, sports, music and more!

Partnership Opportunities:

- A gift of \$200 provides one child with a fun-filled week of summer camp
 - A gift of \$1,000 provides five children with a fun-filled week of summer camp
 - A gift of \$20,000 provides one-week of summer camp for 100 children
 - A gift of \$250,000 will endow the TBF summer camp program
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For more information about program support, please contact:

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