FY26

PROGRAMS & QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ANNUAL REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

01 Governance

Board of Directors 3
Leadership Team 4
Treatment Advisory Committee 5

02 President & CEO Report

Message from the President & CEO Clete Winkelmann 7

03 Reports from Quality Improvement and Program Services Departments

Quality Improvement 9
Academic Services 14
Early Childhood Services 20
Intervention Services 22
Post-Adoption Services 25
Training 28

04 Reports from Development and Administrative Services

Development and Public Relations 31
Human Resources 33
Finance and Information Systems 35

05 External Asset Management Reports

Farm Report 38
Investment Fund Report 44

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FY26 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)

OFFICERS

Kent King-Nobles, Chair
Tom Carroll, Vice Chair
Michelle Mancias, Secretary
Matt Johnston, Treasurer

Julie Baller
Jim Brown
Tom Carroll
Robyn Cashen
Mike Crawford
Marlene Dietz
Julie Dobski
Matt Johnston
Rev. Dr. Kent King-Nobles
Charles Knudson
Michelle Mancias
Renesia Martin
Dr. Danielle Miller-Schuster
Becky Mills
Rev. Dr. Ray Owens
Rob Parent
Linda Park
Brett Petersen
Larry Phillips
Jene Pulliam
Dr. Roosmarijn Tarhule
Cory Tello
Carolyn Yockey
Rev. Dr. J. Keith Zimmerman

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Executive Leadership Team

Clete Winkelmann, President and Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Rhonda Howard, Chief Operating Officer
Dr. Jennifer Huffman, VP of Clinical Operations
Mike Straza, Chief Financial Officer
Vikki Falls, Vice President of Human Resources
Lara Raper, Vice President of Quality Improvement
Sam Guillory, Vice President of Development and Public Relations
Ariel Ameday, Executive Assistant to the CEO

Program Directors

Krista Reichert, Director of Post-Adoption Services
Julie Stoll, Director of Academic Services
Theresa Lawrence, Director of Early Childhood Services
Dana Lloyd, Director of Intervention Services

01 TREATMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FY 2026 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BABY FOLD TREATMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

The 2025-2026 membership of the TAC changed this past year. The members who serve include:

- Dr. Marla Reese-Weber (ISU Department of Psychology) serving as child development expert and Chairperson of TAC (TAC member since 2001) resigned this year.
- Sandi Scheidenhelm, assumed TAC Chairperson as the senior member, serving as the parent representative since March 2015.
- Frances Godfrey (Social Worker for District 87) serving as the school social work representative since June 2020;
- Holly Ng (ISU/Mennonite School of Nursing) serving as the medical representative since 2021;
- Attorney Julia Davis (Family Law attorney) serving as the attorney who understands mental health law since 2019);
- Luke Russell, PhD (ISU Department of Family and Consumer Sciences) serving on the committee with expertise in family systems.
- Ms. Melissa McClelland (Metcalf School, School Psychologist) serving as the behavioral specialist since 2024; and

Staff representatives this past year included:

- Alissa Calandra, (Student Support Liaison, Hammitt Schools);
- Dina Dixon, (Program Coordinator, Hammitt Schools);
- Dr. Jennifer Huffman, (VP of Clinical Operations,);
- Julie Stoll (Academic Director, Hammitt Schools); and
- Stacy Nuckols (Assistant VP of Quality Improvement)

We have continued to fulfill our major functions as outlined in Board policy which include: 1) reviewing and approving all proposed treatment/behavior interventions, discipline techniques, and behavior management techniques/procedures; 2) conducting unannounced monitoring visits at Hammitt School on Willow and Hammitt School on Oglesby to ensure treatment procedures are implemented appropriately from a human rights perspective; 3) serving as the Institutional Review Board reviewing all proposed research projects to be conducted at The Baby Fold; 4) reviewing the statistics regarding the implementation of Accompanied Recovery (AR; previously referred to as Accompanied Time Out); and 5) review of all more intrusive or restrictive treatment procedures, including physical restraints implemented with children and adolescents in both schools. Police, crisis team calls, and risk of harm assessments at both Hammitt Schools are also monitored as part of TAC monthly reviews. A discussion of the patterns (frequency and type) of use of these procedures is a part of every TAC meeting.

TAC members monitoring visits occur approximately every other month on a rotating basis. Monitoring reports are submitted by members and reviewed at the next meeting. Our TAC meetings occur during the months of September, November, January, March, and June.

Although the TAC remains responsible for receiving, reviewing and/or investigating significant or unresolved human rights complaints regarding behavioral interventions, none were received during the past year.

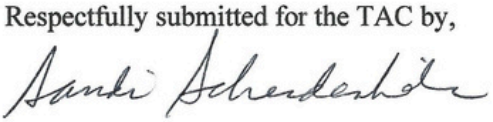
01 TREATMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Related to the role of the TAC functioning as the Institutional Review Board for The Baby Fold, no new research proposals were submitted for review.

The TAC would like to thank the staff representatives serving on TAC for responding to all requests for information in a timely manner to allow us to fulfill our responsibilities as reflected in Board policy. Agency staff has also remained very responsive to implementing any suggestions related to facilitating the completion of TAC functions.

Minutes of the TAC meetings are on-file and available in the main office of The Baby Fold. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this report.

Respectfully submitted for the TAC by,



Dr. Sandi Scheidenhelm
Treatment Advisory Committee Chair
August 24, 2026
sscheidenhelm@yahoo.com

02 President & CEO Report

Clete Winkelmann

PRESIDENT AND CEO, THE BABY FOLD

Over the last year, we continued to advance The Baby Fold's strategic plan. Despite the challenge of federal funding cuts, there is much to be positive about. We completed the plan's first year with significant progress across all three focus areas: People, Programs, and Property.

Regarding the federal funding cuts, I'm pleased to share that our Community Schools partnership with Unit 5 has been preserved thanks to funding from our local community. While the cuts affected the depth of services we can provide, we were able to maintain the majority of programming at both Fairview and Cedar Ridge Elementary Schools.

People

The Baby Fold provides a wide range of programs across five core service areas: Academic, Intervention, Post Adoption, Early Childhood, and Training. What truly sets The Baby Fold apart, however, is our dedicated staff and the continuum of care they provide. Their expertise, compassion, and commitment allow us to meet the diverse needs of children and families with the consistent, high-quality care for which The Baby Fold is known—leading to better outcomes for those we serve. To better support our staff, we launched a first level supervisory training course to enhance the skills of our new supervisors. We also are working on an agencywide initiative to redesign our job descriptions to more accurately capture the work our staff are performing.Both initiatives were informed by the culture survey we completed in partnership with Illinois State University's I/O Psychology department.

Programs

Since 1902, The Baby Fold has evolved to meet the changing needs of our community—and that commitment continues today. Within our Intervention department, we've added an evidence-based parenting curriculum for families, along with a new specialized program focused on the safety and stability of youth in care. Funded by the Department of Children and Family Services, these new programs are reducing the number of children who need to be removed from their homes due to a variety of concerns.



We also launched the first phase of our outpatient clinic by adding psychological and neuropsychological testing for youth involved with DCFS. We look forward to phase two, which will expand the clinic's reach by bringing additional mental health counseling services into the community.

Property

The last focus area of our strategic plan involves our properties. The Baby Fold has five locations in Bloomington-Normal, along with satellite offices in Urbana and Springfield. Our goal is to identify opportunities to reduce our Bloomington-Normal footprint by making greater use of our two owned locations on Willow Street and Oglesby Avenue.

To meet that goal, we have assembled a large group of employees to evaluate the scenarios presented by Farnsworth Group, our engineering and architecture firm. Their feedback will be shared with the Board of Directors in early 2027. We are excited to see what the future brings!

For 124 years, perseverance has been woven into The Baby Fold's history. Through wars, depressions, epidemics, and times of great change, we have met each challenge with strength and resilience. Today, that same spirit continues to guide us as we remain focused on the children and families we serve.

We cannot do this work alone—it truly takes a village. We are deeply grateful to our donors, board members, and community for your prayers, generosity, and volunteerism. Together, we continue to make brighter futures possible for those we serve.



03 Reports from Quality Improvement and Program Services Departments

Quality Improvement	9
Academic Services	14
Early Childhood Services	20
Intervention Services	22
Post-Adoption Services	25
Training	28

Lara Raper

VICE PRESIDENT OF QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, THE BABY FOLD

Quality Improvement Process and Measures
Overall, our quality improvement work includes routinely measuring specific quality indicators for each department and program to assess the "health" of the agency. We work hard to improve the lives of the children and families The Baby Fold serves. Quality is achieved through regularly and consistently looking at agency performance and striving to improve. To perform at a level of exceptional quality, we need to exercise the discipline of self-analysis and improvement.

Both program and administration departments have established quality indicators. Tables containing measurable outcomes and benchmarks for each non-program department is included. Quality indicators are established within programs and benchmarks are set. Charts represent trend data available over the past several years and depict quality indicators within each program area. When no data point appears on the line graph this indicates there was no data reported for that year. This report also contains infographics from the programs for fiscal year 2026, providing a current picture of census, demographics, outcomes and other important items.

The Quality Improvement and Risk Management Council monitors, provides oversight and reviews risk regarding Quality Improvement. The council reviews the program quarterly Quality Improvement reports, the agency program census and trend data, training needs, and risk management information. Individual departments also continue to review their program-specific Quarterly Quality Improvement Report including client outcomes data at the supervisory and staff levels. Employees are encouraged to propose formal quality improvement projects related to their individual program or cross-departmental issues. Informal improvements are made across departments throughout the year and are summarized by department.

The Baby Fold collects data on all its service areas on a quarterly and fiscal year basis according to pre-determined measures of program effectiveness. The Baby Fold compares program outcomes to the benchmarks established by the agency. These benchmarks are based on several factors:

Program plan requirements:
- Best practice guidelines
- Prevailing industry standards when available
- Previous history within the program
- Contract set benchmarks

The Baby Fold Quality Improvement Program Dashboard FY26

COLOR KEY

🟢	Meets or exceeds benchmark
🟡	< 10% below benchmark
🔴	> 10% below benchmark

PROGRAM WIDE OUTCOMES

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	Benchmark	Notes	Past 4 year Cycles:
Client Satisfaction	124 of 127	485 of 508	761 of 797	949 of 1013	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	90%	Cumulative totals based on returned surveys	FY21: 92% FY22: 82% FY23: 92% FY24: 86%
Referral Source Satisfaction	3 of 3	10 of 11	18 of 21	23 of 27	🟢	🟢	🟡	🟡	🟡	90%	Cumulative totals based on returned surveys (All are school referral sources)	FY21: 95% FY22: 84% FY23: 100% FY24: 83%
Record Compliance	85 of 89	92 of 93	100 of 101	99 of 99	🟡	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	98%	Totals based on records reviewed each quarter	F21: 98% FY22: 99% FY23: 96% FY24: 93%
Employee Satisfaction	5 of 9	N/A	6 of 10	12 of 17	🔴	N/A	🔴	🔴	🔴	90%	Cumulative totals based on responses to exit surveys; rating TBF as overall place to work either "excellent" or "good" (Q40)	FY19: 89% FY20: 87% FY21: 74% FY22: 69% FY23: 67% FY24: 76%

