

# 2026 MAY NEWSLETTER



## SHOUT OUT TO ALL FOSTER PARENTS!

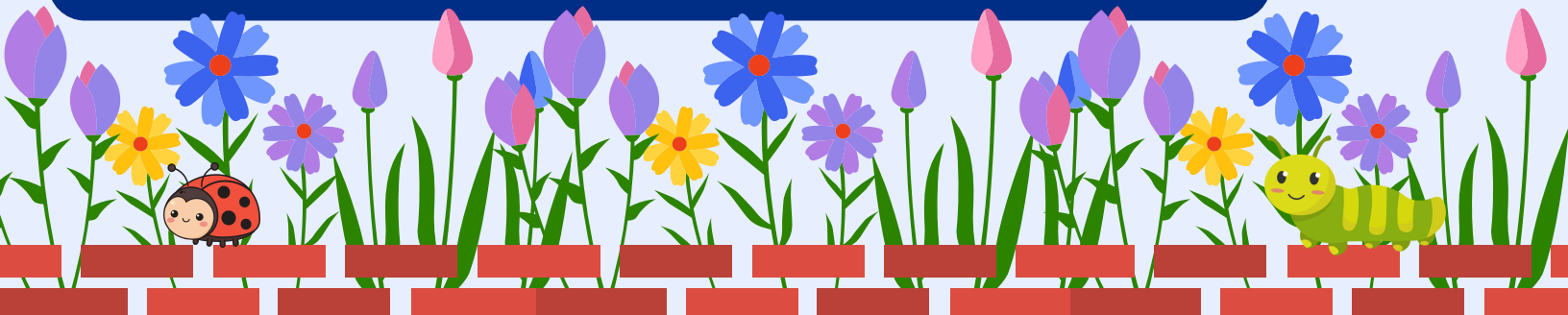
Dear The Baby Fold Foster Parents,

During National Foster Care Month, we want to take a moment to thank you for the incredible difference you make in the lives of children and families. Your willingness to open your hearts and homes provides more than just care, it offers safety, stability, and hope during times of uncertainty and trauma.

Foster parenting comes with both challenges and rewards, and your dedication does not go unnoticed. Because of you, children are given the opportunity to heal, grow, and look toward a brighter future.

Thank you for the vital role you play and for the lasting impact you have on so many lives!

With sincere appreciation,  
Stephanie Tanner, MA, MS.Ed.  
Family Development & Program Support Supervisor





THE BABY FOLD'S

# FOSTER CARE



## FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION EVENT



We're excited to celebrate and honor our incredible foster parents! Please join us for an evening of appreciation, fun, food, prizes, connection, and gratitude. Dinner will be provided!

Date: **Thursday, May 7, 2026**

Time: **5:00 – 7:30 PM**

Location: 612 Oglesby

Normal, IL 61761

**SAVE THE DATE**

## CERTIFICATION THANKS!

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our relative caregivers who have participated in the certification process. Your commitment to becoming certified reflects the deep care and dedication you have for the children in your lives.

We recognize that the certification process requires time, patience, and flexibility. Your willingness to complete the paperwork, assessment, and home requirements demonstrates your strong advocacy for providing safe, stable, and supportive environments for children and youth. Thank you from all of us at The Baby Fold!

**Thank  
you!**





## YOUTH ENRICHMENT & SUPPORT (“YES”) FUNDS

*yes!*

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 be 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

## ROYAL FAMILY KIDS CAMP

We wanted to share an opportunity for the children in your care to attend Royal Family KIDS Camp, a week-long overnight camp designed specifically for children involved in the local foster care system. This camp provides a supportive environment where kids can take a break from everyday challenges and simply enjoy being children.

Campers will participate in a variety of fun and engaging activities throughout the week, including a birthday party for all campers, a Hawaiian-themed pool party, a Princess Tea Party, a water gun fight with s'mores, as well as more adventurous options like ziplining and a rock-climbing wall.

There is no cost for foster children to attend, as the camp is fully funded through donations from individuals and local businesses.

