

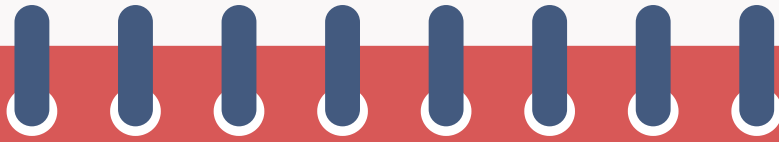


The Baby Fold

1500 Ft. Jesse Road
Wing A
Normal, IL, 60761

SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SINCE 1902

AUGUST 2024 **NEWSLETTER**



AUGUST 2024

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

INSIDE THE ISSUE

- 02- AGENCY EVENTS,
04 ANNOUNCEMENTS,**
- 05 FOSTER PARENT SHOUT OUT**
- 06 REMINDERS**
- 07- LOCAL EVENTS-
08 BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL**
- 09- FOSTER PARENTS RIGHTS
10 & RESPONSIBILITIES**
- 11- ATTACHMENTS
15**

AGENCY EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRAINING WITH OUR NURSE: KIM SEWELL

Our Foster Care Nurse, Kim Sewell, will be providing trainings in September and October. **Please be on the lookout for additional details regarding these trainings.**

Medication Management Training

- Date To Be Announced Soon (Will be held in September).

CPR/First Aid in person @ our office

- Date To Be Announced Soon (Will be held in October).

Note: Effective 9/1/24, CPR/First Aid training is required to be in person.

SCHOOL-YEAR PREPERATION:

If you are in need of school supplies, please contact your caseworker.

AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

Vaccines reduce your child's risk of infection by working with their body's natural defenses to help them safely develop immunity to disease.

Please [Click Here](#) to visit the Illinois Department of Public Health website to learn more about required vaccinations.



SAVE THE DATE: CAR SEAT CHECK - SEPTEMBER 18

Come ensure your child's car seat is properly and safely installed! From 3pm to 6pm by appointment. Register Now: Schedule your appointment by calling The Baby Fold at 309-557-1049.

AGENCY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

FOSTERING STRONG

The foster care staff is excited about our core training program, Foster Strong! Twice each month (except November due to the Holiday schedule) we are offering a virtual, trauma-informed training topic that may help guide you in your foster parenting efforts. Please reach out to any foster care staff members if you have questions. RSVP is preferred but not necessary. Here is a list of the upcoming dates:

Transitions & Routines Training Dates & Details:

- **September 17th** 12:00pm-1:00pm ; Meeting Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87148333124?pwd=s5qL4W47sf4EXKiu8Oa8hWN0u7kYgH.1>

Meeting ID: 871 4833 3124

Passcode: 932768

- **September 24th** 6:00pm-7:00pm ; Meeting Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85943609217?pwd=4PkuxO2gzxnLNuXhiQctH24HSaNXfm.1>

Meeting ID: 859 4360 9217

Passcode: 114742

Foster Parent Grief and Loss Training Dates & Details:

- **October 15th** 12:00pm-1:00pm ; Meeting Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87944416287?pwd=JGSbUC4f4GEsENUYAxkgWqaCCwffex.1>

Meeting ID: 879 4441 6287

Passcode: 763305

- **October 22nd** 6:00pm-7:00pm ; Meeting Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84385800494?pwd=bDHO1bZREHAEzSK4I6pC6f5U4KKciY.1>

Meeting ID: 843 8580 0494

Passcode: 551329

Foster Children Grief and Loss Training Dates & Details::

- **November 19th** 12:00pm-1:00pm ; Meeting Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82007695390?pwd=CMBaJyzOhHu8tfFqmHU5T3gXRI1AnC.1>

Meeting ID: 820 0769 5390

Passcode: 256183

- **December 3rd** 6:00pm-7:00pm ; Meeting Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82787140491?pwd=fKWe6sH8rZEA172tX482VpDkNBKkow.1>

Meeting ID: 827 8714 0491

Passcode: 640470

AGENCY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 26TH & SEPTEMBER 18TH

Join us at the at the **Foster Parent Implementation Meeting August 26th & September 18th from 12pm-1:30pm; Lunch will be provided.** Join in person at 1500 Fort Jesse Rd. or join on Zoom:

- **August 26th** 12:00pm-1:00pm ; Meeting Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89726339432pwd=TUhAshUpRbKI4kMuVT5dQa8aSw39Va.1>

Meeting ID: 897 2633 9432

Passcode: 785648

- **September 18th** 12:00pm-1:00pm ; Meeting Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89828462655pwd=zeJjkaj5MNfF1O6wNqIXz1fDRgx7uG.1>

Meeting ID: 898 2846 2655

Passcode: 059135

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. Check out the flyer on page 13, and email Melissa at MLEGENDRE@thebabyfold.org for more information.