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

	Outcome	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	Bench mark	Indicator	Comments about Benchmark	Past 4 year Cycles:	
HMR/TRAD Foster Care	**Children have permanent families: Adoption, Return Home, Subsidized Guardianship**	11.6% 10/10 were adoption for 100%	20% 6/9 were adoption, 3/9 were return home	30% 5/11 were adoption, 6/11 were return home	52.6% 10/20 were adoption, 8/20 return home; 3/20 Sub guard	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	40%	HMR/TRAD - 40% (30 is target) of FY26 beginning year caseload (95) reach permanency, broken down by Return Home (8 is target), Adoption, Guardianship;	DCFS dashboard	FY21: 45.7% FY22: 52.8% FY23: 41% FY24: 50% FY25 42%	*FY26 = 34% were return home, 60% were adoption, 6% were Sub guard*
HMR/TRAD Foster Care	**Children achieve timely permanence**	50%	44%	40%	60%	🔴	🔴	🔴	🔴	🔴	70%	Youth in care who return home within 12 months of entering care; Youth in care who achieve permanency through Adoption/Guardianship within 12 months of goal change.	QI report benchmark	FY22: 59% FY23: 68% FY24: 58% FY25: 45%	*FY26 = 49% cases were timely, ave. 12.1 months to achieve perm*
Specialized Foster Care	**Children have permanent families**	0%	0%	14% 1/1 for return home	29%, add 1/1 for adoption, total of 2, actual though is 6	🔴	🔴	🟢	🟢	🟢	25%	Cumulative discharges SPEC - 25% of FY26 beginning year caseload (7) reach permanency	DCFS dashboard	FY21: 33% FY22: 43% FY23: 66% FY24: 11% FY25: 30%	*Q1 & Q2, DCFS is miscounting 4 perms that should be in FY26, put them in FY25*
HMR/TRAD/ SPEC Foster Care	**Children remain safe in substitute care**	95%	100%	100%	100%					🟡	100%	No indicated abuse/neglect during services provided	QI report benchmark	FY24: 98% FY25: 100%	
Foster Care Therapy	**Improve child functioning**	100%	100%	100%	100%	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	75%	Decrease in Pre-BPRS-C to Post-BPRS-C, at time of discharge (3 points or more, or score of 10 and below)	QI report benchmark	FY24: 100% FY25: 100%	
Foster Care Therapy	**Youth made satisfactory progress towards goals**	100%	100%	100%	67%, 1 client withdrew, 1 refused services	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟡	🟢	75%	Clients who partially or fully complete therapeutic goals	QI report benchmark	FY24: 77% FY25: 100%	

PROGRAM OUTCOMES (CONTINUED)

	Outcome	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	Bench mark	Indicator	Comments about Benchmark	Past 4 year Cycles:
Intact Family Services	**Parents or caretakers improve knowledge and develop skills**	75%	80%	75%	75%	🟡	🟢	🟡	🟡	🟡	80%	Improved scores from pre-PFS2 and post-PFS2; Parents/caretakers increase knowledge and develop skills for positive, healthy relationships within the family	QI report benchmark	FY24: 56% FY25: 91%
Intact Family Services	**Clients report high satisfaction with services**	100%	100%	100%	100%	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	90%	Cumulative - Look at program specific client admission and discharge satisfaction survey results (3 or higher ratings on all items)	QI report benchmark	FY25: 100%
Intact Family Services	**Family unit is maintained, providing safe and stable home for children**	100%	100%	89%	100%	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	85%	Family remains intact six months following case closure with No involuntary out-of-home placement six months' post discharge	DCFS dashboard	FY21: 86.4% FY22: 92% FY23: 100% FY24: 100% FY25: 100%
Healthy Start	**Children remain safely in their home**	100%	100%	100%	100%	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	95%	Cumulative % of Children remain safe with their family throughout the quarter (no involuntary removal of the child from the participant's care)	QI report benchmark	FY21: 100% FY22: 98% FY23: 99% FY24: 98% FY25: 98%
Healthy Start	**Successful completion of services**	100%	100%	100%	100%	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	90%	Cumulative percentage of successful discharge (> 3 years in program or meet HFA standard for successful discharge)	QI report benchmark	FY21: 100% FY22: 100% FY23: 100% FY24: 74% FY25: 81%
Adoption Support and Preservation	**Improve family functioning**	80%	71%	81%	81%	🟢	🔴	🟢	🟢	🟡	80%	Based on worker/supervisor assessment from several measures on quarterly discharges	QI report benchmark	FY21: 81% FY22: 81% FY23: 90% FY24: 81% FY25: 86%
Adoption Support and Preservation	**Family remains intact**	97%	86%	100%	97%	🟢	🔴	🟢	🟢	🟡	97%	Percentage of families discharged in the quarter that maintain legal relationship (no adoption dissolution or re-entry into care)	QI report benchmark	FY21: 94% FY22: 99% FY23: 100% FY24: 98% FY25: 98%
Respite	**Family receives relief through access to respite services**	76%	93%	92%	100%	🔴	🟡	🟡	🟢	🟡	95%	Percentage of families that report receiving relief from caregiving through access to respite services.	QI report benchmark	FY23: 93% FY24: 99% FY25: 97%
Hammitt Oglesby Campus	**Youth attend school**		85%		85%		🟢		🟢	🟢	85%	Attendance rate collected after each semester during school year	QI report benchmark	FY21: 77% FY22: 77% FY23: 82% FY24: 80% FY25: 83%
Hammitt Oglesby STRIVE	**Youth attend school**		87%		85%		🟡		🟡	🟡	90%	Attendance rate collected after each semester during school year	QI report benchmark	FY21: 85% FY22: 88% FY23: 89% FY24: 91% FY25: 86%
Hammitt Willow Campus	**Youth attend school**		88%		85%		🟢		🟡	🟢	87%	Attendance rate collected after each semester during school year	QI report benchmark	FY21: 84% T, 86% C FY22: 87% T, 84% C FY23: 89% T, 88% C FY24: 85% FY25: 87%
Hammitt Oglesby Campus	**Families engaged with meaningful contact**	94%	91%	90%	88%	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	95%	% of families engaged, having meaningful contact with Family Advocates and Counselors	QI report benchmark	
Hammitt Willow Campus	**Families engaged with meaningful contact**	93%	82%	75%	73%	🟡	🔴	🔴	🔴	🔴	95%	% of families engaged, having meaningful contact with Family Advocates and Counselors	QI report benchmark	

PROGRAM OUTCOMES (CONTINUED)

	Outcome	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	Bench mark	Indicator	Comments about Benchmark	Past 4 year Cycles:
Community Schools	**Successful linkage to community resources & services (Fairview)**	100%	100%	info not available due to funding cuts	info not available due to funding cuts	🟢	🟢	N/A	N/A	🟢	80%	% of students/families receiving referrals for support or services who report the help resolved their needs	QI report benchmark	FY22: 100% FY23: 100% FY24: 102% FY25: 105%
Community Schools	**Students and families have increased engagement throughout the year (Fairview & Cedar Ridge)**	1151	699	info not available due to funding cuts	info not available due to funding cuts	🟢	🟢	N/A	N/A	🟢	1850	# attendees families/students who attend events throughout the quarter	QI report benchmark	FY25: 1846

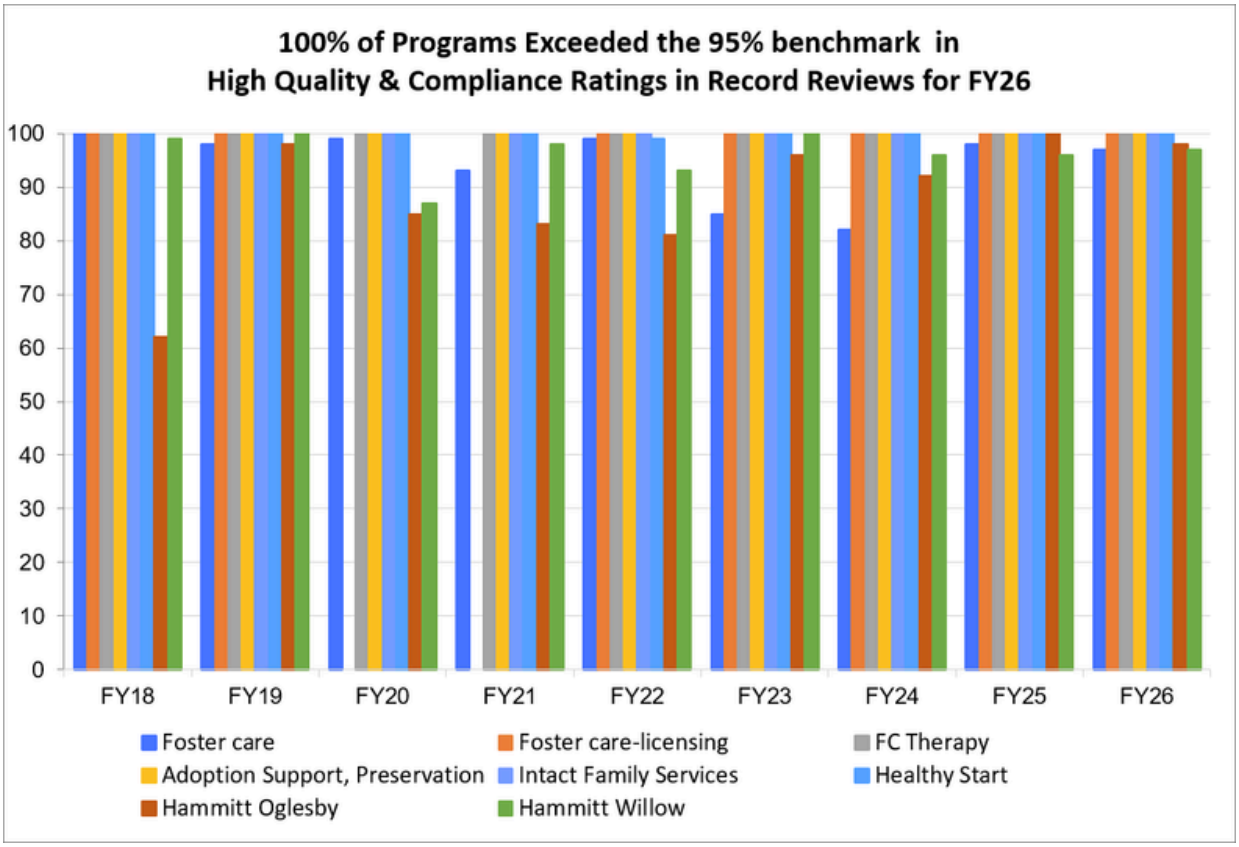
ADMINISTRATIVE OUTCOMES

	Outcome	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	Benchmark	Indicator	Comments about Benchmark	Past 4 year Cycles:
Development and Public Relations	**Funds raised**	$510,469.78	$992,146.01	$335,829.85	$305,813.03	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	Meet or exceed $1,550,000	Number of dollars raised each quarter with an end of the year target of $1,550,000.	TBF Goal	FY25: $1,616,644.62
Finance	**Aged Receivables - Municipalities, School Districts**	11.35%	0.08%	0.32%	1.37%	🔴	🟢	🟢	🟢	🔴	5% or less	% of dollars in accounts receivable over 90 days for accounts billed by the Business Office. Excludes DCFS, DHS, and HFS contracts. Measures timeliness of Business Office billing and collection processes.	TBF benchmark	FY21: 0.12% FY22: 8.79% FY23: 23.66% FY24: 14.18% FY25: 1.35%
Finance	**Aged Receivables - DCFS, DHS, HFS Contracts**	0.04%	45.00%	8.15%	4.77%	🟢	🔴	🟢	🟢	🔴	25% or less	% of dollars in accounts receivable over 90 days for accounts billed by the Business Office. Excludes school districts and local municipalities contracts. Measures timeliness of Business Office billing and collection processes.	TBF benchmark	FY25: 30.6%
Technology	**Timeliness of IS work orders**	87.0%	75.0%	83.0%	N/A, Integrity assisting with Support Center	🟡	🔴	🔴	N/A	🔴	90%	Number of helpdesk tickets completed in specified time frame	TBF benchmark	FY21: 92% FY22: 93.6% FY23: 96% FY24: info not provided FY25: 86.2%
Technology	**Incidents of virus/malware/ trojan successfully resolved**	100.0%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	100%	% of virus/malware/trojan incidents that were resolved successfully	TBF benchmark	FY22: 100% FY23: 100% FY24: info not provided FY25: 100%
Facilities	**Health Inspection compliance**	1 of 1	1 of 1	1 of 1	1 of 1	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	100%	Number of health inspections completed during quarter with score of Pass (no fail)	TBF benchmark	FY21: 100% FY22: 67% FY23: 100% FY24: 100% FY25: 83%
Human Resources	**Employee Turnover**	10.7%	16.0%	17.3%	23.4%	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	Not to exceed 25.0%	Quarterly turnover rate based off #FTE's each quarter; End of Year - Cumulative turnover rate (25.0%); this rate does not include promotions and transfers	TBF benchmark	FY21: 19.4% FY22: 31.5% FY23: 36% FY24: 27.6% FY25: 31.2%

