



# The Baby Fold

1500 Ft. Jesse Road  
Wing A  
Normal, IL, 60761

**SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SINCE 1902**

## NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

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# FOSTER PARENT SHOUT OUT!



*We would like spotlight four families who graciously helped care for a child who recently unexpectedly came into care and needed immediate placement. Unfortunately, we were initially unable to locate a home that was able to provide long-term care. With the help of several of our licensed families, we were able to provide some stability and a home environment for the child until a placement was located. All of the foster homes and foster care staff worked together to ensure that the child made it to school every day during this transitional period, which helped maintain a routine for him.*

*First, we would like to thank Kristin and Gaston Guerrero and their children. Kristin and Gaston have been foster parents since May of 2023. They have helped care for many children since their time being licensed. They can always be depended on to quickly get prepared to welcome any child into their home. Their children naturally consider themselves siblings and help make children feel at ease.*

*Second, we would like to recognize Betsy and Jerome Elver and their children. The Elver family has been licensed since May of 2023. They have helped provide respite on many occasions for youth in care. Their children help youth coming into their home feel comfortable. We appreciate their help and attentiveness in caring for this child while he stayed in their home.*

*Next, we appreciate the help offered by Taylor and Ian Shoop and their child. They recently transferred their license to The Baby Fold from another agency and have been licensed with The Baby Fold since April of 2024. They jumped right in and started caring for some of our children needing homes almost immediately. Their son helps provide comfort to the children placed in their home.*

*Lastly, Olga and Adrian Kukharskiy are parents to four children and are first time foster parents. They welcomed this child into their home and have committed to continuing to care for him. They have been willing to do whatever they can to best meet the child's needs and provide support to him.*

*We appreciate all of the flexibility and accommodations that were made by each family. You all welcomed a child into your home and provided compassion when it was needed. You are so appreciated by all of us at The Baby Fold. Thank you for all you do!*



**YEAH!**

**SUPER  
HERO**

Referral  
Incentive  
Program

**\$150**

for each successful referral

**HERE'S HOW IT WORKS...**

- Existing TBF Foster Families refer a family for licensure.
- The referred family completes the licensure process and accepts their first placement.
- The referred family must identify you within the first 30-days of beginning the licensing process.

Reach out to your licenising worker today and  
let's grow our Hero Newtwork!



# **AGENCY EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **DADS SHARPEN DADS**

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 2 times a month. Check out the flyer on page 17, and Ken Summers at [Ksummers@thebabyfold.org](mailto:Ksummers@thebabyfold.org) for more information

## **GRANDPARENT CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**

If you are fostering a grandchild, this group is for you! This support group meets once a month at Community Care, located at 3601 General Electric Rd. Suite #2 Bloomington, IL 61704. At monthly meetings, caregivers and children are able to meet together to do activities, crafts, share a meal, and get to know one another. This support group is also helpful if you are looking for new resources or funding for specific needs. If you are interested and would like more information about the group, please call Angie Raymer at 309-661-6400.



**INTRODUCING....**

**THE BABY FOLD'S  
FOSTER CARE  
FACEBOOK PAGE**

**\*CLICK HERE TO JOIN!**

**THIS PAGE WILL BE A HUB FOR:**

- LICENSING INFORMATION AND REMINDERS
- TRAINING RESOURCES
- PROGRAM UPDATES

**WE INVITE YOU TO LIKE, FOLLOW, AND SHARE OUR  
PAGE WITH FELLOW BABY FOLD FOSTER FAMILIES!**

**TOGETHER, WE STAY CONNECTED!**

# AGENCY EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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, & spiritual resources. Check out the flyer on page 13 for more information about this resource.

## WEDNESDAY NOON GROUP

Provides education and support related to parenting, trauma, and self-care within the context of adoption and foster care. Meets 2 times a month. Check out the flyer on page 14, and email Melissa at [MLEGENDRE@thebabyfold.org](mailto:MLEGENDRE@thebabyfold.org) for more information.