If you have a child who may be interested in attending, please complete the registration form using the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/260725266494161>



## FOSTER PARENT RIGHT #6 AND RESPONSIBILITIES #6 & #7

### Foster Parents' Rights:

#6. 1. The right to be provided a fair, timely, and impartial investigation of complaints concerning the foster parent's licensure, to be provided the opportunity to have a person of the foster parent's choosing present during the investigation, and to be provided due process during the investigation; the right to be provided the opportunity to request and receive mediation or an administrative review of decisions that affect licensing parameters, or both mediation and an administrative review; and the right to have decisions concerning a licensing corrective action plan specifically explained and tied to the licensing standards violated.

### Foster Parents' Responsibilities:

#6. 1. The responsibility to be aware of the benefits of relying on and affiliating with other foster parents and foster parent associations in improving the quality of care and service to children and families.

#7. The responsibility to assess the foster parent's ongoing individual training needs and take action to meet those needs.





# THE BABY FOLD'S FOSTER CARE

## ADOPTION SUPPORT & PRESERVATION

Are you a parent with an adopted child under 18 in your home in need of intensive in-home therapy? The Baby Fold "Keeping The Promise" Adoption Support and Preservation program provides supportive services for any adoptive child living within our service area to help them stabilize in their home. Services are provided to families formed through DCFS adoption, subsidized guardianship; private domestic or foreign adoption, or out-of-state adoption. You do not need to have gone through The Baby Fold for your adoption – these services are available to any adoptive family living within the 22 county service area.

For more information contact the Referral Coordinator at (309) 557-1149.



## 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:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/17kGBfFaA>



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.



THE BABY FOLD'S

# FOSTER CARE

## FOSTER PARENT LAW IMPLEMENTATION PLAN MEETING

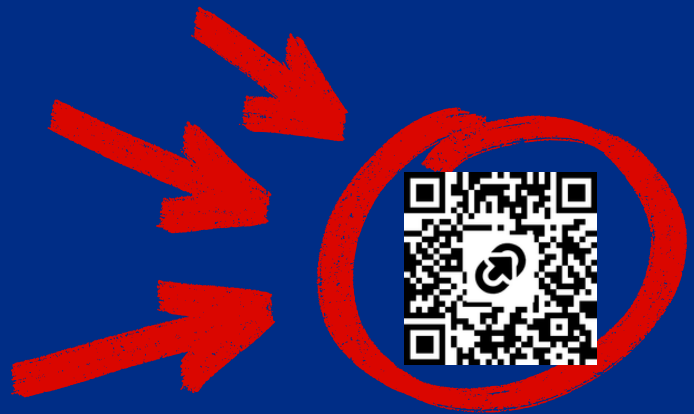
Foster parents play an essential role in providing input into The Baby Fold's Foster Parent Law Implementation Plan, and we would be honored to have your input as we review and discuss The Baby Fold's 2027 Implementation Plan. Your feedback and perspective are incredibly valuable, and your participation helps ensure our services truly meet the needs of the children and families we serve.

Please join us for a hybrid meeting on Monday, **August 3, 2026**, from 1:30pm–3:00pm. You're welcome to attend either in person or online.

 In-Person Location:  
1500 Ft. Jesse Rd  
Normal, IL 61761

 Join Microsoft Teams Meeting:  
<https://tinyurl.com/23wxfsu4>

Meeting ID: 240 042 167 610 588  
Passcode: sG3kB2qJ



We truly hope you'll take part in this important conversation. Your voice matters, and we look forward to learning from you!

**Prior to the meeting, please provide feedback even if you cannot attend:** <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/1uhyTLpCrZ>



# TRAININGS & SUPPORT



## CPR TRAINING

Join us for CPR & First Aid training at The Baby Fold. This session meets foster care licensing requirements and covers adult, child, and infant CPR, as well as first aid. Cost is free of charge!

Date: Saturday, June 6th | 9:00–12:00 PM

Location: The Baby Fold  
1500 Fort Jesse  
Normal, IL 61761



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 7:15pm. For more info, email Ken at [KSummers@thebabyfold.org](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Email Melissa at [MLegendre@thebabyfold.org](mailto: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](mailto:sidebyside1712@gmail.com).

### Cindy Musick

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