Q2 = IS down support center staff which impacted timeliness

Agency Record Reviews: Quality and Compliance

The Baby Fold peer reviews client records on a quarterly basis while student records are reviewed at annual meetings, based off Council on Accreditation standards for random record sampling. Required documentation, compliance and quality based items are reviewed and assigned ratings of 1 through 4 for each item of documentation. Ratings with 1 and 2 are considered in compliance with the average scores for specified sections of the client record determining compliance. In order for a record to be compliant, all sections must have average scores of 1 or 2. The overall percentage of record compliance for the program in the chart below is based on the number of records that have an overall average a score of 1 or 2. This average score does not mean that the record was "perfect"; however, the score reflects that generally the record contains quality services and required documentation with isolated missing or insufficient information. Many records for the agency consistently have high compliance and quality scores.



For FY26, we increased our percentage from 99% in FY25 to 100% of programs that met or exceeded the 95% benchmark for average section scores in record compliance and quality. We have continued our efforts to better train peer reviewers, institute pre-review file checks, and use of tracking systems to help improve our outcome. The Baby Fold Programs strive for high quality work and high compliance in documenting the great work they do. The majority of program staff maintained 96-100% compliance per results of the peer file reviews completed each quarter and the annual student file reviews. When client records contain any deficiencies, the staff assigned to the case work on corrections prior to the next quarter's review. Record review forms continue to be updated on a regular basis to meet contractual requirements, accreditation standards, laws/mandates and revised policy and procedures. Quality improvement staff work diligently with program staff to track progress on correcting deficiencies, as well as celebrating successes in high compliance and high quality.

HAMMITT SCHOOLS

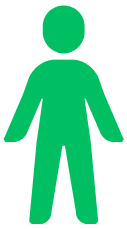
Julie Stoll

DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC SERVICES, THE BABY FOLD



51

Students Served at Hammitt on Willow in FY26



59

Students served in the Oglesby STRIVE/Connections Program in FY26



17

Students served in the Oglesby Traditional Program in FY26

In the 2025-2026 school year, both campuses continued to be approved through ISBE to serve grades K-12, up through age 22. Renewal applications were submitted in February. We expect to receive continued approval within the next month.

Overall enrollment remained slightly below projected census levels across programs. The Oglesby Traditional Program was projected to serve 16 students throughout the year and averaged 15 students. The Oglesby and Connections Programs were projected to serve 60 students but averaged 52 students during the school year. Similarly, the Willow Connections Program was projected to reach a census of 49 students by year-end and averaged 44 students served throughout the year.

For the 2025-2026 school year, we have served 51 students at Hammitt on Willow. This included 43 Males and 8 Females. Throughout the year, 17 students were newly enrolled and 8 students were discharged.

For the 2025-2026 school year, the Oglesby Strive / Connections Program served 59 students. We had 15 new students enrolled and 12 students discharged for the year. Of the discharged students, the average length of stay, within all Hammitt School Programs, was 45.9 Months. The range of stay was 1.97 Months to 101.28 Months. Of those students discharged, the discharges reflect: 3 Graduates, 1 student returned to public school, 2 students refused services, 1 student was placed in a different school program, 3 students were placed on homebound, 1 due to behavior, and 1 student moved/relocated out of the service area

For the 2025-2026 school year, the Oglesby Traditional Program served 17 students. There was 1 newly enrolled student and 4 discharged students. Of the discharged students, 2 graduated and 2 returned to public school. During the year, 5 students transferred from Oglesby Traditional to Connections and 1 student transferred from Connections to the Traditional program.

In May 2026, Hammitt on Willow and Hammitt on Oglesby celebrated the high school graduation of students. Both campuses also celebrated 8 eighth grade students promotion to high school.

→ **100%**

Eligible students in the Oglesby Traditional program who graduated from high school

→ **128.47 months**

Average length of service within all Hammitt Schools programs.

The Oglesby campus successfully completed the first phase of the Cognia accreditation process. This candidacy phase included a comprehensive self-study of the Hammitt School on Oglesby program, followed by an on-site review conducted by a Cognia evaluator. The campus received highly positive feedback and was approved to move forward in the accreditation process. The official accreditation review visit is scheduled for November 17.



Both campuses continued to prioritize stakeholder engagement through a variety of activities designed to strengthen connections with families and students. Family engagement opportunities included Open House events, parent education groups, the annual Thanksgiving Feast, and Popsicles on the Playground. Students at the Oglesby campus participated in activities such as Student Council, Girls' Group, Dungeons & Dragons Club, and gardening. Students at the Willow campus had opportunities to engage in Garden Club and Girls' Group. Both campuses also celebrated the end of the school year with a variety of fun and meaningful student activities.

Throughout the Extended School Year (ESY), students participated in a variety of enriching educational and recreational experiences. A music therapist provided group sessions in several classrooms, and Zoo to You visited both campuses to introduce students to a variety of animals while sharing information about their habitats and characteristics. Students in grades K-8 in the Connections Program attended a week-long day camp experience at East Bay, where they engaged in outdoor learning and recreational activities. During that same week, high school students participated in virtual reality job simulations, explored career opportunities through a Rivian presentation and demonstration, developed independent living skills through cooking activities, and learned about the auctioneering profession through a live demonstration and discussion with a professional auctioneer.

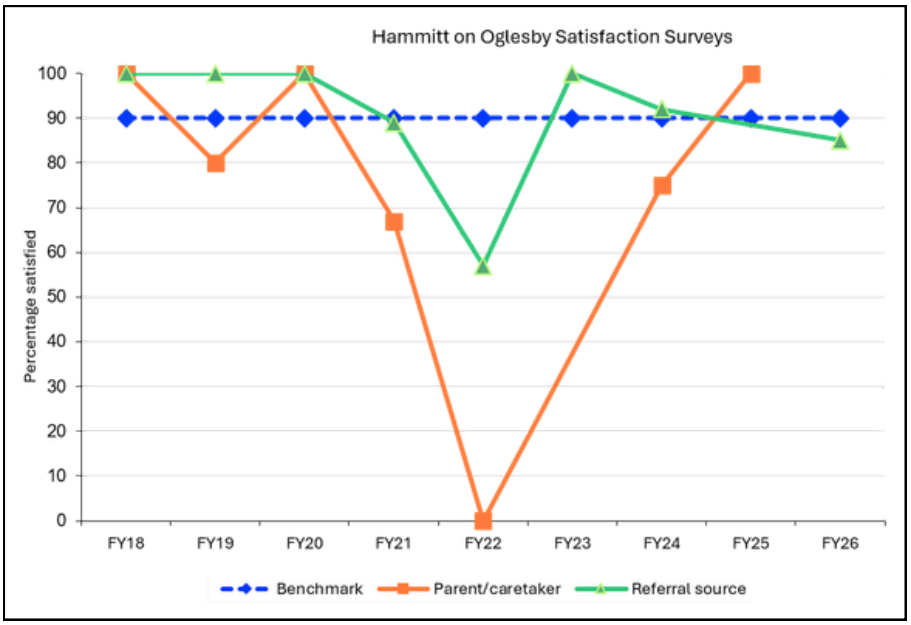


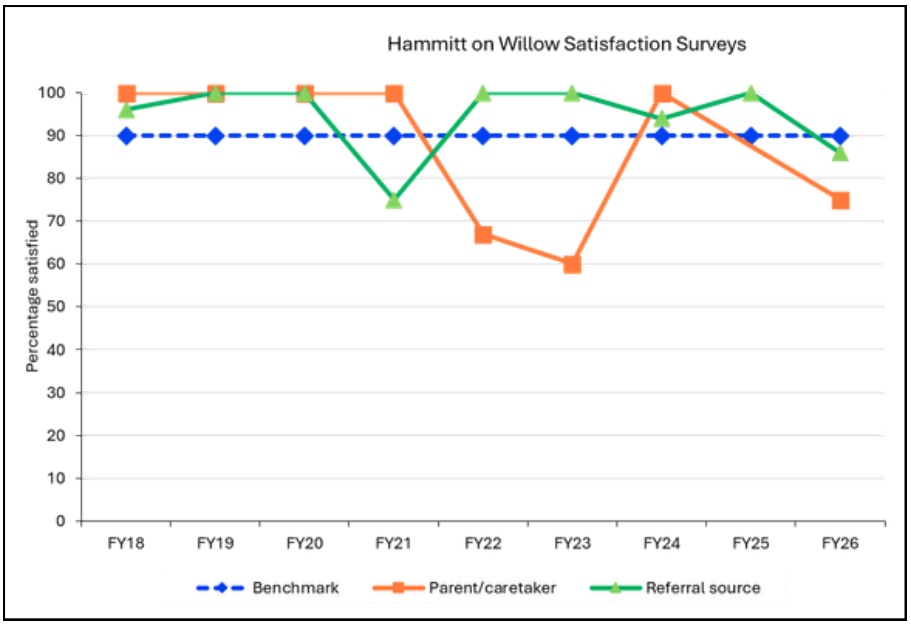
We will be implementing a new data system with a program called AbleSpace. After researching many options, we are excited to begin using this program. We also received a generous donation to purchase literacy curriculum. A literacy committee was developed to research best practices and to find curriculum that will meet the many needs of our students. The committee decided on three curriculum programs that will meet the needs of all our students. We were also blessed with a donation for a new sensory space at the Oglesby campus.

Several important initiatives are being implemented to strengthen student services and instructional programming. After researching a variety of options, the schools selected AbleSpace as a new data management system and are excited to begin its implementation. In addition, a generous donation provided funding for the purchase of new literacy curricula. A literacy committee was formed to investigate evidence-based practices and identify resources that address the diverse learning needs of our students. As a result of this work, the committee selected three curriculum programs that will support

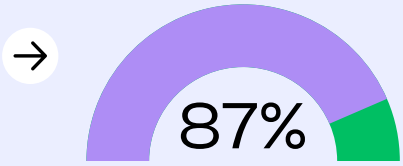
literacy development across the full range of student needs. We were also fortunate to receive a donation to create a new sensory space at the Oglesby campus, further enhancing opportunities for student regulation, engagement, and success.

