

The Baby Fold  
108 E. Willow Street  
Normal, IL 61761  
Phone (309) 451-7206  
publicrelations@thebabyfold.org



## Press Release

**The Baby Fold Achieves National Accreditation**  
**Normal, IL., January 14, 2021:**

The Baby Fold has achieved national accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA). The Baby Fold provides the following services: Adoption Support, Foster Care, Special Education, Autism programs, Early Childhood programs, Crisis Intervention, Vocational Education and more. It took The Baby Fold 12 months to achieve accreditation. Organizations pursue accreditation to demonstrate the implementation of best practice standards in the field of human services. COA evaluated all aspects of The Baby Fold's programs, services, management, and administration.

COA accreditation is an objective, independent, and reliable validation of an agency's performance. The COA accreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of an organization's administration, management, and service delivery functions against international standards of best practice. The standards driving accreditation ensure that services are well-coordinated, culturally competent, evidence-based, outcomes-oriented, and provided by a skilled and supported workforce. COA accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources, sets standardized best practice thresholds for service and administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement.

To achieve COA accreditation, The Baby Fold first provided written evidence of compliance with the COA standards. Thereafter, a group of specially trained volunteer Peer Reviewers confirmed adherence to these standards during a series of on-site interviews with trustees, staff and clients.

Based on their findings, COA's volunteer-based Accreditation Commission voted that The Baby Fold had successfully met the criteria for accreditation.

An endorsement of COA and the value of its accreditation process is reflected in it being named by the US State Department as the sole national independent accrediting body under the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption to accredit intercountry adoption service providers. In addition, COA is the only national accreditor designated by the U.S. Department of Defense to develop accreditation standards and processes for human service programs provided to military personnel and their families.

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent, not-for-profit accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and social service organizations in the United States and Canada. Over 2,000 organizations — voluntary, public, and proprietary; local and statewide; large and small — have either successfully achieved COA accreditation or are currently engaged in the process. Presently, COA has a total of 47 service standards that are applicable to over 125 different types of programs. To learn more about COA, please visit [www.coanet.org](http://www.coanet.org).

The Baby Fold offers services to 28 counties in central Illinois. The Baby Fold has been providing services to children and families since 1902.