## TBRI TRAINING AND SUPPORT GROUP

Trust-Based Relational Intervention is a trauma informed program that focuses on meeting relational and developmental needs of children, while supporting caregivers in building healthy attachments and effective interventions. Join our 12-week virtual training designed for caregivers and professionals working with children from hard places. Learn trauma-informed strategies to help children heal, grow, and thrive.

For Questions, contact Michaellee Maier [mmaier@thebabyfold.org](mailto:mmaier@thebabyfold.org)

- Dates: Weekly through December 17th on Tuesday Evenings from 5:30pm to 7:00pm (12 weeks, 3 weeks per section.)
- Register: [www.eventbrite.com/e/1004001654977?aff=oddttdtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/1004001654977?aff=oddttdtcreator)

## FOSTERING STRONG

The foster care staff is excited about our core training program, Foster Strong! Twice each month (except November due to the Holiday schedule) we are offering a virtual, trauma-informed training topic that may help guide you in your foster parenting efforts. Please reach out to any foster care staff members if you have questions. RSVP is preferred but not necessary. Here is a list of the upcoming dates:

### **Grief and Loss - Training Dates & Details::**

- **November 19th** 12:00pm-1:00pm ;
  - Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82007695390?pwd=CMBaJyzOhHu8tfFqmHU5T3gXRI1AnC.1>
  - Meeting ID: 820 0769 5390
  - Passcode: 256183
- **December 3rd** 6:00pm-7:00pm ;
  - Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82787140491?pwd=fKWe6sH8rZEA172tX482VpDkNBKkow.1>
  - Meeting ID: 827 8714 0491
  - Passcode: 640470

# AGENCY EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE BABY FOLD'S FESTIVAL OF TREES NOVEMBER 21-23, 2024

The Baby Fold's Festival of Trees is central Illinois' premier holiday extravaganza to kick-off the holidays and bless local children! At the Interstate Center you can expect a gorgeous display of Christmas trees, festive wreaths, gingerbread creations, holiday centerpieces and more!

Santa Claus will be on-site every day to delight the children and each will enjoy a take-home holiday craft bag. Stroll through Gingerbread Village and take in the alluring scent of gingerbread and icing from over 100 charming creations! Sip on hot cocoa while admiring an Enchanted Forest filled with one of the largest displays of Christmas trees around! Visit the coffee, cookie, and bake shops for a tasty treat!

Bring the family out for a delicious meal and live holiday entertainment during our Avanti's Family Night! And don't forget to place your best bids on over 600 hand-crafted holiday decorations in an online auction that blesses local children served by The Baby Fold!

# REMINDERS

DCFS Website Link: <https://dcfs.illinois.gov/>

Please do not forget to submit the following documents, updates, verifications, or certifications to your licensing worker:

- CPR/First Aid
- Auto Insurance
- Pet Records
- Quarterly Evacuation Practices

**Respite Reminder:** We appreciate when families identify their own respite resources, and to help make that possible, the licensing team wants you to be aware of some steps that need to be taken first, if paid respite is needed.

- You must inform your youth in care's caseworker prior to utilizing any licensed foster family for respite.
- Licensing staff need to ensure the licensed respite provider has appropriate capacity to accommodate the children they will be caring for.
- If you have identified a respite resource who is licensed through another agency, The Baby Fold needs to be aware that this home is being used.
- If you offer to do respite for a family licensed by another agency, The Baby Fold needs to be informed.
- If you have any further questions, please talk to your licensing worker or caseworker or refer to the Foster Parent manual.
- Remember it is important to let your caseworker know your plans for childcare.