Satisfaction survey results showed mixed trends across campuses during the year. The Oglesby campus demonstrated an increase in parent satisfaction and a slight decrease in district satisfaction, while the Willow campus experienced a decline in satisfaction ratings from both parents and referral sources. These findings will be reviewed and analyzed further as we seek to better understand stakeholder feedback, identify opportunities for improvement, and strengthen satisfaction among families, districts, and referral partners. See charts (right):

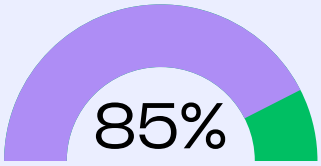




Attendance rates have remained strong and stable across both campuses. The attendance rate at Hammitt School on Oglesby increased to 85%, a positive improvement given that older students in the Traditional and Connections programs have historically experienced greater attendance challenges. The attendance rate at Hammitt School on Willow remained consistent at 87%, reflecting continued student engagement and regular participation in school programming.



Attendance rate at Hammitt on Willow



Attendance rate at Hammitt on Oglesby

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Rebecca Kinsey

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS SUPERVISOR, THE BABY FOLD

A Year of Connection, Adaptation, and Resilience

The 2025–2026 school year demonstrated both the impact and resilience of the Community School initiative at Fairview Elementary and Cedar Ridge Elementary. Community Schools help connect students and families with the resources, relationships, and opportunities they need to be successful in school and in their community. Community School staff are embedded within each school and work alongside administrators, teachers, student support teams, families, and community organizations. Their role is to identify barriers to student success and coordinate resources that address academic, behavioral health, social-emotional, and family needs. This year also brought a significant challenge. The unexpected discontinuation of federal Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) funding placed staffing, enrichment programs, family engagement activities, transportation, behavioral health services, and summer programming at risk. Despite this disruption, Community School staff continued serving students and families while The Baby Fold, Unit 5, funders, faith communities, and community organizations worked together to identify alternative resources and preserve the core Community School model. The year reinforced an important lesson: Community Schools are more than individual programs or events. They are a network of relationships and coordinated support built around the needs and strengths of each school community.

PILLAR 1: INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORTS

Community School staff serve as a bridge between students, families, schools, and community resources. Throughout the year, families received individualized assistance with food, housing, utilities, transportation, clothing, medical requirements, school registration, and other basic needs. Staff connected families with organizations such as Mid Central Community Action, The Salvation Army, the Department of Human Services, local townships, faith communities, and other community providers. When existing resources were unavailable or exhausted, Community School staff helped identify other solutions so that basic needs did not become barriers to school attendance or student success. Staff also provided additional support during important transition periods, including the beginning of the school year and the transition from elementary to middle school. At Cedar Ridge, bilingual Community School support continued to be especially valuable. Families received assistance navigating school registration, meetings, medical requirements, school communication, and community services. This support helps ensure that language differences do not prevent caregivers from participating fully in their children's education. An equally important part of this work is building trust. Some families may find school or community systems difficult to navigate. Having a consistent and trusted person within the school helps families ask questions, seek assistance earlier, and remain connected to their child's school.

Behavioral and Social-Emotional Support

Behavioral health and social-emotional needs remained a significant focus at both schools. During the year, students and families benefited from an embedded mental health clinician who provided school-based behavioral health services. Having a clinician within the Community School model reduced barriers to accessing care, supported earlier identification of concerns, and improved coordination among families, school personnel, Community School staff, and behavioral health providers. Unfortunately, the loss of federal funding resulted in the elimination of this position at the conclusion of the school year. While Community School staff cannot replace clinical mental health services, they will continue to help identify concerns, connect families with community-based providers, and collaborate with school social workers, counselors, and administrators. Students will also continue to benefit from supports such as small groups, alternative lunch and recess opportunities, sensory and regulation activities, and connections with trusted adults.

PILLAR 2: EXPANDED AND ENRICHED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Community Schools provide students with opportunities to explore interests, develop new skills, build relationships, and experience learning beyond the traditional classroom. Throughout the grant period, students participated in art, STEAM, literacy, physical activity, leadership, cooking, gardening, social-emotional learning, and other hands-on

activities. Community partnerships significantly expanded what the schools were able to offer. Partners have included Miller Park Zoo, Children's Discovery Museum, Yoga Lab, ParkLands Foundation, Artful Designs, Developing Melodies, University Galleries, Bloomington and Normal Public Libraries, University of Illinois Extension, McLean County Ag in the Classroom, BCAI, Challenger Learning Center, and others. These partnerships brought community expertise and experiences directly to students who might not otherwise have access to them.

Summer Spark

Summer Spark was a highlight at both Fairview and Cedar Ridge. The program combined academic support with enrichment activities, social-emotional development, and opportunities for students to maintain relationships with peers and trusted adults during the summer. Fairview also offered Garden Club and Art Club, while family literacy activities provided opportunities for caregivers and children to learn together. Community partners helped extend these opportunities beyond the formal program. Calvary Baptist Church provided Fairview students with "summer fun" bags, and students at both schools received enrichment bags containing books, games, sensory materials, and activities to continue learning and engagement at home.

Federal funding changes required the program to reduce some enrichment and after-school opportunities. Moving forward, Community School staff will continue prioritizing high-impact activities while using partnerships and alternative funding to maintain as many opportunities as possible. These experiences are more than extracurricular activities. For many students, enrichment provides a place to belong, an opportunity to discover a strength, and another way to experience success at school.

PILLAR 3: ACTIVE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Family engagement is central to the Community School approach. Staff create welcoming and practical opportunities for families to build relationships with their schools rather than expecting every family to engage in the same way. The school year began with activities designed to help families feel connected before classes started. Fairview hosted Kindergarten Pop-Up and Open House activities, while Cedar Ridge offered Playground Pop-Up and a Back-to-School Resource and Clothing Fair. Community School staff also worked individually with families needing assistance completing registration or meeting medical requirements, helping prevent administrative challenges from becoming barriers to attendance. Some of the year's most meaningful family activities combined relationship building with practical assistance.









At Fairview, laundry events gave families access to an important household resource while creating an informal setting to talk with Community School staff, ask questions, and build relationships. At Cedar Ridge, the Family Food Club, developed with First Presbyterian Church and Westminster Village, brought families together through cooking. Participants learned new recipes and skills and received a crockpot and ingredients to recreate meals at home. Family literacy activities, caregiver groups, celebrations, resource events, and other informal gatherings provided additional opportunities for connection. These interactions build trust over time. When a family later experiences a crisis or needs help navigating school or community systems, there is already a relationship in place.

Community Partnerships

Community organizations are essential to the success of the Community School model. Nonprofits, libraries, health organizations, universities, businesses, churches, and individual community members contributed programming, expertise, donations, supplies, and other resources throughout the year. Partnerships with organizations such as Calvary Baptist Church and Apostolic Pentecostal Church continued to strengthen and became even more important as federal resources decreased. Community Schools do not expect schools to meet every need themselves. Instead, staff help connect existing community resources with students and families in a coordinated and meaningful way.

PILLAR 4: COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP AND PRACTICES

Community School staff work closely with school administrators and student support teams to identify needs, coordinate services, reduce duplication, and determine where community partnerships can have the greatest impact. The Community School Supervisor provides oversight across both sites and serves as a connection among The Baby Fold, Unit 5, Community School staff, funders, and community partners. Community School Coordinators bring family and community perspectives into school conversations while helping families better understand and navigate school systems. This two-way communication allows programs and services to respond to the specific needs of each school community. Data and continuous improvement also remain priorities. Staff track participation, referrals, services, family connections, and other program information while working with The Baby Fold's Quality Improvement team to strengthen evaluation and demonstrate program impact.

Responding to the Loss of Federal Funding

The discontinuation of FSCS funding represented the greatest challenge of the 2025–2026 school year. The funding loss was not accompanied by a decrease in student or family needs. Families continue to need behavioral health services, basic-needs assistance, enrichment opportunities, and help navigating school and community systems. At the end of the fiscal year, the program experienced significant staffing reductions, including the loss of two full-time Enrichment Coordinators and the reduction of the Bilingual Community School Coordinator to part-time status. The embedded mental health clinician position was also discontinued. Enrichment, after-school programming, transportation, and family engagement opportunities were reduced. Throughout this uncertainty, staff continued supporting students, families, and school teams while pursuing partnerships and alternative funding. The Baby Fold and Unit 5 have worked collaboratively to develop a braided funding strategy that combines local funding, grants, community partnerships, donations, faith-based support, and in-kind resources to preserve the core Community School infrastructure. The experience highlighted both the vulnerability and strength of the model. Funding can disappear quickly, but relationships and community trust take years to build. Protecting those relationships is essential to long-term sustainability.

Looking Ahead

The Community School initiative enters next year with a continued commitment to Fairview and Cedar Ridge students and families. Priorities will include strengthening sustainable and diverse funding sources, rebuilding behavioral health connections, maintaining meaningful family engagement, preserving high-impact enrichment opportunities, strengthening data and evaluation, and expanding community partnerships. Most importantly, the program will continue protecting the relationships at the center of the Community School model. Community School Coordinators know their schools and families. They understand available community resources, recognize emerging needs, and help families navigate complicated systems. This knowledge and trust cannot be created overnight.

The 2025–2026 school year demonstrated what can happen when schools, families, community organizations, and funders work together around the needs of children. Despite an extraordinarily challenging funding environment, the Community School teams at Fairview and Cedar Ridge continued to adapt, build partnerships, leverage available resources, and support families. The funding changed. The need did not. The relationships did not. And the commitment to students and families did not. We appreciate your continued support.

HEALTHY START

Theresa Lawrence

DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES, THE BABY FOLD

78

Families Served in FY26

100%

Children kept safe



In FY26, Healthy Start served 78 Families. There were 34 admissions and 26 discharges. Healthy Start held 11 events and had 403 participants attend throughout the year.

There were 60 parents screened for pre/post-natal depression. 100% of focus children discharged had a medical home and were on target developmentally or were receiving Early Intervention services.

The Healthy Start Advisory Board has 9 outside active participants from the community, and most attend each quarterly meeting. The Healthy Start Advisory Board participants include members from: Home Sweet Home Mission, Early Intervention, OSF Birthing Center; Dreams are Possible, AOK; a retired Special Education Professor and previous participants of the Healthy Start Program. During our meetings we share many community resources available to our families we serve.







The Healthy Start Advisory Board

CAREGIVER CONNECTIONS

Maternal Child Health Specialist: At the end of FY26 the Maternal Child Health Specialist offered 39 groups that were offered to the community. She worked with 28 individual parents throughout the fiscal year.

Doula Program: In FY26 the Doula program served 22 clients. Of those clients, 19 had births.

