

2026

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



Welcome

Maurai Wells-Watters

My name is Maurai, and I'm excited to begin my role as a Family Development Specialist at The Baby Fold! I'm originally from Chicago, Illinois, but I spent most of my life in Las Vegas, Nevada. In 2021, I moved back to Illinois to begin my undergraduate studies in Social Work at Illinois State University. After four valuable years, I graduated in May 2025 with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work. Since graduating, I have worked closely with children and families, supporting them through many different transitions in their lives. Helping children and families has always been a passion of mine, and I am committed to making a positive impact in the lives of those I serve. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue that passion in my new role as a Family Development Specialist. I look forward to getting out into the community, building connections, and supporting the families we serve here at The Baby Fold.



www.TheBabyFold.org



309.452.1770



1500 Fort Jesse, Normal



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, September 21, 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: 214 696 979 071 472
Passcode: rT96di6A

**SCAN
ME!**



We truly hope you'll take part in this important conversation. Your voice matters, and we look forward to learning from you!



THE BABY FOLD'S

FOSTER CARE

CAMP TAKE-A-BREAK

Located on Lake Bloomington at the East Bay Camp Facility, this Therapeutic Camp offers children a fun experience while giving parents a weekend break.

- Children attend camp from 7:00pm Friday evening to 12:30pm Sunday afternoon.
- Staff Members are highly trained and have extensive experience working with children with a range of needs, including emotional and Behavioral Problems.
- Activities include: Hiking, year-round swimming, crafts, games, sports, movies, and community outings.
- Meals and snacks provided (accommodations can be made for dietary restrictions)

Eligible Kids

- Children must be enrolled in a qualifying TBF program
- Children must be 6 to 14 years old
- Children must have the physical and mental ability to participate in 80% of the camp activities.
- No phones, video games, or tablets allowed

Camp Dates Fall 2026

September 11-13, 2026

September 25-27, 2026

October 9-11, 2026

October 23-25, 2026

November 6-8, 2026

November 20-22, 2026

December 4-6, 2026



*** Please reach out to your caseworker for more information about registration!**



THE BABY FOLD'S

FOSTER CARE

YOUTH ENRICHMENT & SUPPORT (“YES”) FUNDS

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 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

FOSTER PARENT RIGHT #12 AND RESPONSIBILITIES #12 & #13



Foster Parents' Rights:

#12. The right to be notified in a timely and complete manner of all court hearings, including notice of the date and time of the court hearing, the name of the judge or hearing officer hearing the case, the location of court proceeding and the court docket number of the case; and the right to intervene in court proceedings or to seek mandamus under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

Foster Parents' Responsibilities:

#12. The responsibility to know and, as necessary, fulfill the foster parent's responsibility to serve as a mandated reporter of suspected child abuse or neglect under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act; and the responsibility to know the child welfare agency's policy regarding allegations that foster parents have committed child abuse or neglect and applicable administrative rules and procedures governing investigations of such allegations.

#13. The responsibility to know and receive training regarding the purpose of administrative case reviews, client service plans and court processes, as well as any filing or time requirements associated with these proceedings; and the responsibility to actively participate in the foster parent's designated role in these proceedings.

**DON'T
FORGET!**



**REFER A
FRIEND**



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.

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