

The Baby Fold *Impact Report*



2022



A Message From **President and CEO Clete Winkelmann**

I am pleased to present this report highlighting our accomplishments over the past year — a year of growth, learning, and remarkable progress at The Baby Fold. As I've immersed myself in the incredible work our staff do to support children and families, I've been continually inspired by the dedication and compassion that define our organization.

Our staff are the heartbeat of The Baby Fold, embodying our mission every day and making a profound impact on the lives of those we serve. Their unwavering commitment is evident in the positive outcomes we achieve. Our recent accreditation visits from the Council on Accreditation (COA) and UMA-EAGLE serve as a testament to this dedication. During the COA visit, we were evaluated on 564 standards, achieving the highest rating on 84% and the second-highest on 14%, with zero deficiencies — leading to expedited accreditation. EAGLE, which evaluates our faith-based initiatives, also recognized our excellence, awarding us nine commendations with zero deficiencies. These achievements reflect the extraordinary effort and preparation of our staff, who spent over 18 months preparing for this three-day event.

This year, we also completed a comprehensive organizational restructuring aimed at enhancing oversight, support, and community awareness of our services. By establishing four distinct service areas — Academic Services (Hammitt Schools and Community Schools), Intervention Services (Foster Care and Intact Family Services), Early Childhood Services (Healthy Start and Caregiver Connections), and Post Adoption Services (Adoption Support and Preservation, Respite Care, and Adoption Record Search and Support) — we've created a more cohesive and efficient structure that strengthens our ability to serve our community effectively.

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the opportunity to be part of such an exceptional organization. Returning “home” has allowed me to renew long-standing relationships and engage with the community in innovative and meaningful ways, opening doors to new opportunities and partnerships.

Thank you for your unwavering support. I look forward to building on our successes and continuing the vital work of The Baby Fold together.

Sincerely,



The Baby Fold

The Baby Fold's Mission

The Baby Fold builds positive futures with children and families while reflecting the Christian principles of love, hope, and healing.

Our Vision

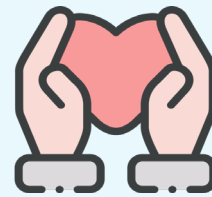
Transforming children's lives through strong family and community partnerships.



Values of The Baby Fold



Integrity



Stewardship



Diversity and Inclusion



Teamwork



Excellence



Respect



Adoption

Support and Preservation

The Baby Fold's Adoption Support and Preservation program is dedicated to assisting families with adopted children under the age of 18. In times of family challenges, we provide comprehensive in-home support, consultation, resources, respite, and professional therapy—at no expense to the families involved. Our unwavering commitment is to help stabilize children and families, ensuring that parents can remain committed to their children.

97%

of families remained united

76%

of families had improved functioning

Read Hilary Pacha's story, a mother who adopted four children from The Baby Fold!



Respite Care

Through structured activities and therapeutic interventions, adopted children and families are provided renewal and recovery through Camp Take-A-Break. This year-round camp offers a low camper-to-staff ratio while fostering resilience, promoting positive relational skills, and enhancing feelings of safety and belonging in their new family.

67

families

82

youth

2,245

hours of respite

97%

of families highly recommend the program to others.

88%

of families reported that respite greatly improved their ability to maintain their child in the home.

New in 2024:

New
Sensory
Spaces



Additional
Outdoor
Activities



Return to
Overnight
Camp Model

Foster Care

Traditional, Specialized, Home of Relative

The Baby Fold's foster care programs provide safe, nurturing home environments for children. The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) refers families to The Baby Fold at a time of crisis. Our mission is to offer a caring and stable place for these children until family reunification or another permanent living arrangement can be made.

Services Include:

Finding & Training Foster Families | Therapy | Teacher Visits | CPR/First Aid Training | Medical/Psychiatric Service Coordination | Medication Management | After Care Services

100%

Satisfaction rate from foster children receiving therapy

100%

of children had improved functioning at discharge

The Baby Fold exceeded the state benchmark for finding permanent homes for children in Traditional and Home of Relative foster care.

27

Foster children served in therapy and supportive services

80

Foster children received after care services

199

Foster Children Served

160

Foster families

82

Licensed Homes

Real Stories. Real Change.

"My caseworker and her supervisor were very understanding and worked with me during all of this. **Helped me a lot.**"





Hammitt on Willow

Special Education Programs

The Baby Fold's Hammitt Schools serve students from over 20 school districts throughout Central Illinois. Hammitt on Willow serves children when their severe emotional, behavioral, and developmental needs exceed what their public schools can provide.

