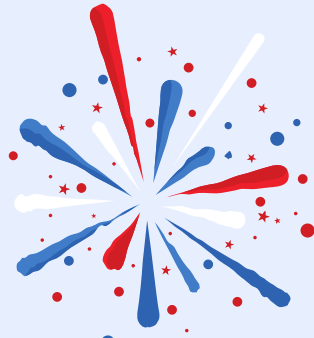


2026

JULY NEWSLETTER



FOSTER PARENTS SHOUTOUT!

We are proud to recognize **Courtney and Daniel Dingledine** for their dedication and compassion as foster parents with TBF. Licensed since May 2025, they have quickly become a valued part of our foster care community.

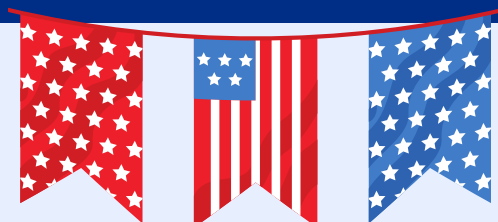
Alongside raising their two children, Courtney and Daniel have opened their hearts and home to children in need. They began caring for their first foster child in September 2025 and recently welcomed another child into their home in April 2026.

From the very beginning, Courtney and Daniel have approached fostering with an open mind and a genuine willingness to help in any way possible. They have gone above and beyond—adjusting their home environment and daily routines to ensure the children in their care feel safe, supported, and loved.

Their collaboration and communication as part of the Child and Family Team have been exceptional. They consistently show commitment, flexibility, and a team-focused mindset that truly makes a difference in the lives of the children they care for.

We also want to extend our appreciation to their children, for embracing their roles as welcoming and supportive siblings. Their kindness has helped create a warm, inclusive environment where new children can feel at home.

We are incredibly grateful to Courtney and Daniel for all they have done—and continue to do—for TBF and for the children in their care. Their dedication is an inspiration, and their impact is deeply valued.





THE BABY FOLD'S

FOSTER CARE

FOSTER PARENT LAW IMPLEMENTATION PLAN MEETING

Foster parents play an essential role in providing input into The Baby Fold's Foster Parent Law Implementation Plan, and we would be honored to have your input as we review and discuss The Baby Fold's 2027 Implementation Plan. Your feedback and perspective are incredibly valuable, and your participation helps ensure our services truly meet the needs of the children and families we serve.

Please join us for a hybrid meeting on Monday, **August 3, 2026**, from **12:00pm–1:30pm**. You're welcome to attend either in person or online.

 In-Person Location:

1500 Ft. Jesse Rd
Normal, IL 61761

 Join via Microsoft Teams:
<https://tinyurl.com/23wxfsu4>

Meeting ID: 240 042 167 610 588
Passcode: sG3kB2qJ



We truly hope you'll take part in this important conversation. Your voice matters, and we look forward to learning from you! **Prior to the meeting, please provide feedback even if you cannot attend:** <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/luhyTLpCrZ>

CELEBRATE PRIDEFEST



Join the community for PrideFest 2026 on **Saturday, July 25, 2026**, from **3:00–8:00pm** in **Downtown Bloomington**, Bloomington, IL.

This family-friendly event celebrates love, inclusion, and diversity with live entertainment, local vendors, food, activities, and opportunities to connect with community organizations. Whether you're attending for the first time or returning to celebrate again, PrideFest is a wonderful way to show support and enjoy an afternoon of fun and community spirit.





THE BABY FOLD'S

FOSTER CARE



BACK-TO-SCHOOL HEALTH REMINDERS

With school just around the corner, we wanted to provide a few health reminders!

- ✓ School shots
- ✓ Well-child check/sports physical
- ✓ Dental exam
- ✓ Vision exam



CERTIFIED VS UNCERTIFIED PAYMENT RATES

Often foster caregivers have questions about how much their monthly stipend will be to care for the child(ren) in their home, particularly after they become certified. Below is a chart with the payment breakdown.

Payment Rates

Age	Uncertified	Certified
0-11 months	\$605	\$672
1 through 4 years	\$605	\$672
5 through 8 years	\$672	\$746
9 through 11 years	\$717	\$796
12 years and over	\$745	\$827

*spec rate standard \$57.24/day



THE BABY FOLD'S

FOSTER CARE



FOSTER PARENT RIGHT #9 AND RESPONSIBILITIES #9 & #10

Foster Parents' Rights:

#9. The right to be notified of scheduled meetings and staffings concerning the foster child in order to actively participate in the case planning and decision-making process regarding the child in their care, including individual service planning meetings, administrative case reviews, interdisciplinary staffings, and individual educational planning meetings; the right to be informed of decisions made by the court or the child welfare agency concerning the child; the right to provide input concerning the plan of services for a child and to have that input given full consideration in the same manner as information presented by any other professional on the team; and the right to communicate with other professionals who work with the foster child within the context of the team, including therapists, physicians, and teachers.

Foster Parents' Responsibilities:

#9. The responsibility to know the impact foster parenting has on individuals and family relationships; and the responsibility to endeavor to minimize, as much as possible, any stress that results from foster parenting.

#10. The responsibility to know the rewards and benefits to children, parents, families and society that come from foster parenting and promote the foster parenting experience in a positive way.



REFERRAL PROGRAM

Don't forget—if you refer a family who becomes fully licensed and has a child placed in their home, you'll receive a \$150 reward! The referred family must identify you as the referral within the **first three days** of beginning the licensing process. If you have any questions, please contact your licensing worker.



TRAININGS & SUPPORT



PLEASE JOIN THE BABY FOLD'S FOSTER CARE FACEBOOK PAGE

A private group created exclusively for our foster parents to stay updated on upcoming events and trainings. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. Join using the link below or by scanning the QR code:



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 on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 7:15pm. For more info, email Ken 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 on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the 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 and 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.

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

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
309.310.9867