



2026

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



FOSTER PARENTS SHOUTOUT!

Emily and Derek Caughron have opened their hearts and homes to care for a sweet baby girl with specialized medical needs and maintain familial bonds for siblings. They've continually adjusted their schedules and routines to ensure that this child is taken to all routine and specialist appointments, at times hours away from Bloomington/Normal. While this journey has come with challenges, Emily and Derek have continued to show up with patience, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to making sure this little girl receives the care she deserves. Their willingness to travel, advocate, and make sacrifices demonstrates the incredible difference foster parents can make in the life of a child with complex needs. They have shown that sometimes love looks like an early morning departure, a long drive, a waiting room, or simply providing reassurance to the child in a new, unknown situation. We are grateful for Emily and Derek and the compassion and flexibility they bring to their role each day. Their story is a beautiful reminder that every child deserves someone who is willing to go the extra mile to help them thrive. Thank you Emily and Derek!





THE BABY FOLD'S

FOSTER CARE

FOSTER PARENT LAW IMPLEMENTATION SIGNATURE PAGE

At the end of September, all foster parents were mailed The Baby Fold's 2027 Foster Parent Law Implementation Plan, Foster Parent Law Concern and Grievance Process, DCFS Office of the Inspector General brochure, and a signature page with a prepaid return envelope.

Please return your signed signature page by **Friday, October 30, 2026**. You may:

- Mail or drop it off at 1500 Fort Jesse, Suite A, Normal, IL 61761
- Fax it to (309) 451-9388
- Email it to stanner@TheBabyFold.org
- Give it to your caseworker or licensing worker

Thank you for your cooperation and participation in this important process!



SIGNATURE

CAMP TAKE-A-BREAK

Located on Lake Bloomington at the East Bay Camp Facility, this Therapeutic Camp offers children a fun experience while giving parents a weekend break.

- Children attend camp from 7:00pm Friday evening to 12:30pm Sunday afternoon.
- Staff Members are highly trained and have extensive experience working with children with a range of needs, including emotional and Behavioral Problems.
- Activities include: Hiking, year-round swimming, crafts, games, sports, movies, and community outings.
- Meals and snacks provided (accommodations can be made for dietary restrictions)

Eligible Kids

- Children must be enrolled in a qualifying TBF program
- Children must be 6 to 14 years old
- Children must have the physical and mental ability to participate in 80% of the camp activities.
- No phones, video games, or tablets allowed

Camp Dates Fall 2026

October 9-11, 2026
October 23-25, 2026
November 6-8, 2026
November 20-22, 2026
December 4-6, 2026



*** Please reach out to your caseworker for more information about registration!**



THE BABY FOLD'S

FOSTER CARE

FOSTER PARENT RIGHT #13 AND RESPONSIBILITIES #14 & #15



Foster Parents' Rights:

#13. The right to be considered as a placement option when a foster child who was formerly placed with the foster parents is to be re-entered into foster care when such placement would be consistent with the best interest of the child and other children in the home.

Foster Parents' Responsibilities:

#14. The responsibility to know the child welfare agency's appeal procedure for foster parents and the rights of foster parents under the procedure.

#15. The responsibility to know and understand the importance of maintaining accurate and relevant records regarding the child's history and progress; and the responsibility to be aware of and follow the procedures and regulations of the child welfare agency with which the foster parent is licensed or affiliated.



FLU SHOT REMINDER!



Friendly reminder, all Youth in Care are required to get an **annual flu shot for all children 6 months and older**. Now is the perfect time to make sure you and your family are protected by getting your annual flu shot.

Find your local clinic here:
[vaccines.gov/find-vaccines](https://www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines).

Stay healthy and take good care this season!



Don't
Forget!



REFERRAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Don't forget—if you refer a family who becomes fully licensed and has a child placed in their home, you'll receive a **\$150** reward! The referred family must identify you as the referral within the **first three days** of beginning the licensing process. If you have any questions, please contact your licensing worker.



THE BABY FOLD'S

FOSTER CARE

ADOPTION SUPPORT & PRESERVATION

Considering Adoption? We're Here for You!

The Adoption Support and Preservation (ASAP) program is here to support families as they transition from foster care to permanency. Once you receive your adoption or subsidized guardianship finalization date, we encourage you to reach out and learn about the services available to your family. ASAP offers support, resources, education, and connection to help families thrive. Even if your child is not currently enrolled in ASAP services, all foster and adoptive parents are welcome to participate in our parent support groups, parenting groups, and book clubs. Stay connected through our Facebook page and TBRI Newsletter, where we regularly share valuable resources, training opportunities, and encouragement.

Reach out today to our referral coordinator at (309) 557-1149, they can also sign you up for our newsletter.

PLEASE JOIN THE BABY FOLD'S FOSTER CARE FACEBOOK PAGE

A private group created exclusively for our foster parents to stay updated on upcoming events and trainings. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. Join using the link below or by scanning the QR code:





TRAININGS & SUPPORT



DADS SHARPENDADS

A safe place for dads to share their unique challenges, as well as education and support for each other to be their very best. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 7:15pm. For more info, email Ken at KSummers@thebabyfold.org for more information.

WEDNESDAY NOON GROUP

Provides education and support related to parenting, trauma, and self-care within the context of adoption and foster care. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. Email Melissa at MLegendre@thebabyfold.org for more information.

GRANDPARENT CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Fostering a grandchild? This group is for you! Meets once a month at Community Care, located at 3601 General Electric Rd. Suite #2, Bloomington, IL 61704. Caregivers and children are able to meet together to do activities, crafts, share a meal, and get acquainted. If you would like more information, please call Angie Raymer at 309.661.6400.

SIDE BY SIDE MINISTRIES

This ministry exists to engage the church & local community in consistent loving support of families involved in foster care by providing access to physical, relational, and spiritual resources. For more information, send an email to: sidebyside1712@gmail.com.

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