Please reach out to your worker if you have any questions:

Cindy Musick  
[cmusick@thebabyfold.org](mailto:cmusick@thebabyfold.org)  
(309)-557-1004

Brittany Tweedt  
[btweedt@thebabyfold.org](mailto:btweedt@thebabyfold.org)  
(309)-557-1108

Amy Howe  
[ahowe@thebabyfold.org](mailto:ahowe@thebabyfold.org)  
(309)-557-1037

# LOCAL EVENTS

To learn more about local events, go to [visitbn.org/events/](https://visitbn.org/events/)

## Wild Lights at the Zoo

**Date:** Friday, December 6, 2024

**Time:** 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Where:** Miller Park Zoo- 1020 South Morris , Bloomington, IL

**Cost:** Fee: \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members

Need help getting into the Holiday Season? Join the community for an evening walk through the Zoo all decked out with lights and decorations for the Holidays! There will be fun activities for the kids (kids at heart too!) and a craft. Enjoy some hot chocolate and an opportunity to purchase a \$3 kit to make your own s'more! For more information, please email Silvia Schuh at [sschuh@cityblm.org](mailto:sschuh@cityblm.org) or call (309) 434-2826.

## Candy Cane Drop

**Date:** Saturday, December 7, 2024

**Time:** 10:00 am - 11:00 am

**Where:** Miller Park Pavilion- 1020 S. Morris Ave., Bloomington, IL

**Cost:** Ages 3-12 (with an adult) \$12 PER CHILD

Santa will be taking a ride with our forestry crew in one of the boom lift trucks and dropping candy canes for the kids to pick up! Adults will need to remain with their children throughout the entire event. All participants will get a chance to visit Santa when he comes back down to the ground! Check in at 10:00am we will do the drop promptly at 10:15am. Pre-registration is required. This is an ALL outdoor event. Check in at 10:00am outside the main entrance of Miller Park Pavilion.

## Disney Trivia Night!

**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024

**Time:** 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Where:** The Barrel Room at DESTIHL Brewery- 1200 Greenbriar Drive, Normal, IL, 61761

**Cost:** \$5/person

Get ready to embark on a magical adventure with our Disney Trivia Night! 🌟 Whether you're a fan of classic animated wonders like The Lion King and Beauty and the Beast or you can't get enough of the thrilling worlds of Frozen and Moana, this is your chance to relive the enchantment and test your knowledge of all things Disney. From the charming antics of Mickey Mouse and friends to the daring escapades of heroes and heroines, we've got questions that will make you feel like you're stepping into a fairy tale. So, grab your fairy godmother's wand, don your best Disney attire, and join in for an evening filled with fun, laughter, and a sprinkle of pixie dust! Reservations Required- Cost: \$5/person \*Limit 6 people per team if you want to qualify for the prize\*

**To Reserve your table, E-Mail** [TwinCityTrivia@gmail.com](mailto:TwinCityTrivia@gmail.com)

**Reminder: If you are ever in need of help on a holiday or weekend, please call us on our**

**On-Call Phone:**

**Foster Care #:  
309-530-1737**

# LOCAL EVENTS

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To learn more about local events, go to [visitbn.org/events/](https://visitbn.org/events/)

## Skate Against Hunger Open Skate

**Date:** Saturday, November 16, 2024

**Time:** 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

**Where:** Bloomington Ice Center- 201 S Roosevelt Ave, Bloomington, Illinois, 61701

Join us at the Bloomington Ice Center with non-perishable food items on Saturday, November 16 to help those in need this season. Skaters who bring in non-perishable goods will receive \$1.00 off admission. All donations will be sent to a local food bank for the upcoming holiday season.

## Visits with Santa in Uptown Normal

**Dates:** December 6th-8th, 12th-15th, 19th-24th

**Time:** Visiting hours for the dates listed above are 5-7 p.m. on weeknights and 1-4 p.m. on weekends. Christmas Eve (Tuesday, Dec. 24) hours are 1-3 p.m.

**Where:** Uptown Normal- 11 Uptown Circle, Normal, IL, 61761

**Cost:** Free (donations encouraged)

Stop in and see Santa this holiday season in Uptown Normal! Visits with Santa are free, but donations are encouraged (proceeds support local nonprofits). Photos are welcome; bring your own camera!