39 groups

Number of groups offered by the Maternal Child Health Specialist in FY26

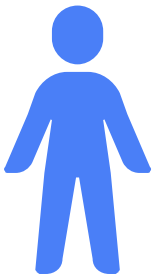
19 births

Number of births from clients in the Doula program in FY26



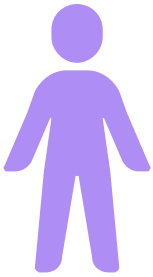
212

Children served in FY26



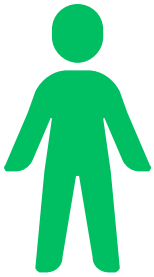
118

Classrooms served in FY26



94

Childcare Centers served in FY26



29

Family Child Cares served in FY26

In FY26 the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants (ECMHC) provided 148 hours of training to Daycare staff and 33 hours of training to Family Childcares. The ECMHC's served 94 different Childcare Centers and 29 different Family Child Cares. We served 212 children and worked with 118 classrooms. Of the children who were discharged from the program, 87% remained in their educational setting.

182 hours

Number of hours of training provided to Daycare staff (148) and Family Childcares (33) in FY26

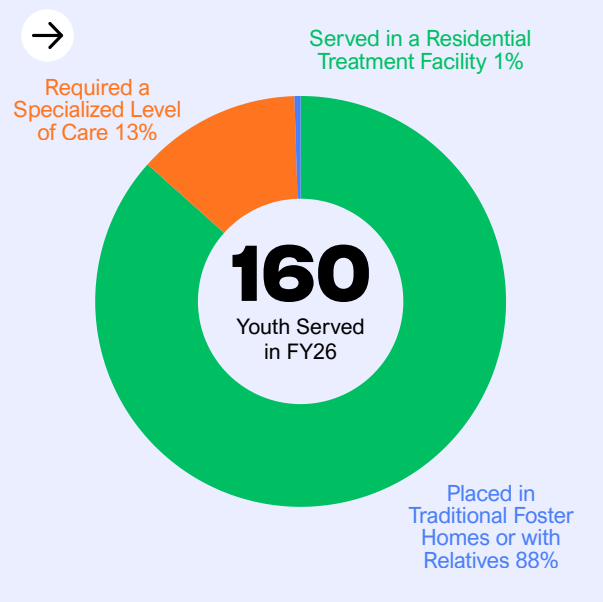


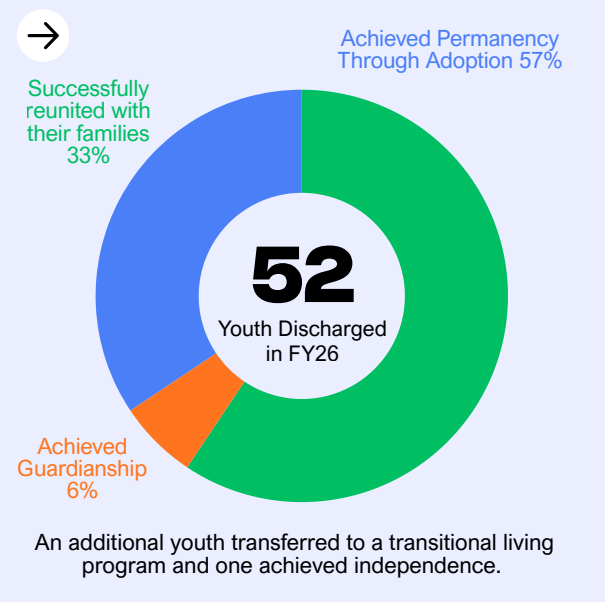
Of the children who were discharged from the program, 87% remained in their educational setting.

FOSTER CARE

Dana Lloyd

DIRECTOR OF INTERVENTION SERVICES, THE BABY FOLD





During FY26, The Baby Fold's Foster Care Program served 160 youth through case management, relative foster care, and traditional foster care services. Of the 7 youth discharged from specialized level of care, 6 (86%) achieved permanency through adoption, while 1 youth successfully stepped down to a less restrictive level of care.

During FY26, 26 youth in foster care received therapy services through The Baby Fold. Among the 13 youth who completed both pre- and post-assessments, 100% demonstrated improved functioning, highlighting the positive impact of therapeutic intervention.

The Foster Care and Licensing Team supported 139 foster families during the fiscal year, including 49 traditional licensed homes, 18 licensed relative caregivers, 16 certified relative caregivers, and 56 unlicensed or uncertified relatives. Following the implementation of the relative caregiver certification process in March 2026, staff actively partnered with families to advance certification efforts and increase support for kinship placements. During FY26, The Baby Fold licensed 8 new foster homes, including 3 relative caregiver homes and 5 traditional foster family homes, expanding placement resources for children in care.

Comments received from satisfaction surveys completed by foster care clients post case closure:

“We had an amazing caseworker. She always try to help us”

“Kept in touch, provided great resources, did not judge”

100%

Youth in Care receiving Therapy Services from The Baby Fold who Demonstrated Improved Functioning

INTACT FAMILY SERVICES

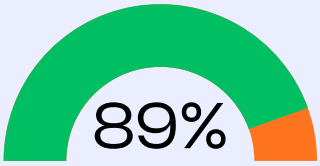
77

Families Worked to Safely Remain Together in FY26

91%

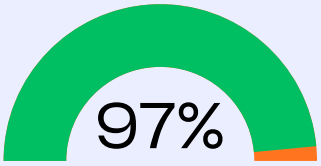
Families who remained Intact at time of Discharge

While Participating in the Program



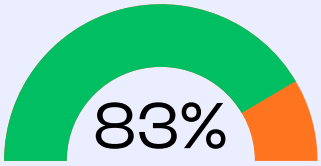
Families Had No Indicated Reports of Abuse or Neglect

After Services Ended



Families who remained Intact at case closure having no indicated reports of abuse or neglect six months later

After Services Ended



Families who remained Intact at case closure having no indicated reports of abuse or neglect 12 months later

During FY26, The Baby Fold's Intact Family Services (IFS) program provided intensive support to 77 families working to safely remain together. Of the 44 families discharged, 40 (91%) remained intact. In the remaining 4 cases, DCFS and/or the court determined that children needed to be removed from the home to ensure their safety.

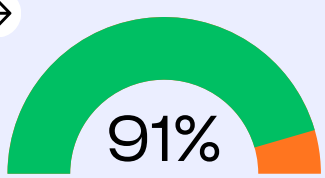
Family stability and child safety remained strong throughout service delivery. While participating in the program, 89% of families had no indicated reports of abuse or neglect. Positive outcomes continued after services ended, with 97% of families who remained intact at case closure having no indicated reports of abuse or neglect six months later. At twelve months post-closure, 83% continued to have no indicated reports, demonstrating the lasting impact of services and families' ability to maintain safe and stable environments over time.

Comments received from satisfaction surveys completed Intact clients post case closure:

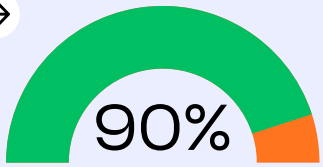
“Intact has truly enhanced my family with so much needed support and understanding. After a very difficult time in our lives. I am so thankful and feel blessed to have been able to participate in intact family services. Thank you STAFF!”

“They are capable and responsive throughout the entire process. Very willing to listen, so they can provide the best services.”

INTENSIVE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES



Youth who remained Safely at Home at time of Discharge



Youth Showing Improved Functioning at Discharge



Caregivers either maintained or improved their parenting protective factors, reflecting increased strengths, resilience, and capacity to support their children's needs

FY26 marked the launch of The Baby Fold's Intensive Family Support Services (IFSS) program, with the first youth enrolled on August 27, 2025. During its inaugural year, the program served 21 youth, providing intensive, family-centered services designed to stabilize youth in their homes and prevent out-of-home placement.

Of the 11 youth discharged during FY26, 10 (91%) remained safely at home at the time of discharge, demonstrating the program's early success in supporting family stability and reducing the need for more restrictive interventions. The average length of service was 3.3 months, with services ranging from 1.4 to 3.9 months.

Youth outcomes were highly positive, with 9 of 10 youth (90%) showing improved functioning at discharge. Caregiver outcomes were equally strong, as 100% of primary caregivers either maintained or improved their parenting protective factors, reflecting increased strengths, resilience, and capacity to support their children's needs.

Comments received from satisfaction surveys completed IFSS parents post case closure:

“This is a really wonderful service for the community, and I am grateful for the time we spent meeting.”

NEW PROGRAMS LAUNCHING

In FY26, The Baby Fold continued to expand its continuum of child welfare services through new contracts with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). These additions further strengthen the Department of Intervention Services' ability to support children and families involved in both Foster Care and Intact Family Services.

SAFE@Home Safety Services

- Family preservation and safety management program designed to help children remain safely in their homes.
- Provides intensive, in-home support to families when immediate safety threats have been identified.
- Serves families referred by DCFS following a Family Assessment indicating impending danger to a child.
- Focuses on preventing unnecessary foster care placements and promoting timely family reunification when out-of-home care has occurred.

Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP)

- Strengths-based, trauma-informed program serving families with children from birth through age 19.
- Promotes healthy parent-child relationships and overall family well-being.
- Provides education and support related to positive parenting practices, mental health awareness, substance abuse prevention, and healthy family functioning.
- Helps parents build nurturing, stable, and supportive home environments that improve outcomes for children and youth.

The addition of SAFE@Home and the Nurturing Parenting Program expands The Baby Fold's capacity to provide comprehensive, family-centered services that strengthen protective factors, enhance child safety, and support long-term family stability.

03 POST-ADOPTION SERVICES

Krista Reichert

DIRECTOR OF POST-ADOPTION SERVICES, THE BABY FOLD

During FY2026, Post-Adoption Services continued to support adoptive and guardianship families through Adoption Support and Preservation Services, Respite Services, and Adoption Record Search and Support. The department expanded caregiver education, family engagement, specialized staff training, and community partnerships while responding to changing service needs and staffing transitions.

246

Individual ASAP clients served in 171 families in FY26

14 months

Average length of service in the ASAP program

The average waitlist time was under 30 days, most staff making initial contact with families within weeks of the referral. The year-end vacancy was one family therapist position in Urbana. Additionally, two Normal case managers completed their master's programs and transitioned into therapist positions.

Families participated in book clubs, caregiver support groups, TBRI groups, and child-focused activities addressing regulation, connection, social skills, life skills, and executive functioning. The updated TBRI Caregiver Package 2.0 was offered twice, including a spring series with 35 attendees and a second series completed in June with more than 20 participants. Community engagement included National Adoption Awareness Month activities, resource fairs, trampoline park events in Normal, Urbana, and Springfield, and a summer campaign sharing local family activities across the service area.

Staff development included training in EMDR, Theraplay, Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy, PACE, ARC, sensory supports, educational advocacy, sand tray therapy, de-escalation, and attachment-focused interventions. Several trainings were also offered to community professionals, including a collaboration between all Statewide ASAP providers to provide quarterly professional development.



Springfield staff pose for a photo at their Fall Gathering.



The Urbana office moved to a new location within the same mall complex.



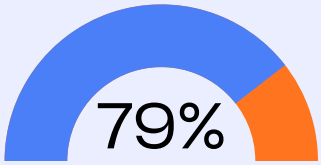
Trainer Dafna Lender teaches DDP Training, Level 1.



Employees completed EMDR training.

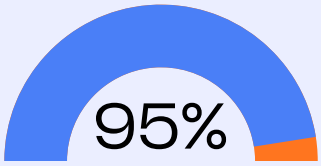
Year-end ASAP outcomes:

Improved Family Functioning



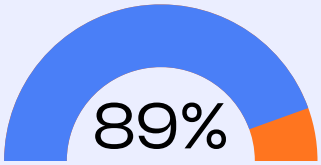
Of the 104 families discharged in FY26, 79% (73/104) had improved family functioning.

