



# June 2025

## **FOSTER PARENT SHOUT OUT!**

The Baby Fold foster care team would like to recognize **Amber and Andy Zimmerman** for their commitment to children in care. The Zimmerman's fostering journey began in 2018 when they were licensed to provide traditional care. They have opened their home to seven children in need of support, then ultimately provided permanency to **FOUR** of them. They understand the importance of quality substitute care and know that a trauma-informed approach greatly impacts a child's path to healing. The Baby Fold staff have enjoyed working with Amber and Andy as they always fulfill and exceed care expectations and responsibilities. Amber and Andy have managed all of these demands while guiding their own biological children down paths of success!

Advocacy, commitment, dedication, and teamwork are the things that make Amber and Andy Fostering Heroes! Thank you!

## ***YOU ASKED FOR CPR TRAINING, WE LISTENED!***

The Captain of Bloomington Fire Department, Frank Friend, will be providing this **Free** CPR training. Please RSVP by June 20<sup>th</sup> 2025 by calling (309) 557-1121

**Date:** Saturday, June 28th, 2025

**Location:** 612 Oglesby Avenue, Normal, IL 61761

**Time:** 9:00am-10:15am



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

Use the link or scan the QR code:

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



Reminder: The Illinois DCFS Statewide Emergency Placement Services (formerly known as the DCFS statewide emergency shelter system) was established to provide youth in care with a safe and nurturing environment during their reception period into foster care or during a time of crisis. The array of emergency placements is intended to serve as a temporary placement, and can allow the youth to stabilize and self-regulate, in preparation for long-term placement. Children and youth cannot enter an emergency placement unless the child protection specialist or assigned DCFS or Child Welfare Contributing Agency (CWCA) child welfare specialist has made diligent efforts to identify any possible relative, fictive kin, and licensed foster home.

We wanted to provide this information to you to explain why The Baby Fold might be reaching out to you about potential placement. If you have any questions about the process, feel free to reach out to your caseworker or licensing worker.

### 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.

### **Implementation Plan Meeting: June 26<sup>th</sup>**

Please join us at the Foster Parent Implementation Meeting! We will be discussing the Foster Parent Rights and Responsibilities 9-12. You have the option to join in person or to join online, details below:

**Join In Person:**   **Date:** Thursday, June 26th, 2025

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

**Time:** 10:00am

**Or Join Online:**   **Meeting ID:** 238 695 999 208 1 || **Passcode:** N5VH9qh7

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_YzZkM2ExZTltMDUyMi00Nzg5LTg4ODMtNDFLYTNjZGQwYjVi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22ccb78bb-6712-4bf6-9695-964ac030dd2c%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%221fb2471e-3215-42db-ba57-c9ad1d248880%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzZkM2ExZTltMDUyMi00Nzg5LTg4ODMtNDFLYTNjZGQwYjVi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22ccb78bb-6712-4bf6-9695-964ac030dd2c%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%221fb2471e-3215-42db-ba57-c9ad1d248880%22%7d)

### **FOSTERING STRONG TRAINING: TRANSITIONS AND ROUTINES**

Participants will gain understanding that transitions, both daily and life, are more difficult and complex for children who have experienced trauma. Participants will learn about the importance of establishing routines and rituals and strategies to better support children moving through these various transitions.

**Date:** Saturday, June 28th, 2025

**Location:** 612 Oglesby Avenue, Normal, IL 61761

**Time:** 10:30am-12:00pm

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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

## Foster Parent Rights and Responsibilities #15

Foster Parents have the right to be informed of the Foster Parent Hotline established under Section 35.6 of the Children and Family Services Act and all of the rights accorded to foster parents concerning reports of misconduct by Department employees, service providers or contractors, confidential handling of those reports, and investigation by the Inspector General appointed under Section 35.5 of the Children and Family Services Act. Foster Parents also have the responsibility to know and understand the importance of maintaining accurate and relevant records regarding the child's history and progress; and the responsibility to be aware of and follow the procedures and regulations of the child welfare agency with which the foster parent is licensed or affiliated.