98%

of children remained
in their current
program level

97%

of children improved
their social-emotional
wellbeing

4

Students graduated
from the program

66

Students served

20

New Students

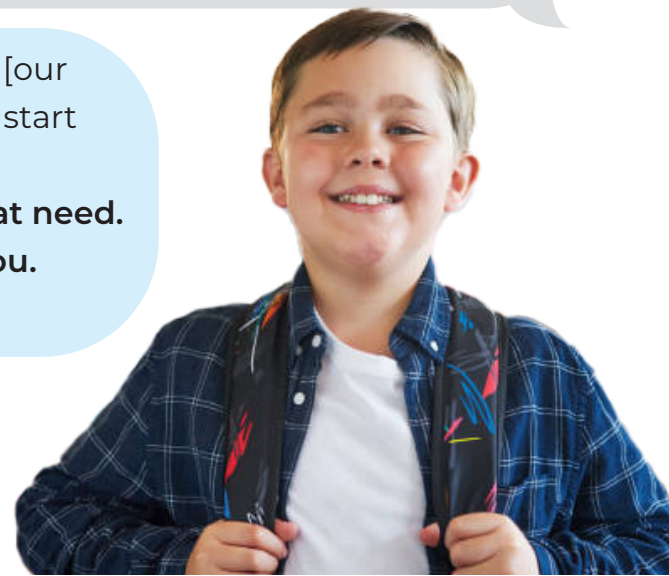
12

Students discharged

Real Stories. Real Change.

"We truly cannot thank you and the whole team at Hammitt enough for being there for [student] and getting us to where we are today. It takes a special kind of person to do your job and I'm sure there are many days where you question if you're making a difference, and I can tell you, you absolutely are." - *Hammitt on Willow Parent*

"It is because of your hard work and sincere care for [our student] that he was able to feel safe and loved and start the emotional growth that he continues at [his new school]. **You were there for us during a time of great need. I don't know what we would have done without you.** Thank you so much!" - *Hammitt on Willow Parent*



**Data collected for the 2023-2024 school year.*

Hammitt on Oglesby Special Education Programs

The Baby Fold's Hammitt Schools serve students from over 20 school districts throughout Central Illinois. Hammitt on Oglesby serves students when their severe emotional, behavioral, and developmental needs exceed what their public schools can provide.

78

Students Served

50 in Traditional Program

28 in STRIVE/Connections

18 New Students

Real Stories. Real Change.

"During the many years Hammitt, my student had close relationships with his teachers. **Neither one of us would have made it without the support we both received!**"

"Calming techniques helped my child, and they are able to apply them in their new placement."

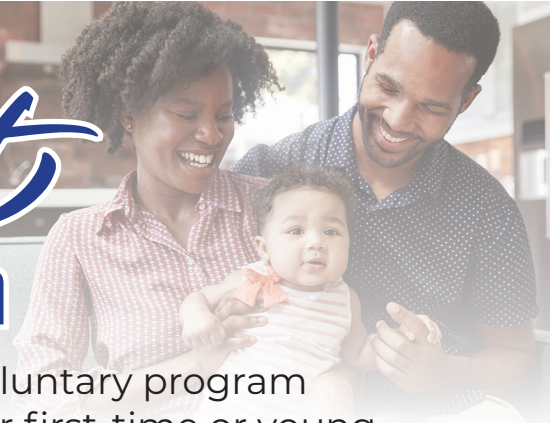
"My student turned into a social child with a sense of humor!"

"The Coffee Shop [job simulation] helped gain skills and led to a job in the community we live in!"



Healthy Start

Early Intervention Program



The Baby Fold's Healthy Start program is a free, voluntary program designed to build safe and loving environments for first-time or young families in McLean and Champaign counties.

A Support Worker meets in the home bi-weekly throughout pregnancy and weekly during the first nine months of the baby's life. We identify family strengths and needs, establish goals, and link families to community resources. Parents can participate in home visiting services until their child turns five years old.

139

Families Served

100%

Every child in need of early intervention services was on track or receiving support upon leaving the program

49

Family Engagement Events Held

100%

of children safely remained in their homes

911

Event Participants

92%

of Healthy Start clients are low to moderate income

Doula Program

15

Expectant parents received care

6

Babies were born

1

Maternal Health Specialist added

60

Parents screened for post-natal depression



Community Schools

Partnership with Unit 5

Community Schools is a strategy and framework that transforms a school into a place where educators, local community members, families, and students work together to strengthen conditions for student learning and healthy development and eliminate barriers to academic achievement. As partners, they organize in- and out-of-school resources, supports, and opportunities so students and their families thrive.

The Baby Fold's community School Coordinators are embedded within Cedar Ridge Elementary School and Fairview Elementary School with a focus on four primary pillars:

Expanding & Enriching Learning

811 students served in enrichment tutoring and small groups

- After school tutoring
- After school STEM lessons
- Small groups to discuss relationships, self-confidence & coping strategies

Family & Community Engagement

4,081 event attendees

- 12 family engagement events
- Connecting students, families, school staff, and community partners

Supporting Students

ALL **1,112** referral requests filled - 100%!