SIDE BY SIDE MINISTRIES

This ministry exists to engage the church and local community in consistent loving support of families involved in foster care by providing access to physical, relational, and spiritual resources. Please take a look at the flyer on page 15 for more information about this resource.

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. Check out the flyer on page 14, and Ken Summers at Ksummers@thebabyfold.org for more information

Please reach out to your licensing worker to RSVP:

Amy Howe:

ahowe@thebabyfold.org

(309)-557-1037

Brittany Tweedt:

btweedt@thebabyfold.org

(309)-557-1108

Cindy Musick:

cmusick@thebabyfold.org

(309)-557-1004

FOSTER PARENT SHOUT OUT!



The Baby Fold Foster Care Team would like to recognize Kristine and Jeromy Thomas for their commitment to children in care.

*Kristine and Jeromy have been relative substitute caregivers with The Baby Fold since May, 2023. At that time, they took placement of their grandson. Kristen and Jeromy developed strong partnerships with the foster care team during the time they provided substitute care. They maintained prompt and consistent communication. They assisted with supervising visitation between their grandson and his father, which allowed them to maintain their relationship. Kristine took the initiative to seek out counseling services on her own to make sure their grandson had extra support. They also connected their grandson to various recreational activities to allow him to pursue his interests. Their grandson has since returned home to his mother and they continue to maintain contact and offer support to him. Thank you Kristine and Jeromy-
We appreciate you!!*

REMINDERS

Please do not forget to submit the following documents, updates, verifications, or certifications to your licensing worker:

- CPR/First Aid
- Auto Insurance
- Pet Records
- Quarterly Evacuation Practices

Also, Please see the attached flyer regarding pool safety* (Page 9)

RESPIRE REMINDER

We appreciate when families identify their own respite resources, and to help make that possible, the licensing team wants you to be aware of some steps that need to be taken first, if paid respite is needed.

- You must inform your youth in care's caseworker prior to utilizing any licensed foster family for respite.
- Licensing staff need to ensure the licensed respite provider has appropriate capacity to accommodate the children they will be caring for.
- If you have identified a respite resource who is licensed through another agency, The Baby Fold needs to be aware that this home is being used.
- If you offer to do respite for a family licensed by another agency, The Baby Fold needs to be informed.
- If you have any further questions, please talk to your licensing worker or caseworker or refer to the Foster Parent manual.
- Remember it is important to let your caseworker know your plans for childcare.



LOCAL EVENTS

To learn more about local events, go to visitbn.org/events/

Bluey's Big Play: The Stage Show

Thursday, August 29, 2024 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Where: Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts

600 N East St, Bloomington, IL, 61701

Fans of all ages will get to see Bluey, Bingo, Bandit, and Chilli as they've never seen them before, as the Heelers embark on their very first live theater show in the U.S. featuring puppetry, live actors, and iconic sets. Based on an original new story written by Bluey creator Joe Brumm, Bluey's Big Play The Stage Show also contains new music by Bluey composer, Joff Bush.

"After seeing the amazing reaction the show received during its Australia run, we are delighted to bring this standout live theater show to U.S. audiences," said director Rosemary Myers of Windmill Theatre Co. "We know how much love there is out there for Bluey and are thrilled and honored to translate these brilliant characters into the three-dimensional world and to share this special experience with fans throughout America."

Bluey's Big Play The Stage Show is presented by BBC Studios and Andrew Kay in association with Windmill Theatre Co. The stage show enjoyed much success in the home market of Australia, where it premiered in Bluey's hometown Brisbane and went on to perform 447 times across 65 venues, including the Sydney Opera House.

