



FOSTER PARENT SHOUT OUT!

As an educator, Messina Lambert has ongoing contact with numerous children every day. In 2022, she stepped forward and became a relative caregiver for three siblings who she knew through her work in the school system. She has since adopted the three siblings and when their older sibling needed a placement, Messina was willing to provide care for that child as well. Throughout her time as a foster parent, Messina has been a team player with agency personnel. She has been a strong advocate for the youth in her home and works to make sure that each youth's individual needs are being met. Messina has been supportive of visits with birth family members and strives to ensure that all of the siblings are able to maintain contact with one another. Messina also maintains open communication with both caseworkers and licensing workers. The Baby Fold appreciates all Messina has done to assist youth in her home in achieving permanency and for being a great team member. It takes a village, and we are glad Messina is part of ours at The Baby Fold!

REMINDER: The family finding position was created by DCFS to ensure that there is an ongoing expansive search for supports for children in care. Our Family Finding Workers, Dree Carr and Cecelia Steinbacher-Kemp, reach out to all case members every 6 months prior to an Administrative Case Review (ACR) occurring to check in and inquire about resources and supports for the children you foster. As critical member of the child and family team, we want to hear from you as foster parents! The resources you provide can be supportive in a variety of ways, including childcare, respite, emotional support, potential placement options if needed, and much more. We value your input and want to know who supports you because who supports you also supports the child! We know it takes a village!

Don't forget about our Referral Incentive Program!

If you refer a family for licensure that successfully becomes licensed, with a child placed in the home, you will be rewarded \$150! Referred families must identify you within the first 3 days of the licensing process. Please reach out to your licensing worker if you have any questions or concerns.

Watch your emails for an invite to The Baby Fold's Foster Care private Facebook group!

This will be another place to learn about special announcements, training opportunities, reminders, etc. The group is completely private from the public and is only accessible to TBF Foster Parents and Staff who are invited and accepted to join!

Foster Parent Rights and Responsibilities #13

Foster Parents have the right to be considered as a placement option when a foster child who was formerly placed with the foster parents is to be re-entered into foster care when such placement would be consistent with the best interest of the child and other children in the purpose of administrative case reviews, client service plans and court processes, as well as any filing or time requirements associated with these proceedings; and the responsibility to actively participate in the foster parent's designated role in these proceedings.

Implementation Plan Meeting: April 21st

Please join us at the Foster Parent Implementation Meeting! You have the option to join in person or to join online, details below:

Join In Person: **Date:** Monday, April 21st, 2025

Location: 1500 Fort Jesse Rd. | Normal, IL 61761

Time: 10:00am

Or Join Online: **Meeting ID:** 273 625 075 323 || **Passcode:** EX3rF6uW

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetupjoin/19%3ameeting_Nm1lMTQ1YWUtMzI2MC00YjBjLWE0ZTEtNTg1ZGVhYWVjNDBh%40thread.v2/Ocontext=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ccb78bb-6712-4bf6-9695-964ac030dd2c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22d2f4b174-768a-4a6d-bb8c-ed00bdcc2db4%22%7d

Foster Parent Appreciation Event: May 8th

Located at the Baby Fold Training Center. Dinner will be provided. Please join us for a night of carnival games, face paint, photo booth, and art stations!

Date: Thursday, May 8th, 2025

Location: 614 Oglesby Ave. | Normal, IL 61761

Time: 5pm to 7:30pm

Upcoming Trainings & Support Groups

TBRI TRAINING & 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.

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.

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. For more in Ken Summers at Ksummers@thebabyfold.org for more information

WEDNESDAY NOON GROUP

Provides education and support related to parenting, trauma, and self-care within the context of adoption and foster care. Meets 2 times a month. Email Melissa at MLEGENDRE@thebabyfold.org for more information.

GRANDPARENT CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Fostering a grandchild? This group is for you! Meets once a month at Community Care, located at 3601 General Electric Rd. Suite #2 Bloomington, IL 61704. Caregivers & children are able to meet together to do activities, crafts, share a meal, and get acquainted. If you would like more information, please call Angie Raymer at 309-661-6400.

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

Cindy Musick
cmusick@thebabyfold.org
(309)-557-1004

Brittany Tweedt
btweedt@thebabyfold.org
(309)-557-1108

Amy Howe
ahowe@thebabyfold.org
(309)-557-1037