



# March 2025



## FOSTER PARENT SHOUT OUT!



Darren Spiker is a relative foster parent with the Baby Fold since the placement of his foster son in his home in May of 2024. Darren takes care of his three sons and works a full-time job as a Team Leader at Rivian. Darren spends all his time with his sons when he is not working. Darren enjoys spending time outside doing different activities with his son such as swimming and fishing. Darren also enjoys playing the guitar and listening to music, playing video games with his sons, and taking his sons to do different activities outside of the home. Darren and his sons really enjoyed attending the Baby Fold Festival of Trees in 2024! Many who know Darren remarked how he is always putting his children first. Darren's caseworker gave him praise by remarking how Darren remains flexible and resilient despite all the last-minute changes, and stated Darren is amazing when it comes to supporting his foster son. Darren has created a welcoming, positive, and fun home environment for his children to thrive in. Darren's caseworker remarked how Darren makes their job feel easy. Those that work with Darren are always excited about his home visits to learn about updates he has about the lives of his foster son and his siblings in the home. Darren's caseworker lastly stated, "Being a single parent can't be easy, but Darren makes it look seamless!!!" Thanks for all you do Darren! It takes a village, and we thank you for being part of ours!

### Don't forget about our Referral Incentive Program!

If you refer a family for licensure that successfully becomes licensed, 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.

### Foster Parent Rights and Responsibilities #12

Foster Parents have 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 also have 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.

# Vaccination Clinic for Dogs & Cats!

Wish Bone Canine Rescue is thrilled to partner with McLean County Animal Control, Kruger Animal Hospital, and Paradise Pet Hotel & Day Spa to off vaccination clinic for low-income residents of McLean County! Services Offered: Free Vaccinations, Microchips(\$5), & additional services for Dogs and Cats.

**Date:** Saturday, April 19th, 2025

**Location:** 407 Olympia Drive | Bloomington, IL 61704

**Time:** 1pm to 4pm

## Important Details:

Cash Only Event- Please come prepared!

Registration Fee is required for rabies vaccination with McLean County Animal Control.

Register your pet(s) at:

<https://fs16.formsite.com/WishBoneCanineRescue/qvlgehOrut/index>

## Upcoming Trainings & Support Groups

### TBRI TRAINING & SUPPORT GROUP

Trust-Based Relational Intervention is a trauma informed program that focuses on meeting relational and developmental needs of children, while supporting caregivers in building healthy attachments and effective interventions. Join our 12-week virtual training designed for caregivers and professionals working with children from hard places. Learn trauma-informed strategies to help children heal, grow, and thrive.

### 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.

### 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:

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