## **FOSTER PARENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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**Right 8: The right to be given information concerning a child from the Department as required under subsection(u) of Section 5 of the Children and Family Services Act and (ii) from the a child welfare agency as required under subsection (c-5) of Section 7.4 of the Child Care Act of the Children and Family Services Act.**

Child welfare specialists are trained regarding all information that is to be shared with foster parents concerning the children in their care. At the time of placement of a child, child welfare specialists provide all available information in writing to the foster parents. The information that is provided includes the child's medical history, educational history, the child's portion of the service plan and any other relevant background information about the child.

Child welfare specialists provide all available information to foster parents at the time of placement. If unavailable at the time of placement, child welfare specialists provide the information as quickly as it becomes available. Child welfare specialists and foster parents sign a CFS 600-4 Sharing Information with the Caregiver form within 10 days of placement.

The CFS 600-4 is included in the case opening packets used by the caseworkers for each newly assigned case. The form is listed on the Case Opening Checklist to ensure completion of the form within the required timeframe. Supervisor oversight and file reviews hold child welfare specialists accountable for completing this process and the form.

**Responsibility 8: The responsibility to develop and assist in implementing strategies to prevent placement disruptions, recognizing the traumatic impact of placement disruptions on a foster child and all members of the foster family; and the responsibility to provide emotional support for the foster children and members of the foster family should preventive strategies fail and placement disruptions occur.**

Caseworkers utilize the Caregiver Matching Tool, the social history information, and placement information to identify the early signs of children who may be at risk of disrupting from or creating disruption within the foster home. These pieces of information help to identify areas for developing strategies to prevent placement disruptions. A plan is then developed for prevention of disruption. The plan may include additional support services and further training for the foster parent.

When a Clinical Screener or caseworker completes the initial or on-going Integrated Assessment, the foster parent is involved in the assessment process. Through this process risk factors are noted and the child's needs and corresponding services are identified. Recommendations made may include specific training for the foster parent, increased caseworker contacts, and additional Child and Family Team meetings as needed.

Through PRIDE, the DCFS Foster Family Handbook, and The Baby Fold's Foster Parent Manual foster parents learn of available support and stabilization services that can be accessed in order to maintain placements.

The Baby Fold and foster families work together to access Intensive Placement Stabilization services, SASS services, respite, counseling, and other services needed to prevent a disrupted placement. Workers will maintain the required in-person contacts to assess problems, work with the foster parents on problem solving, and assist in seeking appropriate supportive resources as needed. Linking the foster parent with another foster parent may be used as a source of additional support.

## **FOSTER PARENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES CONTINUED**

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### **Responsibility 8 continued:**

When respite care is utilized as an intervention strategy to prevent a placement disruption, the caseworker, supervisor, and the foster parents will discuss the issue and develop a plan to address the issues that are resulting in struggles for the child and foster family.

Licensing workers and child welfare specialists encourage foster families to utilize needed services to ensure that foster children and members of the foster family receive emotional support when placement disruptions occur. Upon receipt of a written notice from a foster parent for the removal of a foster child, a plan will be made for supporting the foster child and the foster family through the transition.

Foster parents may request counseling, training, or support services for themselves and their family members should placement problems or a placement disruption occur. Foster parents are encouraged to seek assistance and support, as needed, from other social service agencies, their church/pastor, or local support groups. When possible and appropriate, foster parents may maintain contact with a foster child following the disruption of the placement.

Baby Fold staff are available 24 hours a day to assist foster parents when problematic behaviors arise. The on-call worker can provide assistance himself or herself or can contact the child welfare specialist, supervisor, or therapist involved in the child's case. A response form is completed by the on-call worker, informing the caseworker and supervisor of the reason for the call, any response given, and anything requiring further follow-up by the worker is noted. This form is provided to the worker the following business day.

