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The Baby Fold Names New CEO

The Baby Fold's Board of Directors has selected Clete Winkelmann to follow Dianne Schultz as the agency's next CEO. He is scheduled to begin on June 5.

Winkelmann is currently the Executive Director of Nexus-PATH Family Healing. As Executive Director, he leads strategy, programming, and daily operations of Nexus-PATH, overseeing the range of foster care and community-based mental health programs for youth and families.

The Baby Fold Board Chair Rob Parent said, "After a thorough search process, the Board of Directors is pleased to select Clete Winkelmann as President & CEO. Clete has an extensive track record of strong leadership, collaboration, and innovation in the service of children and families."

Winkelmann has over 30 years of human services experience, ranging from foster care case management to leading community support and mental health organizations. His past CEO roles have also provided a great deal of experience with therapeutic day schools. In addition to Nexus, his other senior executive leadership roles in Illinois have included United Methodist Children's Home (Spero), Peoria Children's Home Association, and Aunt Martha's Health and Community Support Services.

While his most recent role at Nexus took him to North Dakota, Winkelmann is a long-time Illinois resident who is well-known and respected throughout the state. He is excited to return home to serve The Baby Fold.

"I am blessed to have been selected to lead such a highly respected quality organization doing important work healing children's lives and strengthening families," said Winkelmann. "I have a great deal of respect for the current CEO, Dianne Schultz, and am honored to succeed her and lead the organization and its mission into the future."

Schultz is retiring on June 7 after nearly 30 years at The Baby Fold. "I am thrilled to pass the torch to Clete Winkelmann," Schultz said. "I feel very comfortable retiring knowing that a person of Clete's caliber will be working with our talented executive leadership team to keep the agency moving forward."

The Baby Fold has been successfully wrapping services around children and families since 1902. The organization offers life-critical support such as foster care, special education, early childhood programming, and adoption support throughout Central Illinois. The Baby Fold cares for our youngest citizens so they can be blessed with loving homes, stable lives, and the futures they deserve.

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