“we never give up on a child”
Mom finds answers in unexpected places

Trevor has a history of frustration and anger that triggers bouts of aggression at home and at school. He came to live at The Baby Fold for a season, but his mother, Amanda, is determined to have her son return home one day. Amanda is bright and educated and very teachable; so she has taken every opportunity to learn from Katie — one of our family caseworkers at the Center — about the best parenting strategies available. During their time together, Amanda realized that her permissive style of parenting was not working. She needed to learn how to set boundaries and stick to them — without letting Trevor intimidate her into giving in. This insight has opened the door to new ways of thinking — about herself and her son.

In one recent therapy session with Amanda, Katie reported that this mom has come to another important realization: she needs God to help her see this through. She asked for prayer and Katie now begins and ends each session with prayer — asking God to bless, protect and guide this family.

Amanda says she can now feel the comfort of God as she faces parents with appropriate boundaries. It’s not always easy — but she knows they will both be healthier in body, soul and spirit because of their faith in God and what they’ve learned at The Baby Fold!

From the President & CEO

Faith… Family… Community… These words have always been an important part of The Baby Fold’s history and service. Yet today these words have even greater meaning after the past year. Approximately half of The Baby Fold’s services to children and families through foster care, residential treatment, mental health therapy, and adoption preservation services are dependent on funding directly from the State of Illinois. Another significant part of our services (through Hammitt School) is dependent on funding from public school districts — which is also indirectly impacted by funding from the State of Illinois.

Throughout 2015 and into this year too, we have faced an unprecedented funding crisis for these services due to the inability of our Governor and elected legislators to agree on a State budget. The lack of a final State budget has created tremendous uncertainty about what kind of services we can continue to provide — not to mention uncertainty about when State payments will actually be received.

But thanks to the support and prayers of friends like YOU, our mission of serving children and families in the greatest need has stood firm. Our faith was severely tested when we had to scale back the number of children we could serve because of this lack of State funding… our hearts were broken as we watched many other child-serving agencies across the state close their doors. But churches and donor friends like YOU came alongside us and kept The Baby Fold moving forward. There have been so many times cashflow was getting tight and friends would call to say they had a check to send… or funds would just show up in the mail … or someone from the community would call saying they wanted to coordinate a fundraiser. Through your generosity, God has blessed us this past year — THANK YOU!

There are many changes and uncertainties still ahead. As if our State funding crisis wasn’t enough, we are also seeing changes in how best to serve children and families. Every day, the field of social work and education is learning more about the significant role family stability plays in the healthy growth and future opportunity for children and youth. We are understanding more and more about the true impact trauma has on the growth and development of children, and how the trauma of chronic poverty or abuse and neglect can impact these children far into their adult years, severely limiting their opportunity for success in the future. Ironically, even the very solution of removing children from an unsafe home environment produces its own type of "trauma." So those of us in the helping profession are looking for new ways to deliver solutions before a child ever has to experience the trauma of abuse and neglect. Faith… Family… and Community will intersect in new and greater ways for the future. And friends like YOU will be the ones making it happen. Thank YOU again for sustaining the hundreds of children and families served by The Baby Fold during this unprecedented time of financial instability for Illinois. And thank you for helping our journey continue into 2016!

We are beyond grateful for your partnership,

Dianne Schultz

Mom finds answers in unexpected places

This prestigious award recognized Best Practices at EAGLE accredited agencies and this year, The Baby Fold’s Adoption Preservation Program — Keeping the Promise — received this national honor. Over the past 5 years, we’ve grown to a staff of 20 serving 164 children! The EAGLE Commission noted our home-based model for adoption preservation, the level of expertise of our therapy staff and our leadership in training other people throughout the statewide adoption network! Thank you for making this award possible!

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Amanda says she can now feel the comfort of God as she parents with appropriate boundaries. It’s not always easy — but she knows they will both be healthier in body, soul and spirit because of their faith in God and what they’ve learned at The Baby Fold!

