

# 2♥26

# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



## FOSTER PARENT SHOUT OUT!

**Kathryne (Kat) Brown** has been a specialized foster parent since June of 2022. She decided to get licensed when a student in her classroom was getting ready to transition out of residential care and needed a placement. Kat stepped forward and went through the process, providing placement and continuity for the young man. He has been in her home for 4 years. Kat has provided the structure, routine, consistency, and encouragement that he needed to graduate from high school and start taking classes at the local community college. He has made significant progress in his willingness to communicate and in developing necessary life skills. Kat has also ensured that he is able to maintain a relationship with his grandfather. We appreciate Kat's willingness to step forward and continue to support and guide this young man as he works towards his independence.



## RELATIVE CAREGIVER CERTIFICATION ROLLOUT!

DCFS is actively in the process of rolling out the new Relative Caregiver Certification Process. This process is pertinent only to our **unlicensed relatives**. If you are an unlicensed relative, you can expect that your licensing worker and caseworker will be providing details about how to become certified. DCFS and The Baby Fold are encouraging all of our unlicensed relatives to become certified. Intentional changes have been made to make the process of certification as simple and streamlined as possible.





## **CPR/AED/FIRST AID TRAINING**

Gain an understanding of basic CPR and first-aid skills. Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), how to provide breaths with a barrier device, how to relieve an airway obstruction, and how to use an AED (automated external defibrillator). A CPR/AED/First Aid certification card will be emailed after successful completion of the hands-on first aid skills and manikin practice. Certification is valid for two years. Certification is approved by DCFS for day care providers. This class is not intended for healthcare professionals.

### Session Dates (choose one):

- Saturday, February 21, 2026 | 8:30–11:45 AM
- Saturday, April 18, 2026 | 8:30–11:45 AM

### Location:

Normal Readiness Center  
Illinois National Guard Building 1101/1102 – Classroom  
Normal, IL

### Cost:

\$65 (includes certification card and textbook)

💡 Grant funding may be available for up to 50% off the cost. To see if you qualify or for more information, contact Mary Jo Murphy at (309) 268-8824 or [maryjo.murphy@heartland.edu](mailto:maryjo.murphy@heartland.edu).



## **FOSTER PARENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES #2**



### Foster Parents' Rights:

#2. The right to be provided standardized pre-service training and appropriate ongoing training to meet mutually assessed needs and improve the foster parents' skills.

### Foster Parents' Responsibilities:

#2. The responsibility to respect the confidentiality of information concerning foster children and their families and act appropriately within applicable confidentiality laws and regulations.



## FLU SHOT REMINDER!

Friendly reminder, all Youth in Care are required to get an **annual flu shot for all children 6 months and older**. Now is the perfect time to make sure you and your family are protected by getting your annual flu shot.

Find your local clinic here: [vaccines.gov/find-vaccines](https://www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines).

Stay healthy and take good care this season!



**DON'T  
FORGET**

## 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>



## 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



## TBRI

Trust-Based Relational Intervention is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI uses Empowering Principles to address physical needs, Connecting Principles to meet attachment needs, and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors. Virtual training every Wednesday 9am-12pm January through February. For questions reach out to Ken Summers at [KSummers@thebabyfold.org](mailto:KSummers@thebabyfold.org). To register: <https://tinyurl.com/bddjhumr>

## 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).

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