Remain Intact



Of the 104 families discharged in FY26, 95% (99/104) remain intact, meaning no dissolution of the legal relationship.

Partially/Completed Goals



Of the 104 families discharged in FY26, 89% (93/104) had improved family functioning.

RESPITE SERVICES

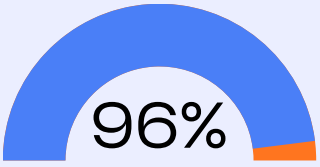




Respite Services supported 112 children from 85 families during FY2026 and provided nearly 11,000 hours of respite. Camp Take-A-Break sessions generally served 12 to 15 children. One winter camp was shortened because of severe weather and below-zero temperatures.

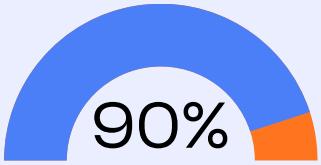
The program remained largely staffed throughout the year, although an overnight counselor position remained open at year-end. Final outcomes showed that 90% of families reported reduced caregiver stress through respite services. Prevention of re-entry into the child welfare system ended at 96%, above the 95% target.

Remain Intact



Of the 51 families discharged in FY26, 96% (49/51) remain intact, meaning no dissolution of the legal relationship.

Reduced Stress from Caregiving



In FY26, 90% of families report that receiving respite provides relief from caregiving

ADOPTION RECORD SEARCH AND SUPPORT

The program responded to adoption-record inquiries, completed background letters, and maintained approximately 48 mediation cases throughout the year.

24	48	11
Inquiries in FY26	Mediation cases in FY26	Background letters completed in FY26

Digitization of nearly 200 paper records remained an ongoing need. The outdated database was transferred to Excel, and the department began exploring how to connect the database with electronic records to reduce search time.

Here are some Survey Quotes from Post-Adoption Support feedback surveys:

“Thank you for working with our family and caring for our son!”

“STAFF was wonderful to work with and she was absolutely fantastic with our son. He trusted her and looked forward to her visits immediately after meeting her. She came to each session well prepared with engaging activity and worked the therapy in seamlessly to their chatter and play.”

“STAFF was wondering to work with. She listened, provided me with parenting assistance. Guidance on family issues.”

“The Baby Fold has been a lifesaver. Things got rough after the adoption and I was feeling lost and overwhelmed. Both my therapist and the book club made a huge difference. The relationship with my daughter is so much better than it was a few months ago.”

Overall, in FY2026, The Post-Adoption Services reflected strong service reach, high immediate-needs outcomes, meaningful caregiver relief, and continued investment in staff expertise and family engagement. The year also identified clear opportunities to strengthen family stability, improve access, and increase operational efficiency.

Keith Brotheridge

TRAINING COORDINATOR

FOSTER CARE THERAPY

The Foster Care Therapy Program and Agency Training is overseen by Keith Brotheridge, our Training Coordinator. Keith supervises our foster care therapist, Michelle Bledsoe, who has 35 years of experience at The Baby Fold. Our Foster Care Therapy Program continued to bill Medicaid over the past year, and Michelle and the team were able to secure 99.2% of the revenue for billed services. Michelle provided individual and family therapy services to 26 foster children in the past year, with the majority making significant progress. This program's pre and post assessments show that 100% of the clients had improved functioning at the time of closing.

→ 100%

Clients who had improved functioning at time of closing

AGENCY TRAINING

Keith Brotheridge, Training Coordinator, has continued to provide a foundation of trauma informed care knowledge to all new staff in their New Employee Orientation, and then within the first 6-months of a staff's tenure they are offered a training on Adverse Childhood Experiences, Secondary-Traumatic Stress and Self-Care. Keith has continued to provide monthly Lunch and Learn opportunities which are open to staff across the agency. Topics included Neuro-sequential Model of Therapeutics(NMT), Eating Disorders, Domestic Violence Part 1 & 2, The 4 R's and 6 P's (Principles) of Trauma-Informed Care, and Child Sex Trafficking. Keith is a Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Practitioner, an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Master Trainer, is Phase 1 certified in the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) and provides many trauma trainings in the community as well (20 in FY'26):

Chestnut Health Systems – Developed and delivered a training on the Adverse Childhood Experience Study and Childhood Trauma to professionals and community members

Parkside Junior High School – Developed and delivered 2 separate 1.5-hour trainings for Parkside on how to be a trauma-informed school

Sexual Assault Multidisciplinary Response Conference – Developed and delivered a 1-hour virtual training on the topic of vicarious trauma to over 200 participants

Illinois Wesleyan University – Developed and delivered a 1-hour training for a political science class on the topic of ACEs

Carle Behavioral Health Symposium – Developed and delivered a 1-hour training on vicarious trauma

Heartland Community College – Abnormal Psychology Class – Developed and delivered a 1.5-hour training on ACEs and resilience for 2 separate classes, one in the Fall and one in the Spring

Foster Parent Training (internal) – Developed and delivered a 1.5-hour training for licensed foster parents through TBF on the topic of reunification

Cedar Ridge Elementary School – Developed and delivered a 1.5-hour training to school staff on ACEs and trauma-informed schools

McLean County CASA – Developed and delivered a 1.5-hour training to CASA workers on the topic of ACEs and trauma

Hammitt Parent Group – Developed and delivered a 1.5-hour training for Hammitt Parents on the topic of trauma and the brain

East Bay Camp – Spoke with East Bay Camp staff for 2-hours on the topic of regulating strategies for children

TBF Wellness Fair – Developed and delivered a 1-hour training on the topic of trauma and building resiliency

McLean County Behavioral Health Forum – Developed and delivered a 1-hour training on supporting wellness thru resiliency

Respite worker training – delivered a 1-hour training to respite workers on the topic of vicarious trauma

Fairview Elementary – Developed and delivered a 1.5-hour training to Fairview staff on the topic of childhood trauma and regulation

The Baby Fold Board of Directors – Assisted in developing and delivering a 1.5-hour training for board members on Trauma-Informed Care

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEUs)

In addition to the trainings listed above, The Baby Fold sponsored CEUs for the community by offering one or more of each of these community trainings in FY26:

- Neurobiology of Childhood Trauma
- START 24/7
- Integrated Clinical Interventions
- Circle of Security
- Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy
- Advanced EMDR: Integrative Attachment Trauma Protocol for Children
- Adverse Childhood Experiences, Complex Trauma and Resilience
- Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)

04 Reports from Development and Administrative Services

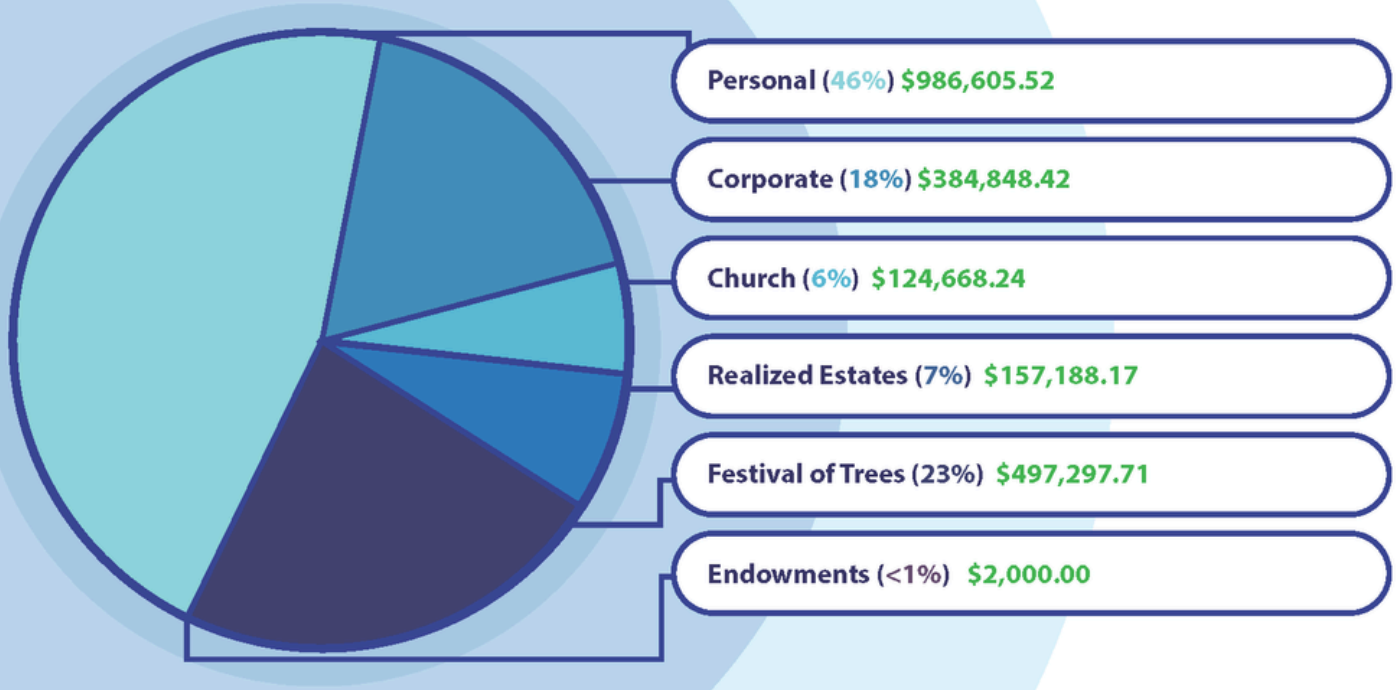
Development and Public Relations 31
Human Resources 33
Finance and Information Systems 35

Sam Guillory
VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, THE BABY FOLD

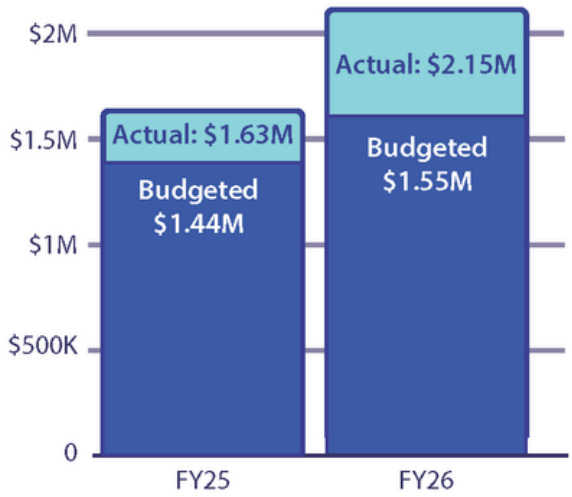
fiscal year 26 summary

Cash Total: $2,152,608.06

Types of Gifts

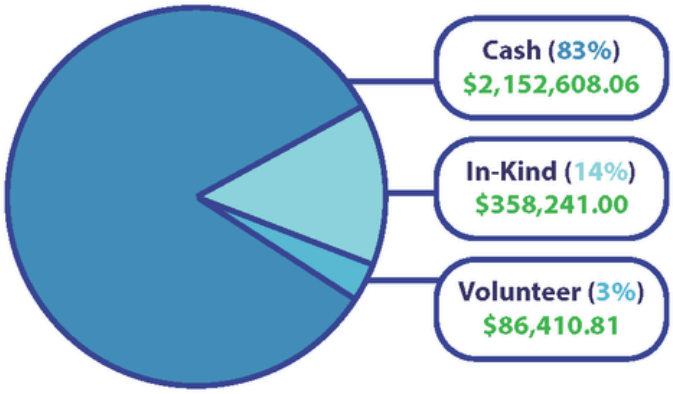


Exceeded FY25 by 32%



Exceeded FY25 actual revenue by $518K
Exceeded FY26 budgeted revenue by $602K

Total Value Raised: $2,597,259.87



Cost Per Dollar Raised: $0.14
Total Future Estates: $9,788,000.00

DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

fiscal year 26 summary

FY26 was one of the most successful years in the history of Development and Public Relations. Through record-breaking fundraising, strategic donor engagement, expanded community partnerships, and innovative stewardship, DPR exceeded every major fundraising goal and generated significant cost savings, funded transformational capital improvements, and strengthened The Baby Fold's long-term financial position.