When critical incidents and/or unusual incidents occur, the required forms are completed that include a plan for resolution of the problem.

Foster parents have the availability to consult with The Baby Fold's therapists and clinical director regarding the child's problematic behavior in order to reduce the potential of placement disruption. Information is collected from the child welfare team, including the foster parents, and clinical tools are used to assess the child's functioning. Behavior plans are developed for use in the foster home.

Foster parents are encouraged to avail themselves of support services in order to prevent placement disruption, including the use of respite services.



# TRUST-BASED RELATIONAL INTERVENTION®



## Classes and Caregiver support

Join our **12-week virtual training** designed for caregivers and professionals working with children from hard places. Learn trauma-informed strategies to help children heal, grow, and thrive.

### What is TBRI®?

A trauma-informed program that focuses on meeting the relational and developmental needs of children, while supporting caregivers in building healthy attachments and effective interventions.

### Key Takeaways from the Training:

- Introduction to TBRI®: Empowering, Connecting, Correcting principles.
- Understand the link between trauma history and development.
- Learn to interpret and respond to behaviors to strengthen attachment.
- Discover strategies for creating felt safety and addressing behavior factors.
- Explore secure attachment and building deep emotional connections.
- Develop practical tools to balance structure, nurture, and correct behaviors.

### Training Details

**Sept. 24th-Dec. 17th**

Tuesday evenings, 5:30-7:00  
12 weeks, 3 weeks each section

### Register here:

**Eventbrite:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1004001654977?aff=oddttdtcreator>

### Contact Information

**Michaëlle Maier**

Email: [mmaier@thebabyfold.org](mailto:mmasier@thebabyfold.org)



*Exodus* 17:12

When Moses hands grew tired, they took a stone, & put it under him, & he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held up his hands - one on one side, one on the other - so that his hands remained steady till sunset.

Side by Side Ministries exists to engage the church and local community in consistent, loving support of families involved in foster care by providing access to physical, relational, and spiritual resources.

### TEAMS

#### Foster Community Resource Team:

All foster parents and support members share educational, spiritual resources/encouragement, and also respite care needs through the Groupme app.

#### The Nourish Team:

Support members uplift foster parents by giving a meal, gift cards, notes, etc.

#### The Go! Team:

Support members provide support through donations or sharing materials with foster families who receive a new placement by using a checklist. This is on an as-needed basis.

Example...clothes, diapers, formula, strollers, gift cards, etc.

#### Nurture Nights

Hosting gatherings three times a year for foster care and adoptive parents with the intent to provide community, connection, and educational training.

We are thankful for your willingness to be involved in foster care ministry and would like to learn more about your needs and your family.

Please email us at [sidebyside1712@gmail.com](mailto:sidebyside1712@gmail.com) so we can better assist you!

Daton & Kathy Kupferschmid and Ryan & Hope Stoller



## THE BABY FOLD'S **VIRTUAL PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**

**1<sup>nd</sup> AND 3<sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH**  
**12:00-1:00 PM**

SUPPORT AND EDUCATION FOR FAMILIES FORMED  
THROUGH ADOPTION AND GUARDIANSHIP

EMAIL MELISSA AT [MLEGENDRE@THEBABYFOLD.ORG](mailto:MLEGENDRE@THEBABYFOLD.ORG) FOR  
MORE INFORMATION & LINK TO MEETINGS

“You cannot lead a child to a place of healing  
if you do not know the way yourself.”  
– Dr. Karyn Purvis

# Dads Sharpen Dads

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

The Baby Fold

## **Dad's Support Group**

**1st & 3rd Monday evenings**

**7:15 pm—8:15 pm**

Email Ken Summers at [ksummers@thebabyfold.org](mailto:ksummers@thebabyfold.org)

to sign up!

"If we can communicate to our children,  
**It's you and me against your history,**  
We have a strong place to begin."

Dr. Karyn Purvis