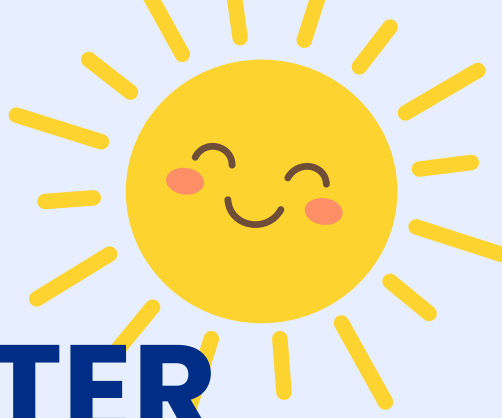


2026

JUNE NEWSLETTER



FOSTER PARENTS SHOUTOUT!

Mark and Jennifer Brooks have been licensed foster parents with The Baby Fold since November 2022. Alongside their three children, they have created a welcoming and supportive home for the children placed in their care.

The Brooks family is passionate about helping children feel safe, included, and part of the family. They encourage children to participate in activities they enjoy and understand the importance of patience, compassion, and stability during difficult transitions.

Since becoming licensed, they have welcomed five children of various ages into their home and have consistently shown a willingness to help whenever needed. We greatly appreciate the care, dedication, and support the Brooks family has provided to both The Baby Fold and the children they have cared for.





THE BABY FOLD'S

FOSTER CARE

JUNE TEENTH

Juneteenth, celebrated annually on June 19, commemorates the day in 1865 when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, learned they were free, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. The name "Juneteenth" combines the words June and nineteenth.

Juneteenth is an important opportunity to honor the resilience, contributions, and achievements of African Americans while reflecting on our nation's history and the ongoing pursuit of equality and justice. Recognized as a federal holiday in 2021, Juneteenth serves as a reminder of the importance of freedom, education, and community.



TRAVEL GUIDELINES

- Relative caregivers may approve in-state or out-of-state travel lasting **48 hours or less** when the youth is traveling with them.
- For trips lasting **more than 48 hours**, caregivers must:
 - Notify the assigned Permanency Worker.
 - Provide the youth's location and contact information.
- **Out-of-state travel over 48 hours and up to 30 days** requires approval from the assigned caseworker and supervisor.
- **Out-of-state travel of 30 days or more** requires approval from the DCFS Guardian.
- **All international travel** requires approval from the DCFS Guardian.
- For all **out-of-state travel**, Form **CFS 432 (Guardian's Consent for Out-of-State Travel or Extended Trips)** must be completed and:
 - Entered into the youth's case record.
 - Maintained by the relative caregiver.





WATER SAFETY REMINDERS

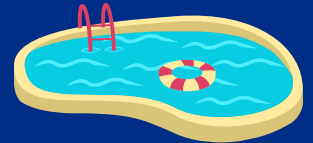


Drowning is a leading cause of accidental death for young children, but many tragedies can be prevented through constant supervision. Children can drown quickly and silently in as little as one inch of water, making it essential for caregivers to stay within arm's reach and avoid distractions when children are near pools, bathtubs, lakes, rivers, or other bodies of water.

Key safety tips include:

- Always provide active adult supervision around water.
- Never leave children unattended in bathtubs or baby pools.
- Use properly fitted life jackets when swimming in lakes or rivers.
- Secure pools with fencing, self-latching gates, and safety equipment.
- Learn CPR and keep emergency numbers readily available.

A moment of vigilance can save a life.



FOSTER PARENT RIGHT #7 & #8 AND RESPONSIBILITIES #8



Foster Parents' Rights:

#7. The right, at any time during which a child is placed with the foster parent, to receive additional or necessary information that is relevant to the care of the child.

#8. 1.The right to be given information concerning a child from the Department as required under subsection(u) of Section 5 of the Children and Family Services Act and (ii) from the a child welfare agency as required under subsection (c-5) of Section 7.4 of the Child Care Act of the Children and Family Services Act.

Foster Parents' Responsibilities:

#8. The responsibility to develop and assist in implementing strategies to prevent placement disruptions, recognizing the traumatic impact of placement disruptions on a foster child and all members of the foster family; and the responsibility to provide emotional support for the foster children and members of the foster family should preventive strategies fail and placement disruptions occur.



YOUTH ENRICHMENT & SUPPORT (“YES”) FUNDS

yes!

The purpose of “YES” funds is to enhance access to enrichment activities, and other goods and services for the support and stabilization of youth in DCFS care. Please talk to your caseworker directly how to access these funds. Please do not purchase any of these activities/items first because we will not be able to reimburse.

All purchases must be made by the caseworker.

** Youth in Care who are specialized are not eligible for Yes Funds*

Some examples of items that can be purchased using YES funds include:

- Camp expenses (when not covered by the DCFS Day Care Eligibility and Reimbursement Program)
- Lessons in recreation or artistic endeavors (i.e., music lessons, dancing lessons, athletic instructions)
- Music instrument purchase or rental
- Membership fees and equipment for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, YMCA, YWCA, etc.
- School supplies
- Gym shoes and equipment
- Graduating expenses
- Local School trips (no overnight stay)
- Tutoring
- Summer school fees
- Travel unrelated to placement (will require approval as extraordinary travel)
- Medical expenses not covered by the YouthCare Program



THE BABY FOLD'S FOSTER CARE

ADOPTION SUPPORT & PRESERVATION

Are you a parent with an adopted child under 18 in your home in need of intensive in-home therapy? The Baby Fold "Keeping The Promise" Adoption Support and Preservation program provides supportive services for any adoptive child living within our service area to help them stabilize in their home. Services are provided to families formed through DCFS adoption, subsidized guardianship; private domestic or foreign adoption, or out-of-state adoption. You do not need to have gone through The Baby Fold for your adoption – these services are available to any adoptive family living within the 22 county service area.

For more information contact the Referral Coordinator at (309) 557-1149.



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:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/17kGBfFaA>



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



CPR TRAINING

Join us for CPR & First Aid training at The Baby Fold. This session meets foster care licensing requirements and covers adult, child, and infant CPR, as well as first aid. Cost is free of charge!

Date: Saturday, June 6th | 9:00–12:00 PM

Location: The Baby Fold
1500 Fort Jesse
Normal, IL 61761



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
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