Historic Fundraising Performance

DPR raised **$2,152,608** in FY26, surpassing the annual fundraising goal of **$1.55 million by more than $600,000 (39%)** and increasing annual fundraising by **$518,590 (32%)** over FY25. After consistently raising between **$1.1 million and $1.6 million** annually, FY26 marked the first time in six years DPR surpassed **$2 million** in annual fundraising.

Transforming the Agency Through Philanthropy

Fundraising in FY26 extended far beyond supporting day-to-day operations. Donor investments funded critical projects that improved safety, learning environments, and operational efficiency across the agency while reducing future capital expenditures.

- Secured **100% funding for the agency-wide badging project**, a $125K safety initiative funded entirely through two transformational gifts of $50K and $75K. Over the past 50 years we've received less than ten $50K+ gifts from living donors.
- Funded several capital improvements originally budgeted for FY27, creating substantial savings for the agency.
- Facilitated more than **$100K in in-kind donations**, including approximately $70K in office furniture and $30K in laptops.
- Funded a state-of-the-art sensory room, a fully revised literacy curriculum, and significant kitchen upgrades for Hammitt School.

As a result of these efforts, The Baby Fold enters FY27 with available philanthropic resources reserved for future capital projects—an important milestone that positions the agency to respond proactively to emerging facility and program needs.

Festival of Trees Continues Record Growth

Festival of Trees achieved another historic year, breaking the record established just one year earlier.

- Net revenue reached **$347,696,** a **13% increase** over the previous record.
- Gross revenue increased **18%**, with cumulative growth of **29% over the past three years**.
- Sponsorship revenue climbed to **$263K**, representing another year of double-digit growth and surpassing the $200K milestone achieved only two years ago.
- **Cost Per Dollar Raised of $0.20**, well below the national benchmark of $0.30 to $0.50 for fundraising events.

Strengthening Community Partnerships

Faith-based engagement expanded significantly following the addition of Rev. Tom Goodell to the DPR team. New initiatives included The Baby Fold's first Episcopal visit, the creation of the Partner in Ministry Recognition program, customized church communications, and church-specific fundraising resources.

Looking Ahead

FY26 was defined by record-breaking performance, transformational philanthropy, and strategic investment in the future of The Baby Fold. DPR not only achieved unprecedented fundraising success but also generated lasting value by funding critical capital improvements, reducing agency expenses, strengthening community partnerships, and positioning the organization for continued growth. The momentum established this year provides an exceptional foundation as The Baby Fold enters FY27 and prepares to celebrate its 125th anniversary.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sam

Sam Guillory, Vice President of Development and Public Relations

Vikki Falls

VICE PRESIDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, THE BABY FOLD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In FY26, Human Resources strengthened compliance controls, modernized administrative processes, expanded required and leadership training, advanced justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives, and achieved meaningful gains in employee attraction and workforce stability. DCFS contract monitoring visits showed no personnel-file deficiencies. Workforce results reflected historically low numbers for declined offers, resignations, and employee turnover. FY27 priorities are to complete the job-description review, maintain quarterly Employee Handbook updates, and deliver targeted leadership development.

WORKFORCE STABILITY AND EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE:

FY26 metrics reflect meaningful improvement in the Agency's ability to attract employees and maintain workforce stability, as shown below:

FY26 WORKFORCE ATTRACTION AND STABILITY METRICS		
Metric	**FY26 Results**	**Historical Benchmark**
Offers declined by applicants	8	Lowest since FY21
Resignations, including employees moving to substitute status	43	Lowest since FY19
Early turnover	4.4%	Employees leaving within six months of start date; Lowest since tracking began in FY23
Voluntary turnover	19.0%	Lowest since tracking began in FY23
Overall turnover	23.4%	Lowest since FY21

PROJECTS AND PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS:

HR Documentation and Compliance

HR established a recurring audit process to improve the accuracy and timeliness of employee records. The review covers skills, certifications, professional and driver's licenses, and automobile insurance—items routinely examined during program audits. HR standardized file maintenance and implemented automated notifications, tracking, and task completion through Paylocity. Employees now receive advance and expiration notices, with supervisors included as appropriate. These improvements increased employee accountability for current records and contributed to DCFS contract monitoring visits with no personnel-file deficiencies.

Job Description Review

HR partnered with Quality Improvement to establish a structured review of all job descriptions. Beginning in FY27, HR will interview employees in each role over a six- to eight-month period. Supervisors will also be interviewed and given an opportunity to review and respond to employees' input. The review will ensure that job descriptions accurately reflect current responsibilities and operational needs.

Employee Handbook Review
HR completed a comprehensive review of the Employee Handbook and established a quarterly review cycle to keep policies timely, accurate, and aligned with Agency practices.

TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

Annual Agency Trainings
HR redesigned the annual mandated-training schedule to align with training assigned at the start of the school year. School staff may now complete all required training during institute days, while other employees have sufficient time to complete requirements well before year-end. The Agency also introduced an updated HIPAA compliance course recorded by Dr. Jennifer Huffman as a requirement for all employees.

Supervisor and Leadership Development
In support of the strategic plan, HR partnered with Heartland Community College to provide foundational supervisory-skills training for front-line supervisors. The program included five bimonthly sessions, supplemented by virtual coaching in alternating months. Through discussion with Keith Brotheridge (Training Coordinator) and our TRANSIT team (Leadership level team focused on developing trainings through a trauma-informed lens), additional supervision and leadership development needs were identified. Targeted internal sessions will begin in FY27 and continue bimonthly.

JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (JEDI):

The JEDI group sustained strong member engagement throughout FY26. It conducted brainstorming sessions, administered an Agency-wide survey, and completed a SWOT analysis to better understand employee needs related to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. The group also reviewed training options to support cultural competency across the Agency, resulting in the Agencywide assignment of mandated training on Unconscious Bias. Revisions to the Communication Model, developed in FY25, were approved by the Leadership Team and incorporated into the Employee Handbook. Training on Trauma Principles and Conflict Resolution was added to Paylocity, and Trauma Principles materials were posted at all TBF locations.

04 FINANCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Mike Straza

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, THE BABY FOLD

FY26 was a year of successfully executing a variety of projects and changing the structure of the department. The department internally was reduced by two FTEs, and I brought in technology solutions contractor, Integrity Technologies Solutions. They are helping with me with developing a strategic plan focusing on our networking infrastructure and technology. The response time for technology needs for the employees has improved greatly. What follows is the details of some of those improvements, and some details on FY26 delivery:

→ Network

- Migrated files and systems off of old servers and shutoff old equipment
- Added two additional Wi-Fi Access Points
- Looking to change the way employees' access to drives when offsite

→ Security

- Replacement Redundant Firewalls with Advanced Cloud Security Capabilities
- Updated the malware software
- Improved our M365 security score

→ Productivity

- All new TBF Connect, a communications and collaboration intranet hub
- Having an accurate cloud-based inventory and asset tracking system for laptops, Smartboards, and cell phones
- Replacing the old laptops throughout the agency
- Replaced Cisco phone system with T-Mobile Dialpad

FY26 PERFORMANCE:

Network Refresh:
Continuing to access E-Rate federal grant program for replacing aging equipment, and infrastructure costs

Cloud Hybrid:
TBF continues to expand our systems and cloud presence. Each year we will move towards cloud base system.

In the process of changing our 100 laptops throughout the agency since they are at the end of life for a functional machine. This been possible since they were donated to the agency from a local company.

Project Management:
With two meetings a week with the internal IS staff the process of project management has been improved. To help with the demands of day-to-day requests from agency staff we have hired an outside contractor.

Training:
IS continues to use KnowBe4 to begin deliver security-awareness training to the entire staff.

FINANCE

This past year we continue to look into excess revenue for our ASAP and Foster Care programs. We have been putting in more processes and procedures to make sure we are capturing all of the accepted costs for the programs.

We continue to partner with Mike Fischer with Fischer Consulting to complete our Consolidated Financial Report (CFR) for FY26. With the FY26 audits being done sooner, we will be able to adjust our school billings for FY27.

The outstanding pension loan with Compeer Financial is approximately $750,000.

The Finance department completed the FY25 annual financial audit and the single audit in February of 2026. The 403(b) audit was completed in March 2026.

Sikich will be doing the Financial, and 403b audit for FY26. This is the third year for them to complete the audit. We are expecting to have both audits completed by November/December 2026. The audits started at in August.

When the audit is finalized, it will be reported to the Business Committee.

The income statement for FY26 follows. All figures represented in this annual report are prior to the financial and audit.

THE BABY FOLD INCOME STATEMENT FY26

	ACTUAL FY24	ACTUAL FY25	UNAUDITED FY26
Total Program Revenue	$ 19,245,868	$ 20,031,657	$ 19,790,282
Total Program Expenditures	$ 20,917,631	$ 21,160,271	$ 21,260,270
Unallocated M&G	$ (102,522)	$ 20,318	$ 14,309
Programs Net Surplus/(Deficit)	**$ (1,774,285)**	**$ (1,108,296)**	**$ (1,455,679)**
Net Development and Public Relations	**$ 394,071**	**$ 500,102**	**$ 987,302**
Net Investments	**$ 1,708,427**	**$ 3,604,276**	**$ 2,766,189**
Total Net Surplus/Deficit)	**$ 328,213**	**$ 2,996,082**	**$ 2,297,812**

RISK MANAGEMENT

As in previous years, the liability insurance marketplace for social service agencies remains challenging. Upon review of our insurance portfolio, the umbrella policy was greatly reduced from ten million to one million, but paying a higher cost-to-coverage ratio.

In FY26 we are working with StarNet Insurance Company to provide workers' compensation insurance. Our experience modification factor (which is one element in determining our rate) increased to .91. The mod factor is calculated using claims from the past three years. In FY25 our factor was .75, in FY24 it was .67, and in FY23 it was .84.

Following the analysis preformed last year, we will continue to actively monitor the use of our agency fleet vehicles to identify and implement further operational efficiencies.

→ 0.91

Our Experience modification factor in FY26

05 External Asset Management Reports

Farm Report 38
Investment Fund Report 44

BABY FOLD FARMS

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

By:

FIRST MID AG SERVICES, A DIVISION
OF FIRST MID WEALTH MANAGEMENT COMPANY
Brian R. Thompson, AFM, ARA
Farm Manager
6 Heartland Drive – Suite A
Bloomington, IL 61701
(309) 665-0959

July 31, 2026

First Mid
AG SERVICES

July 31, 2026

Business Management Committee
The Baby Fold
P. O. Box 327
Normal, IL 61761

Dear Committee Members,

Enclosed please find the 2026 annual report for the Baby Fold. This report covers the period from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Included in this report are the following items:

Summary of Farm Improvements
Review of 2025-2026 Farm Returns
Farm Valuation Estimate
Acreage and Crop Planting - 2026 Crop
Grain Production Estimate and Sales Review - 2026 Crop
Grain Inventory and Sales Review - 2025 Crop
Grain Sales History
Grain Production Review
Farm Inventories
Farm Progress Reports
Disclosure Statement
Statement of Account
Income and Expense Summaries
Copies of Individual Transactions

Ithas been a pleasure to work with you in the management of these farms. Please feel free to let us know if you have any questions concerning farm operations or this report.