“Trevor has a history of frustration and anger that triggers bouts of aggression at home and at school. He came to live at The Baby Fold for a season, but his mother, Amanda, is determined to have her son return home one day. Amanda is bright and educated and very teachable; so she has taken every opportunity to learn from Katie — one of our family caseworkers at the Center — about the best parenting strategies available. During their time together, Amanda realized that her permissive style of parenting was not working. She needed to learn how to set boundaries and stick to them — without letting Trevor intimidate her into giving in. This insight has opened the door to new ways of thinking — about herself and her son."

— Leslie Munger, Illinois Comptroller

Our faith in God and prayer has always been what undergirds our work here at The Baby Fold. That’s why for the last 15 years, every school year begins with Hammitt School teachers, CEO Dianne Schultz, and other Baby Fold staff gathered around the flagpole to pray for God’s blessing on all our children and families!
Without you — our dedicated community of friends and supporters — The Baby Fold’s mission to love and care for all kids special needs children would be impossible. Thank you for not giving up on these beautiful children!

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce W. Yount
Ms. Lois K. Sampson
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Olson
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Glorious
St. John's Lutheran Church Foundation
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Sam Leman, Inc.
Normal Rotary Club
National Christian Foundation of
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Mackinaw U.M.C.
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Sara's Fitness by Design
Sam Leman, Inc.
Normal Rotary Club
First State Bank of Bloomington
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Every summer, The Baby Fold Camp at East Bay Camp is offered to our children as a week of fun — a time when our kids get to move out of their comfort zones to learn new skills, take in the beauty of nature, and literally make a splash with fun activities!

Donations and fundraisers have always been critical for this outing since the cost of camp, transportation and staff is far more than our children's families could ever afford. And now, with the uncertainty of State funding these donations and fundraisers are even more important!

Thanks to amazing friends like YOU — and 28 terrific United Methodist Church high school campers (see below) — over $25,000 was raised last year to help 67 Baby Fold kids have the BEST WEEK of their lives. Thank you — they really did have a ball!

The students at Hammitt Elementary School could hardly wait to meet the man with the fire gear — especially when they heard he is a former Hammitt student! He came to career day with a great message.

"I was exactly in the same spot as you guys are. My behavior was out the roof, but thanks to Hammitt it's gotten me to where I am today. "He wasn't exaggerating about his behavior, as many of the staff recalled. He was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, a part of the Autism Spectrum. He had a hard time with social interactions and was bullied and teased in public school. He became aggressive and learned quickly that getting angry worked — in the short term. He would be sent to the principal's office — which got him out of difficult situations, but it was not a good plan for a successful life. At Hammitt he learned how to deal with his emotions without getting angry and how to make and keep good friends.

When asked what skills are important in his work, he easily listed his top 10.

★ be honest
★ own up to your mistakes
★ persevere
★ have integrity
★ build trust
★ be reliable

"As a fire fighter you are going into someone's worst day ever so the stress level goes up high and there is a lot of drama — and I know you guys know all about drama," he told the kids who laughed at that remark, "But if I can do it, so can you!"
The Baby Fold had some really great supporters of the Healthy Start Program in this Life-Changing Moment online campaign. Be on the lookout for a similar campaign around Mother's Day!

The children in the Residential Treatment Center were the befits of one on one instruction from the Illinois Wesleyan University Athletics football team! Thank you once again to Norm Eash for having our kids out to experience what it feels like to play on a real college football field!

A very special thank-you to the Cummins Crossett campaign for all their amazing and successful golf outing this year that raised $19,000! 
Thank you to everyone who gave a gift in honor or in memory of a loved one from January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015.

We greatly acknowledge the following friends of The Baby Fold who have offered gifts to honor someone special or to tribute loved ones who have passed on.

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### Resources

- **The Baby Fold Board of Directors are volunteers who lead the time, talent, and resources. Each Board member is committed to wholeheartedly w...**
Currently, the State of Illinois’ budget impasse continues. More than ever, we are relying on the support of friends like YOU to ensure that the families and children we serve can survive and thrive into 2016.

This is an informal summary of our financial results for the year ending 6/30/2015. Copies of the audit report conducted by independent auditors are available on our website, thebabyfold.org.

PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED REPLY to help right now!

If you'd like to give online, please visit: TheBabyFold.org/give

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