Theatre for Young Audiences: Campfire Macbeth

Date: August 1st and 3rd

Time: 9:00am-10:00am

Cost: \$5-10 per ticket; free for children under 5

By Nancy Steele Brokaw

Directed by Lori Adams

Illinois Shakespeare Festival's 40-minute TYA show is perfect for the whole family. Everyone is welcome, and admission is free!

TYA performances are free of charge and do not require tickets or registration. If you plan on bringing a group of 20 or more, please email at shake@IllinoisState.edu so front-of-house staff can best anticipate your arrival. A reminder that separate parties will be socially distanced from both one another and the performers.

August First Friday

August 2nd, 5:00 pm- 8:00pm - Downtown Bloomington

Join your favorite shops, galleries, and restaurants in #downtown for another fun-filled First Friday! Stop downtown from 5-8 pm for a night of shopping, dining, and unwinding in Downtown!

Reminder: If you are ever in need of help on a holiday or weekend, please call us on our

On-Call Phone:

**Foster Care #:
309-530-1737**

LOCAL EVENTS CONTINUED...

Sweet Corn Circus

When: August 24th 10:00am to 5:00pm & August 25th 11:00am to 4:00pm

Where: Uptown Normal 11 Uptown Circle, Normal, IL, 61761

Cost: Free

Free, all-ages festival in Uptown Normal, celebrating the area's circus and agricultural roots—and corn. Featuring live performances and demonstrations, vendors and delicious Illinois sweet corn!

Cruisin' Uptown Normal

When: August 10th 4:00pm to 8:00pm

Where: Uptown Normal 11 Uptown Circle, Normal, IL, 61761

Cost: Free

Experience hundreds of classic and contemporary cars on display throughout Uptown Normal! Live music, FREE admission and fun for the whole family. Organized and coordinated by Mid State Cruisers with support from the Town of Normal.

Family Fun Night

When: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Where: DESTIHL Brewery 1200 Greenbriar Drive, Normal, IL, 61761

Cost: Free

Experience an unforgettable evening on the brewery lawn with an enchanting night of FUN for the entire family! Best of all, this event is absolutely FREE to attend!

ACTIVITIES:

1. Sassy & Classy Designs – Create-Your-Own Trucker Hat Bar
2. Hooked on Fishing – Our passion is helping children, senior citizens, and special needs groups to appreciate the joys of fishing
3. Expressions Body Art & Design – Face painting, glitter tattoos & hair tinsel
4. Normal Fire Department – will have a firetruck for kids to touch, explore & pretend to drive
5. Normal Police Department – will have a police car, 2 officers and their K-9 dog, Olive
6. Joe the Art Guy – Caricature Drawing
7. Linked by Lindsay – permanent jewelry for all ages
8. DESTIHL – Deadhead Shed with kid-friendly food & drink features and a cotton candy station

MAIN STAGE PERFORMANCE: Julie K Music – Beat the heat and join us for a jam session with Julie K and her sweet mix of melodies!

2024 PRIDEFEST

When: Saturday, August 3, 2024

Where: The Bistro - 316 N Main St, Bloomington, IL, 61701

Come celebrate 30+ years of Pride with the Bistro in Downtown Bloomington with Pridefest 2024! Festivities begin at 4 PM on Saturday, August 3. The 300 block of North Main Street, right between Jefferson and Monroe, will be filled with vendors, artists, music, drag performances, food, and more!

FOSTER PARENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Right 5: The right to be provided a clear, written understanding of a placement agency's plan concerning the placement of a child in their home. Inherent in this policy is the responsibility to support activities that will promote the child's right to relationships with his or her own family and cultural heritage.

The foster home placement agreement expresses the role and responsibilities of the agency and the foster parent related to the child being placed in the foster home. The foster home placement agreement specifically states that the foster parent needs to treat the parents courteously and refrain from criticizing them in the child's presence. The placement agreement also states that the foster parent will plan with the direct service staff before making religious commitments for the child such as baptism, confirmation, church attendance, church membership, and religious holiday celebrations. By signing the foster home placement agreement, the foster parent agrees to support the permanency goals for the child and to attend all court hearings and other staffings related to planning for the child.

