



July 2025

FOSTER PARENT SHOUT OUT!

Cara has been a licensed foster parent with The Baby Fold since 2021, having five children placed in her home over the years.

Cara has assisted a sibling group in reunification with their biological parents. Most recently Cara has provided permanency for two youth through Adoption and also helped a third successfully return home to his biological parents. Cara does a wonderful job connecting with all the biological parents in order to provide support and build a relationship with them. This has allowed her to be an ongoing support to the families, even after reunification has occurred. The Baby Fold greatly appreciates all the support and dedication that Cara continues to provide to youth in care.

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.

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worker if you have any
questions:

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

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

Free Virtual Training: Building Resilience & Understanding ACEs

We're excited to invite you to a powerful, two-part virtual training designed to deepen your understanding of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and introduce ParentABLE—a trauma-informed curriculum that prepares youth for nurturing, caregiving roles. In this training, you'll explore: The lifelong impact of ACEs on brain development and health, the importance of resilience in overcoming early adversity, and how ParentABLE supports trauma-informed education and healthy child development. This is a fantastic opportunity to gain valuable insights and tools that can support your caregiving journey and empower the next generation. **For questions or more information, please contact Kristin Kaufman at: kkaufman@pcaillinois.org.**

Date: July 16, 2025

Time: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Online via Zoom

Free In-Person Training: Basic IEP/504 Boot Camp

The DCFS Foster Parent Support Group of Bloomington is pleased to host another valuable in-person training session for foster parents and caregivers. Learn what you need to know to effectively support your foster child's educational journey. This session will cover the fundamentals of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and 504 Plans, helping you become a stronger advocate for your child's needs in school. This is a great opportunity to gain practical knowledge, ask questions, and connect with other foster parents in our community. Let's work together to ensure child receives the support they deserve.

Date: July 22, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Compass Church 4114 Oakland Ave., Bloomington, IL

FREE tickets to the Illinois State Fair!

We're excited to share a special opportunity just for you! As a token of appreciation for the incredible love and support you provide, foster families are eligible to receive FREE tickets to the Illinois State Fair! To claim your tickets, simply complete the form (sent to you via email.) It's quick and easy—and a great way to enjoy a fun-filled day with your family at one of Illinois' most beloved summer traditions. Don't miss out on this chance to make lasting memories with your family. Thank you for everything you do to support and care for children in our community. ❤️

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.

Foster Parent Responsibility #16

The responsibility to share information, through the child welfare team, with the subsequent caregiver (whether the child's parent or another substitute caregiver), regarding the child's adjustment in the foster parent's home.

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

July 2025 Online Foster Parent Events | Be Strong Families

Online Workshops: Vicarious Trauma, Vicarious Resilience (3-Part Series)

Monday, July 7, July 14, and July 21, 2025

6:00 - 8:00 pm CT each session

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/439kPjh>

Click registration link for full description of workshop series.

Online Foster Parent Cafés

Each Tuesday in July 2025 starting July 8

6:00 - 8:00 pm CT each session

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/4jWCcJG>

Online Foster Parent Series: Living the Protective Factors Playbook (8-Week Series)

Weekly series begins on Wednesday, July 9, 2025

6:00 - 8:00 pm CT each session

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

Click Registration Link for full description of series.

Online Workshops: Vicarious Trauma, Vicarious Resilience (3-Part Series)

Friday, July 11, July 18, and July 25, 2025

10:00 am - 12:00 pm CT each session

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/4iGfEvE>

Click registration link for full description of workshop series.

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>