

# **FOSTER PARENT SHOUT OUT!**

Shannon Steidinger has been a dedicated foster parent for six years. In that time, she has opened her home to 13 children, ranging from infants to adolescents, with placements lasting from just a few days to adoption planning. No matter how long a child is in her care, Shannon consistently advocates for their needs and ensures their voices are heard. She maintains open, effective communication with casework and licensing staff, keeping everyone informed of any circumstances that may impact the children in her home.

Shannon has a unique ability to build a cohesive, nurturing family environment while also attending to the individual needs of each child. She is quick to respond when emergency placements arise, always weighing the impact on the children already in her care. Balancing the many responsibilities of fostering, Shannon does it all with a positive attitude and a smile.

Her caseworker shared this praise: "Shannon goes above and beyond to provide children with love and stability, and I've had the privilege of witnessing firsthand how her parenting has positively shaped each of their lives. Words will never fully capture the gratitude we have for her—we simply can't thank her enough!"

Thank you, Shannon, for your unwavering commitment to children and families. The Baby Fold team is deeply grateful for all that you do!

## <u>Implementation Plan Signature Page</u> <u>Due on October 31st</u>

We have completed our 2026 Foster Parent Law Implementation Plan, which has been mailed to you, along with The Baby Fold's Foster Parent Law Grievance Process and a DCFS Office of the Inspector General brochure. We must send verification to DCFS that we have provided our plan and these documents to you, so we are asking that you sign the signature page and send it back to us. Please sign the form in each of the three sections, list your position as foster parent, and include the date for each of your three signatures. Please use the enclosed prepaid self-addressed envelope to send the signature page back. You may also email it to stanner@TheBabyFold.org or fax to (309) 451-9388. If you prefer, you can also give your signature page to your caseworker or your licensing worker. We need to have your signed signature page by Friday, October 31, 2025. Your cooperation in this process is greatly appreciated!

## The Baby Fold's Trunk or Treat October 24th

This is a community event, so invite your friends! There will be games, lots of candy, and more. We look forward to celebrating the spooky season with you!

- **October 24, 2025**
- (1) 4:30 PM 7:00 PM
- 1500 Fort Jesse Suite A Normal, IL 61761
- **(**309) 557-1049

## 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, details below:

- 🗂 October 25-26, 2025- all day event both days
- ? 2910 E. Lincoln St., Bloomington, IL 61704 Efree Church 2910 E Lincoln St Bloomington, 61704
- (309) 663-6534

### **Individual and Group - Hair Care Training**

Do you have questions about how to care for your foster child's hair? Unfamiliar hair types can be challenging, and we want to help! We offer individual or group training on ethnic hair and skin care. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would benefit from this training!



# 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

## <u>Do you have friends interested in fostering?</u> Invite them to these events:

### The Baby Fold's Cups and Care-Vogel Coffee

- 🗂 Saturday, October 18
- **(1)** 8:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 1280 W Cleveland St, Suite D, Heyworth, IL 61745
- **\( (309) 612-7867**

Join us for Coffee and connection. Explore the powerful impact of becoming a foster parent. Please share with your friends and community members who may be interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent. This isn't just an info session—it's a chance to build a stronger, more supportive foster care community. So grab a friend and come sip with us. Your invitation could be the start of someone's foster care journey. Thanks for all you do for The Baby Fold! We appreciate you all!

### **ABC's of Foster Parenting**

We will be beginning an online series of virtual meetings that will outline the ins and outs of foster care. Do you have friends or know anyone that would be interested in becoming a foster parent? Send them the link to these meetings, and we will be available to answer any question you may have about the program. The next

Meeting is November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 12pm to 1pm and 6pm to 7pm. Link:

https://tinyurl.com/2y95ba6h Meeting ID: 253 293 577 156 1 Passcode: F5jB2dk6

#### **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.

We value your opinion!

Please complete this Annual Survey at your earliest convenience.

Your feedback helps us improve.

Please scan the QR code to complete the survey.





**SCAN HERE!** 

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 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 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 & 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 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