Conducting family needs assessments

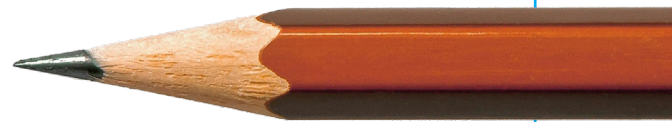
Helping families with:

- Homelessness
- Food and clothing
- Utility disconnection
- Transportation challenges
- Mental & physical health needs
- School supplies
- Classroom assistance
- Sensory needs

Collaborative Leadership

95% of families reported increased confidence, competence, and connectedness

- Community School Coordinator participation in School Committee and community advocacy
- Survey families to identify successes and gaps.



Caregiver Connections

Serving 19 counties, The Baby Fold's Caregiver Connections Program provides free consultation, training, and support services to providers in daycares, preschools, and home care settings. Our staff identify children whose behavior or social-emotional wellbeing may be in need of further attention and trains caregivers on teaching strategies and supports.

The Baby Fold also offers training and professional development opportunities to childcare providers at their request on a variety of topics related to development and mental health in young children.

160

Sites Served

223

Hours of child development and mental health training provided

2,560

Face-to-face contacts made with children and providers

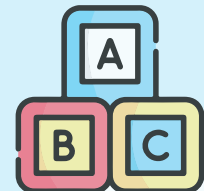
Trainings Provided:



Addressing Challenging Behavior



Trauma Informed Care



Child Development



Culture and Diversity



Importance of Healthy Relationships



Attachment Theory

“When a child presents as challenging, the provider often says they are ‘failing’ the child/family. We are there to support them and teach the childcare provider how to connect with the child and family to make everyone feel successful.” - *Caregiver Connections Supervisor*

Training Programs

Training, Consulting, Certification

The Baby Fold offers in-service training for teachers in area school districts, and professional staff who work with children in the community.

Trainings are designed to equip caregivers and providers to cultivate therapeutic relationships, mitigate trauma, refine intervention techniques, and comprehend the intricacies of developmental frameworks for the optimal support of individuals and communities.

In-person and online training services are provided by Baby Fold experts and guest trainers.



Trainings That Drive Transformation:

- Trauma-Informed Care
- Vicarious Trauma
- Crisis De-Escalation
- Collaborative Problem Solving
- The ARC Model
- Attachment Parenting Styles
- Trust Based Relational Intervention
- Trauma Informed Schools and Workplaces

Agencies Empowered through Our training in 2024:

- McLean County Behavioral Health Forum
- Illini Prairie Conference Schools
- Bloomington-Normal Human Resource Council
- Grove Elementary School
- Celebrate Recovery
- Caritas Family Solutions
- Licensed Foster Care Parents

Interested in training opportunities? Scan the QR code or contact Keith Brotheridge, Training Coordinator, at (309) 557-1148 or kbrotheridge@thebabyfold.org.



Intact Family Services

Intact Family Services is a short-term in-home community-based intervention program (6-9 months) that works with families who have come to the attention of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and have been indicated by DCFS for child abuse and/or neglect.

The program is designed to assure the safety and well-being of children by assisting families in addressing the issues that gave rise to the indicated report with the goal of maintaining the children safely in the home. The Baby Fold helps families assess their strengths and needs, set goals, identify resources, learn new skills, and change behaviors that put their children at risk.



Families Receiving Care in Intact Family Services: **66**



"I liked my caseworker. She was good at communication, making everything okay. I really needed a person like her." -Intact Family Member

Join Our Mission



Since 1902, The Baby Fold has led child welfare efforts to heal children and families and develop stronger, more vibrant communities through our expansive, proactive, and trauma-informed programs and services.

For over 120 years, The Baby Fold has been entrusted with generous gifts of all varieties to improve the lives of children. You can make a difference today with your financial support.

Join us and change the life of a child.

SCAN TO SUPPORT



THE BABY FOLD

- Stocks/Securities
- Farmland/Property
- Donor-Advised Funds
- Estate Gifts
- IRA Charitable Rollover
- Cryptocurrency
- Employer Gift Match

"Thank you all! I am just so grateful for all that you do for these kids, your services are so needed and the job so difficult and your impact is so great!"

"Love you all! If it wasn't for you guys, [my son] wouldn't be where he is today."

"My son is on the autism spectrum. Baby Fold has been a huge blessing in our lives. We can never repay the debt we owe your organization."

For information or help with a special gift, contact Sam Guillory at sguillory@thebabyfold.org or (309) 451-7202.

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www.thebabyfold.org
EIN: 37-0673453

Gold
Transparency
2024

Candid.

Charity
Navigator



+ FOUR-STAR +

