

2026

AUGUST NEWSLETTER



REMEMBERING CINDY MUSICK

For more than two decades, Cindy faithfully served The Baby Fold and the children and families we serve. She began her career in Adoption Preservation in 2003 before moving to Foster Care Licensing, where she became a trusted resource for foster families, community partners, and coworkers alike. Even after retiring in 2020, Cindy returned to The Baby Fold because she cared deeply about The Baby Fold's mission and wanted to continue making a difference.

Cindy was a passionate advocate for youth and a trusted source of support for countless foster parents, caregivers, and families. Whether offering guidance, encouragement, or simply a listening ear, Cindy had a remarkable ability to make others feel seen, valued, and cared for. Those who worked with Cindy knew her as someone who was thoughtful, dependable, and always willing to help. She will be remembered for her radiant smile, infectious laugh, humor, and genuine warmth. She brought joy into every room, celebrated the successes of others, and approached every challenge with empathy and compassion.

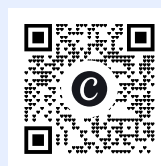
Cindy's impact reaches far beyond the work she accomplished. She touched the lives of coworkers, foster parents, children, and families in ways that will never be forgotten. Her legacy of compassion, generosity, and unwavering dedication to others will continue to live on in the many people she inspired.

Cindy will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and forever remain a cherished part of The Baby Fold family.



Please join us for **Cindy's Memorial Retirement Party** on Thursday, **August 27th** from **4-6pm** at 612 Oglesby Ave, Normal IL 61761.

RSVP by 8.20.26 at <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/ZBUuyUTIFa>



www.TheBabyFold.org



309.452.1770



1500 Fort Jesse, Normal



THE BABY FOLD'S

FOSTER CARE



BACK-TO-SCHOOL HEALTH REMINDERS

With school just around the corner, we wanted to provide a few health reminders!

- ✓ School shots
- ✓ Well-child check/sports physical
- ✓ Dental exam
- ✓ Vision exam



BACK 2 SCHOOL ALLIANCE EVENT: FREE BACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES

This event is for eligible Unit 5 and District 87 students entering grades PK-8 who qualify for free/reduced lunch AND have completed all registration requirements for school.

-  Date: Thursday, **August 13, 2026**
-  Time: **10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**
-  Location: State Farm Corporate South: 3 State Farm Plaza, Bloomington-EAST parking deck

- Students must attend with an adult or guardian to receive supplies.
- Eligible students will receive an email with a form in early August to confirm attendance at the event.





THE BABY FOLD'S

FOSTER CARE

CAMP TAKE-A-BREAK

Located on Lake Bloomington at the East Bay Camp Facility, this Therapeutic Camp offers children a fun experience while giving parents a weekend break.

- Children attend camp from 7:00pm Friday evening to 12:30pm Sunday afternoon.
- Staff Members are highly trained and have extensive experience working with children with a range of needs, including emotional and Behavioral Problems.
- Activities include: Hiking, year-round swimming, crafts, games, sports, movies, and community outings.
- Meals and snacks provided (accommodations can be made for dietary restrictions)

Eligible Kids

- Children must be enrolled in a qualifying TBF program
- Children must be 6 to 14 years old
- Children must have the physical and mental ability to participate in 80% of the camp activities.
- No phones, video games, or tablets allowed

Camp Dates Fall 2026

August 28-30, 2026

September 11-13, 2026

September 25-27, 2026

October 9-11, 2026

October 23-25, 2026

November 6-8, 2026

November 20-22, 2026

December 4-6, 2026



Please reach out to your caseworker for more information about registration!

YOUTHCARE: SCHOOL UNIFORMS

- **Youth in care** in grades 1 through 5 can receive **three** free school uniforms each year.
- Members must complete a health risk screening and annual well-child visit, have up-to-date vaccinations, and complete a BMI measurement.
- Each uniform includes one polo shirt, one pair of pants, and a sweater
 - *Reach out to your caseworker or YouthCare coordinator for more information!*





THE BABY FOLD'S

FOSTER CARE

YOUTH ENRICHMENT & SUPPORT (“YES”) FUNDS

The purpose of “YES” funds is to enhance access to enrichment activities, and other goods and services for the support and stabilization of youth in DCFS care.

- Please talk to your caseworker directly how to access these funds.
- Please do not purchase any of these activities/items first because we will not be able to reimburse.
- **All purchases must be made by the caseworker.**

 *Youth in Care who are specialized are not eligible for Yes Funds*

Some examples of items that can purchased using YES funds include:

- Camp expenses (when not covered by the DCFS Day Care Eligibility and Reimbursement Program)
- Lessons in recreation or artistic endeavors (i.e., music lessons, dancing lessons, athletic instructions)
- Music instrument purchase or rental
- Membership fees and equipment for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, YMCA, YWCA, etc.
- School supplies
- Gym shoes and equipment
- Graduating expenses
- Local School trips (no overnight stay)
- Tutoring
- Summer school fees
- Travel unrelated to placement (will require approval as extraordinary travel)
- Medical expenses not covered by the YouthCare Program





THE BABY FOLD'S

FOSTER CARE

FOSTER PARENT RIGHT #10 & #11 AND RESPONSIBILITIES #11



Foster Parents' Rights:

#10. The right to be provided, in a timely and consistent manner, with any information a Child Welfare Specialist has regarding the child and the child's family which is pertinent to the care and needs of the child and to the making of a permanency plan for the child. Disclosure of information concerning a child's family shall be limited to that information which is essential for understanding the needs of and providing care to the child in order to protect the rights of the child's family. When a positive relationship exists between the foster parents and the child's family, the child's family may consent to disclosure of additional information.

#11. The right to be given reasonable written notice of (i) any change in a child's case plan, (ii) plans to terminate the placement of the child with the foster parents, and (iii) the reasons for the change or termination in placement. The notice shall be waived only in cases of a court order or when the child is determined to be at imminent risk of harm.

Foster Parents' Responsibilities:

#11. The responsibility to know the roles, rights and responsibilities of foster parents, other professionals in the child welfare system, the child and the child's own family.



REFERRAL PROGRAM

Don't forget—if you refer a family who becomes fully licensed and has a child placed in their home, you'll receive a \$150 reward! The referred family must identify you as the referral within the **first three days** of beginning the licensing process. If you have any questions, please contact your licensing worker.



TRAININGS & SUPPORT



PLEASE JOIN THE BABY FOLD'S FOSTER CARE FACEBOOK PAGE

A private group created exclusively for our foster parents to stay updated on upcoming events and trainings. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. Join using the link below or by scanning the QR code:



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 on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 7:15pm. For more info, email Ken 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 on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the 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 and 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.

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

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