



August 2025

FOSTER PARENT SHOUT OUT!

This month's spotlight features Melissa Blaum. Melissa has been a foster parent for 4 years and has provided care for 5 youth. She has been an integral team member throughout her tenure as a foster parent. Melissa demonstrates an upbeat attitude in her interactions with children and staff. Melissa is a strong advocate for children in her home, is patient with each child and attentive to their needs. Melissa is willing to assist every child in her home in maintaining important relationships with family. She has also been willing to help in a crisis. Most recently Melissa was willing to provide placement for a child who had to be moved unexpectedly. We appreciate Melissa for all she does to support children and families.



REMEMBER TO JOIN THE BABY FOLD'S FOSTER CARE FACEBOOK GROUP

A private Group just for you Foster Parents to be able to join and see all of our upcoming events and trainings as well. Any questions please feel free to reach out Use the link or scan the QR code:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thebabyfoldfostercare>



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.

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

Cindy Musick

Family Development Specialist
cmusick@thebabyfold.org
(309)-557-1004

Brittany Tweedt

Family Development Specialist
btweedt@thebabyfold.org
(309)-557-1108

Stephanie Tanner

Family Development Supervisor
[stanner@thebabyfold.org](mailto:tanner@thebabyfold.org)
(309)-310-9867

Mandated Reported Training

We want to let you know that there is a new Mandated Reporter Training now available on the Learning Development Center (LDC)! This updated training is essential for staying informed and compliant with current reporting responsibilities. As foster parents, your role in protecting children is vital—and this training helps ensure you're equipped with the latest tools and knowledge.

- ✓ Where to find it: Log in to your Learning Development Center account
- ✓ When: Available now – complete it at your earliest convenience
- ✓ Why it matters: Keeping our kids safe starts with being informed

[DCFS Training - Caregiver - Mandated Reporter Training - English](#)

Thank you for your continued dedication and care. If you have any questions or need help accessing the training, feel free to reach out!



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. For more information, send an email to: sidebyside1712@gmail.com

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.

REPLANTED CONFERENCE

Adoption and foster care can often feel like an isolated experience. But what if there was a place to connect with others who could say, "same here"? Replanted Conference exists for foster, adoptive, and kinship parents to come together and be encouraged in their similar journeys. Join us at a live simulcast of the Replanted Conference on October 25-26, 2024.

Venue: 2910 E. Lincoln St. Bloomington, IL 61704
Efree Church 2910 E Lincoln St Bloomington, I 61704
309-663-6534



Foster Parent Responsibility #17

The responsibility to provide care and services that are respective of and responsive to the child's cultural needs and are supportive of the relationship between the child and his or her own family; the responsibility to recognize the increased importance of maintaining a child's cultural identity when the race or culture of the foster family differs from that of the foster child; and the responsibility to take action to address these issues.

Upcoming training offered by BE Strong Families. Dates and registration are listed with each training topic and date:

August 2025 Online Foster Parent Events | Be Strong Families

Online Foster Parent Cafés

Each Tuesday in August 2025

6:00 - 8:00 pm CT each session

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/42DoAxe>

September 2025 Online Foster Parent Events | Be Strong Families

Online Foster Parent Cafés

Each Tuesday in September 2025

6:00 - 8:00 pm CT each session

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/3SiYeKM>