



The Baby Fold
108 East Willow Street
Normal, IL 61761
(309) 452-1170

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Aimee Beam, The Baby Fold

Phone: (309) 451-7206

Email: ABeam@TheBabyFold.org

The Baby Fold Celebrates 120 Years of Serving Central Illinois

NORMAL, IL — The Baby Fold serves over 1200 children and families each year across 28 Central Illinois counties, offering adoption support, foster care, Autism services, special education schooling, early childhood intervention, and more. May 5, 2022 marks the agency's 120th year of service. Throughout the year, The Baby Fold is celebrating the momentous occasion with special events, including flying an honorary flag over the US Capitol. The agency is sharing stories and highlights on their social media and e-newsletter, and their premier fundraising event, The Festival of Trees, will also highlight the agency's anniversary.

The Baby Fold has been serving children and families in Central Illinois since 1902. In 1899, Normal pioneer, Nancy Mason, gifted her home to the local Methodist Deaconesses that operated Deaconess Hospital, now Carle BroMenn Medical Center. The Deaconess women saw a growing need in the community - care for orphaned and abandoned children.

Orphan trains, dispatched from the East coast, carried abandoned and orphaned children westward across the US. The deaconess women in Normal, IL welcomed the children into the 9-bedroom Mason home. As the community's need grew, the home moved to 4 lots on East Willow Street, where care continues to this day.

To learn more about The Baby Fold and its rich history, visit www.TheBabyFold.org.