



May 2025



FOSTER PARENT SHOUT OUT!



Dear Foster Parents,

As we celebrate Foster Parent Appreciation Month, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for the unwavering love, patience, and dedication you show every single day.

Opening your hearts and homes to children in need is no small act—it is a powerful testament to compassion and resilience. You provide not only shelter and safety, but also hope, healing, love, and a sense of belonging to youth who may be experiencing the most difficult times of their lives. Your commitment to nurturing and supporting children through their journeys is profoundly inspiring and immeasurable.

Please know that your efforts do not go unnoticed. You are making a difference—one child, one moment, one day at a time. Thank you for being a vital part of our Baby Fold village! We appreciate and value each and every one of you.

Happy Foster Parent Appreciation Month!

With heartfelt appreciation,

Stephanie Tanner, MA, MS.Ed.

Family Development & Program Support Supervisor

Don't forget about our Referral Incentive Program!

If you refer a family for licensure that successfully becomes licensed, with a child placed in the home, 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.

Watch your emails for an invite to The Baby Fold's Foster Care private Facebook group!

This will be another place to learn about special announcements, training opportunities, reminders, etc. The group is completely private from the public and is only accessible to TBF Foster Parents and Staff who are invited and accepted to join!

Foster Parent Rights and Responsibilities #14

Foster Parents have The right to have timely access to the child placement agency's existing appeals process and the right to be free from acts of harassment and retaliation by any other party when exercising the right to appeal. Foster Parents also have the responsibility to know the child welfare agency's appeal procedure for foster parents and the rights of foster parents under the procedure.

Implementation Plan Meeting: June 26th

Please join us at the Foster Parent Implementation Meeting! We will be discussing the Foster Parent Rights and Responsibilities 9-12. You have the option to join in person or to join online, details below:

Join In Person: **Date:** Thursday, June 26th, 2025

Location: 1500 Fort Jesse Rd. | Normal, IL 61761

Time: 10:00am

Or Join Online: **Meeting ID:** 238 695 999 208 1 || **Passcode:** N5VH9qh7

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzZkM2ExZTltMDUyMi00Nzg5LTg4ODMtNDFLYTNjZGQwYjVi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ccbb78bb-6712-4bf6-9695-964ac030dd2c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221fb2471e-3215-42db-ba57-c9ad1d248880%22%7d

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 7-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.

Key Takeaways from the Training:

- Introduction to TBRI: Empowering, Connecting, Correcting Principles
- Understand the link between trauma history and development
- Learn to interpret and respond to behaviours to strengthen attachment
- Discover strategies for creating felt safety and addressing behavior factors
- Explore secure attachment and building deep emotional connections.
- Develop practical tools to balance structure, nurture, and correct behaviors.

Training Details: June 2-July 21 Every Monday 9am-12pm, 7 weeks, 3 weeks each section. Please note there will be no class on June 30. TO REGISTER- Please Contact Adam Kinzer- Email: akinzer@thebabyfold.org

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. For more information, send an email to: sidebyside1712@gmail.com

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 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 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:

Cindy Musick
cmusick@thebabyfold.org
(309)-557-1004

Brittany Tweedt
btweedt@thebabyfold.org
(309)-557-1108

Amy Howe
ahowe@thebabyfold.org
(309)-557-1037

Upcoming training offered by BE Strong Families. Dates and registration are listed with each training topic and date:

Online Grandparent Institute Day: Guiding Hands, Loving Hearts

When: Saturday, May 10, 2025 @ 10:00 am – 3:30 pm CT

Register Here: <https://bestrongfamilies.co/May10Grandparents>

Calling all Illinois grandparents who are IDCFS-involved foster parents—this May 2025 Online Grandparents Institute Day is just for you! Join us on Saturday, May 10, 2025 for two uplifting, interactive online events (Trauma-Informed Parenting: Using Lifebooks and a Foster Parent Café) designed to support, celebrate, and empower grandparents navigating foster care. You'll gain essential resources, peer support, and caregiving insights—all in one welcoming space. Join us for this online experience and let your guiding hands and loving heart be seen, supported, and celebrated. Participants will also receive a \$10 e-gift card (sent via email 7 to 14 business days after the event).

Online Foster Parent Café: Home is Where the Mom Is -Protective Factors: Resilience and Communication

When: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 @ 6:00 - 8:00 pm CT

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/4aVHNwK>

Some relationships create a sense of home that stays with us forever. In this heartfelt Foster Parent Café, we'll reflect on someone we looked up to in childhood and how their presence shaped us. Then, we'll share how we show up for our own families—through the chaos, the calm, and everything in between. Join us for real stories, meaningful insights, and lasting connection.

Online Foster Parent Café: Connecting with My Community -Protective Factors: Social Connections & Concrete Support

When: Saturday, May 17, 2025 @ 9:00 - 11:00 am CT

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/42766F9>

Parenting is stronger when we're connected. Join us for a thoughtful Foster Parent Café that give us the opportunity to reflect on the community assets that have supported your parenthood, the ways you've contributed to helping your community grow, and how those connections have made a difference. After attending this Café, you'll leave feeling inspired, supported, and more connected than ever to the power of community.

Online Foster Parent Café: Birds of a Feather—Finding Your Flock -Protective Factors: Social Connections & Concrete Support

When: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 @ 6:00 - 8:00 pm CT

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/4aVHNwK>

Who's in your flock, and how do they shape your parenting journey? Join us for a dynamic Foster Parent Café where we'll explore how the people around us reflect who we are, influence how we parent, and either reinforce or challenge our values. This is a space to share, connect, and reflect on how to build a flock that truly supports you and your family.

Online Foster Parent Vitality Café: Invest in Yourself -Vitality Domains: Financial & Mental/Emotional

When: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 @ 6:00 - 8:00 pm CT

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/4aVHNwK>

Taking care of yourself is one of the most valuable investments you can make. Join us for a powerful, conversation-based Foster Parent Vitality Café where we'll reflect on how investing in your growth can support your financial and mental/emotional vitality. Share the ways you've poured into yourself, explore how those choices have strengthened your financial well-being, and consider how your self-investment can positively impact your family.