Foster parents receive written notification of and are encouraged to attend all administrative case reviews. A copy of the child's portion of the service plan is given to the foster parent. As needed, tasks are added for the foster parent as they relate specifically to the child in their care.

The child's client service plan will note the permanency goal set for the child and the planned achievement date for that goal. The case worker will ensure that the foster parent understands the permanency goal that has been selected and the timeframe for the planned achievement date.

Foster parents are involved in the ongoing development, implementation, and evaluation of service plan goals, for the child in their care. Involvement is encouraged during case management visits, child and family team meetings, and ACR's. Service plan coordination includes identification of the child's needs in the areas of education, medical care, development of social skills, emotional development, and the development of independent living skills. Foster parents are included in discussions regarding the child's adjustment to their placement, and participate in the completion of the child's summary portion of the client service plan.

Foster parents are consulted in establishing the visitation plan, as to the days of the week and times that are most convenient for the foster parents and child's schedules. Other means of parent/child and sibling contact, such as phone calls and letters are discussed and included in the visitation plan. Foster parents are provided with a copy of the Sibling Contact Information Form CFS 318. Foster parents are encouraged to host sibling visits and are reimbursed for hosting and supervising sibling visits.

When unplanned changes occur in the case plan or the permanency goal, verbal notification will be provided to the foster parent within one business day.

Foster parents are notified in writing fourteen days prior to a child being moved from their home. Foster parents are required to provide the agency with a fourteen days written notice when they wish to have a child moved from their home.

The Baby Fold uses the monthly foster parent newsletter to provide information about cultural events in the community and to encourage foster families to participate in the events._

FOSTER PARENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES CONTINUED

Responsibility 5: The responsibility to recognize their own individual and familial strengths and limitations when deciding whether to accept a child into care; and the responsibility to recognize the foster parent's own support needs and utilize appropriate supports in providing care for foster children.

The agency and foster family engage in a mutual assessment process at the time of licensing and through continued monitoring visits which includes an assessment of family strengths and limitations and the types of children whose needs can be met by the foster family. Foster Parents complete a Foster Parent Preference Checklist that allows them to state demographic preferences and give placement preference information based on their personal strengths, limitations, and desires. At the time of the six months monitoring visit with the licensing worker, the foster parent may make changes to their Preference Checklist. Through completion of successful placements, the strengths, capabilities, and talents of the foster family are noted. These factors are taken into consideration when the agency considers foster families for possible placements. The agency utilizes the Child/Caregiver Matching Tool to ensure that the needs of each child will be met in the proposed foster placement. Agency staff urge foster parents to consider their strengths and limitations when the agency presents them with the referral of a child.

Through the use of the Child/Caregiver Matching Tool, the areas in which the foster parent may need additional assistance are identified. Once a child is placed the agency works with the foster family and includes them as a member of the professional child welfare team to help identify the supports and resources needed to meet the needs of the child. Child welfare specialists make referrals for needed services for foster children on their caseloads.

The Baby Fold partners with The Forgotten Initiative, and foster parents are encouraged to use the offerings of encouragement, support, and services provided by this group.

Training needs are examined throughout the time that a family is licensed with the agency, both relating to the needs of an individual child as well as training that applies to foster parenting in general. The foster parent's training logs are reviewed with them at each monitoring visit. Training that is pertinent to the foster parent's needs is discussed and training options are noted.

FOSTERING STRONG

INDIVIDUAL TOPICS WILL BE OFFERED ON THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 12PM-1PM, AND THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 6PM-7PM.

September: Transitions and Routines

Participants will gain understanding that transitions, both daily and life, are more difficult and complex for children who have experienced trauma. Participants will learn about the importance of establishing routines and rituals and strategies to better support children moving through these various transitions.
Classes on September 17, 12-1pm and September 24, 6-7pm

October: Foster Parent's Grief and Loss

Participants will learn about the ways foster parents experience grief and loss and will better understand the grieving process. Participants will also gain an understanding of ambiguous loss, disenfranchised grief and various coping strategies to assist in moving through grief and loss.
Classes on October 15, 12-1pm and October 22, 6-7pm

November: Children's Grief and Loss

Participants will learn about the impact of separation and ambiguous loss on foster children, the different ways these children grieve, strategies to help children deal with grief and loss and the importance of providing opportunities for grieving and managing transitions for children.