Very truly yours,



Brian R. Thompson, AFM, ARA
President

BRT:sk

Enclosures

THE BABY FOLD
SUMMARY OF FARM IMPROVEMENTS
July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

FARM	ITEM	COST
	Rental House:	
Johnston	Septic Tank diagnosis, Inspection and clean out	$ 2,934.80
	Kitchen sink drain	$ 1,271.77
	Kitchen sink replumbing to septic line	$ 3,725.00
	TOTAL	$ 7,931.57

First Mid
AG SERVICES

THE BABY FOLD

REVIEW OF FARM RETURNS FOR FISCAL YEAR 7/1/25 TO 6/30/26
ADJUSTED FOR INVENTORY CHANGE

Farm	Net Cash Return	Inventory Change	Adjusted Return	Per Tillable Acre
CORNELL	$49,105.65	$0.00	$49,105.65	$320.74**
COURTNEY	$30,246.67	$0.00	$30,246.67	$272.74
JOHNSTON	$117,536.64	($9,838.47)	$107,698.17	$549.48**
BLUM	$60,189.23	($10,199.73)	$49,989.50	$649.21**
PRUSSNER	$18,672.93	$0.00	$18,672.93	$126.25
TOTAL ALL FARMS Fiscal Year 7/1/25 to 6/30/26 684.9 Till. Acres	**$275,751.12**	**($20,038.20)**	**$255,712.92**	**$373.36****
TOTAL ALL FARMS Fiscal Year 7/1/24 to 6/30/25 684.9 Till. Acres	**$229,864.18**	**($5,000.61)**	**$224,863.75**	**$328.32****
TOTAL ALL FARMS Fiscal Year 7/1/23 to 6/30/24 537.0 Till. Acres	**$253,816.71**	**($26,966.07)**	**$226,850.64**	**$422.44****
TOTAL ALL FARMS Fiscal Year 7/1/22 to 6/30/23 537.0 Till. Acres	**$255,484.47**	**$38,698.38**	**$294,182.85**	**$547.83****

**** Includes various wind lease payments.**

First Mid
AG SERVICES

THE BABY FOLD

FARM VALUATION ESTIMATE*

June 30, 2026

Farm	Acres	Value Estimate Per Acre	Total Value Estimate
CORNELL	160.00	$11,100	$1,776,000
COURTNEY	111.46	$6,700	$746,782
JOHNSTON	229.00	$12,700	$2,908,300
BLUM	80.00	$15,200	$1,216,000
PRUSSNER	157.20	$11,700	$1,839,240
TOTAL	737.66	$11,504	$8,486,322

Information Limitations

The above detailed value estimates for the farms are being provided as an information resource for the Baby Fold Board. This information is a rough estimate of value, and does not represent a thorough investigation of the land market for each property or an appraisal of the properties. The limitation of this information must be recognized so as not to provide erroneous information or conclusions.

Blum Farm has one operating wind turbine.

Johnston Farm has two operating wind turbines.

First Mid
AG SERVICES

THE BABY FOLD
2026 CROP PRODUCTION PLANS

	Corn	Soybeans	Wheat	Tillable
Blum	37.0	40.0	--	77.0*
Cornell	88.2	64.9	--	153.1
Courtney	--	110.9	--	110.9
Johnston	98.0	98.0	--	196.0*
Prussner	75.9	72.0	--	147.9
TOTALS	**299.1**	**385.8**	**--**	**684.9**

*Adjusted for wind turbines

CROP ACRES PREVIOUS YEARS

Year	Corn	Soybeans	Wheat	Tillable
2025	409.1	275.8	0.0	684.9
2024	223.2	281.8	32.0	537.0
2023	305.1	231.9	0.0	537.0
2022	255.2	281.8	0.0	537.0
2021	305.1	201.9	32.0	539.0
2020	272.6	376.3	0	648.9
2019	371.6	249.3	0	648.9
2018	513.6	436.6	110.9	1,061.1
2017	459.9	601.2	0	1,061.1

05 INVESTMENT FUND REPORT

CERITY PARTNERS®

Wednesday, July 15th, 2026

Scott Davis
The Baby Fold
108 East Willow
P.O. Box 327
Normal, IL 61761-1170
RE : The Baby Fold Investment Fund

Dear Scott:

2026 has been characterized by remarkable and widespread earnings growth. Companies have absorbed the massive capital spending from the hyperscalers, and productivity gains from artificial intelligence have begun to materialize. Broad market earnings growth for calendar year 2025 came in at low double digits, with growth expected to accelerate to greater than 20% in both 2026 and 2027. From July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, the S&P 500 returned 22.32%, the Nasdaq 29.48% (led by semiconductor companies), the Dow Jones Industrial Average 20.65%, and the Russell 2000 40.78%.

International developed equities kept pace with US markets, while emerging markets were the standout performer for similar reasons. Over the same period, the MSCI EAFE index gained 20.23% and the MSCI Emerging Markets index gained 43.51%, driven by semiconductor companies such as ASML, Taiwan Semiconductor, Samsung, and SK Hynix, which account for a large portion of global equity markets.

Interest rates have generally drifted higher over the past twelve months. The knock-on effects of higher energy prices on inflation have shifted expectations from interest rate cuts to interest rate hikes from the Fed. That said, high starting yields helped the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index return 3.79%, while economic strength kept high yield bond returns above that at 5.74%, despite tight credit spreads.

The economy remains on strong footing. The US unemployment rate of 4.2% and positive real wage growth have supported robust consumer spending — a major positive for an economy comprised of nearly 70% consumer spending. Additionally, the US being a net oil exporter has left it better insulated from swings in oil prices in comparison to past energy shocks and better positioned relative to international counterparts. We also remain in the early innings of the AI supercycle, with substantial productivity gains and capital spending still ahead — both of which continue to support earnings growth.

Looking Forward:

The economy, and by extension market returns, are navigating a push higher from strong earnings against a drag from potential inflation. On balance, we favor the former as the stronger force and remain broadly constructive on markets. To respect the risks present in the market, we prefer higher quality at this stage in both stocks and bonds over weaker fundamental and momentum-driven investments, which have performed well over the trailing months. Should a sustained period of elevated oil prices emerge, or consumer or hyperscaler spending be cut back unexpectedly, markets could move lower.

	6 Months Ended June 30, 2026	12 Months Ended June 30, 2026
Investment Total Fund Return*	8.38%	17.41%
US CPI	3.05%	3.53%

	6 Months Ended June 30, 2026	12 Months Ended June 30, 2026
Investment Fund – Equities	11.55%	22.13%
MSCI All World Equity Index	11.49%	24.16%
Investment Fund – Fixed Income	0.68%	3.95%
Bloomberg US Aggregate Index	0.62%	3.79%

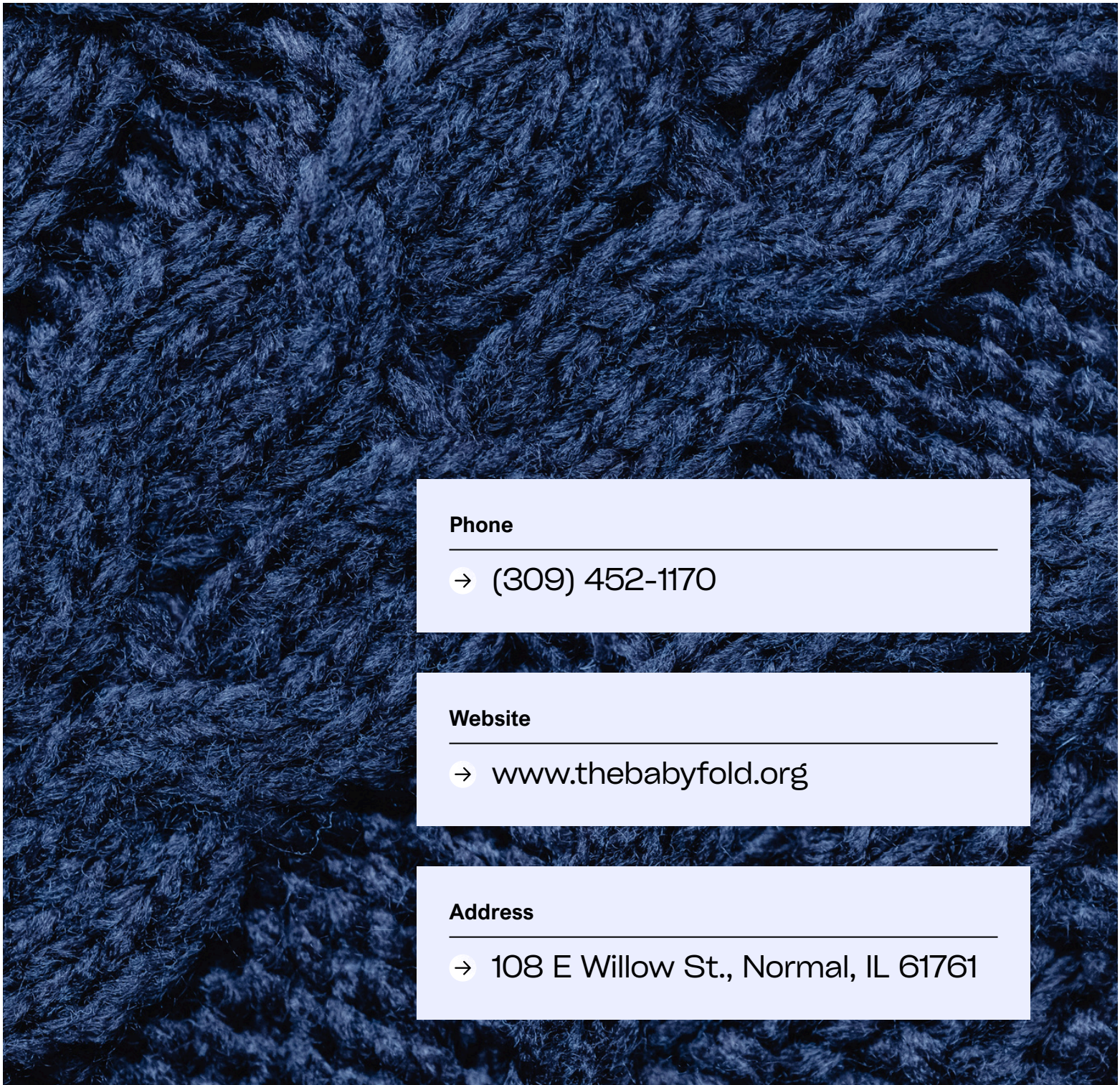
	5 Years Ended June 30, 2026
Investment Total Fund Return	5.09%
US CPI	4.21%

*Performance is net of all Cerity Partners and manager fees.

Doug Nardi

Douglas C. Nardi, CFA
Founding Partner
Cerity Partners, LLC
320 South Canal Street, 44th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 715-3803

CONTACT US



Phone

→ (309) 452-1170

Website

→ www.thebabyfold.org

Address

→ 108 E Willow St., Normal, IL 61761