Classes on November 19, 12-1pm and December 3, 6-7pm



QUESTIONS? CONTACT OUR LICENSING TEAM!

CINDY MUSICK: (309) 557-1004 | AMY HOWE: (309) 557-1037 | BRITTANY TWEEDT: (309) 557-1121



Upcoming Virtual Trainings/Meetings

Contact your therapist or Ken Summers at Ksummers@thebabyfold.org for more information about....

Parent Support Groups:

- Wednesday Noon group:** Provides education and support related to parenting, trauma, and self-care within the context of adoption and foster care. Meets 2x a month.
- 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 2x a month.

Coming soon!:

- While we are currently in the middle of our daytime summer **Virtual TBRI Series**, we are beginning to plan for another evening series in the fall!

TBRI Tip of the Month

“For our kiddos who often teeter on the edge of balanced neurochemistry, dehydration can greatly impact their ability to regulate.”

-Amanda Purvis

Nutrition and Hydration play a key factor in children’s ability to regulate. Here are some tips to help make sure your child is eating and drinking enough:

- Take a special trip to the store to buy healthy snacks that are then accessible to your child when they are needed.
- Build snack times into the day- these times could also serve as transitions from one activity to the next, and/or connecting time.
- Allow your child to have their own water bottle or cup (bonus if they get to pick it out themselves).
- Add flavor to their water to make it more appealing, such as edible essential oils or slices of fruit.
- Help them set a goal and keep track of their water intake.
- Always lead by example- it’s important for adults to eat enough and drink enough water, too!

Additional resources on nutrition and hydration:

(Click the article titles to explore)

- [Starting Small: Nutrition and Hydration \(information above is from this helpful article!\)](#)
- [How Much Water You Need to Drink](#)
- [Healthy Hydration Water Tracking Chart](#)

Stay tuned for some exciting new changes to this newsletter!



THE BABY FOLD'S
**VIRTUAL PARENT
SUPPORT GROUP**

1nd AND 3rd WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
12:00-1:00 PM

SUPPORT AND EDUCATION FOR FAMILIES FORMED
THROUGH ADOPTION AND GUARDIANSHIP

EMAIL MELISSA AT MLEGENDRE@THEBABYFOLD.ORG FOR
MORE INFORMATION & LINK TO MEETINGS

“You cannot lead a child to a place of healing
if you do not know the way yourself.”
– Dr. Karyn Purvis

Dads Sharpen Dads

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

The Baby Fold

Dad’s Support Group

1st & 3rd Monday evenings

7:15 pm–8:15 pm

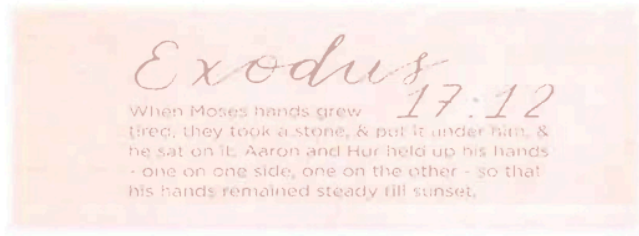
Email Ken Summers at ksummers@thebabyfold.org

to sign up!

“ If we can communicate to our children,
It’s you and me against your history,

We have a strong place to begin.”

Dr. Karyn Purvis



Side by Side Ministries exists to engage the church and local community in consistent, loving support of families involved in foster care by providing access to physical, relational, and spiritual resources.

TEAMS

Foster Community Resource Team:

All foster parents and support members share educational, spiritual resources/encouragement, and also respite care needs through the Groupme app.

The Nourish Team:

Support members uplift foster parents by giving a meal, gift cards, notes, etc.

The Go! Team:

Support members provide support through donations or sharing materials with foster families who receive a new placement by using a checklist. This is on an as-needed basis.

Example...clothes, diapers, formula, strollers, gift cards, etc.

Nurture Nights

Hosting gatherings three times a year for foster care and adoptive parents with the intent to provide community, connection, and educational training.

We are thankful for your willingness to be involved in foster care ministry and would like to learn more about your needs and your family.

Please email us at sidebyside1712@gmail.com so we can better assist you!

Daton & Kathy Kupferschmid and Ryan & Hope Stoller