

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **The Baby Fold Honors Foster Parents During National Foster Care Month and Foster Parent Appreciation Month**

**NORMAL, IL** — During National Foster Care Month and Foster Parent Appreciation Month this May, The Baby Fold is recognizing the remarkable foster families who provide hope, healing, and stability to children facing difficult circumstances.

At The Baby Fold, foster families play a critical role in providing secure and nurturing temporary homes for children during some of the most challenging times in their lives.

“When children come into foster care, they’re often coming from really hard situations,” said the Director of Intervention Services at The Baby Fold. “Foster families provide children with safety and stability while parents work toward reunification whenever possible. Having caring adults who are patient, supportive, and consistent can make a tremendous difference in a child’s healing and growth during that time.”

One teen placed with a Baby Fold foster family shared the profound impact foster care has had on their life:

*“It wasn’t easy entering the system, especially as a pre-teen with a rough past. My current foster mom, though, has been the mother figure I needed in my life. She accepted me for me and genuinely loves me. She has just been there for me through everything. She’s gone above and beyond for me, even taking in my siblings when she didn’t have to. She loved me unconditionally when she didn’t have to. Most importantly, she understood me. Because of her, I believe there is hope.”*

Across Illinois, about 16,000 children and youth are currently in DCFS care, highlighting the ongoing need for compassionate foster families.

The Baby Fold is currently serving 131 foster children.

“Foster parents change lives in ways they may never fully realize,” said Clete Winkelmann. “They provide children with safety, belonging, and the opportunity to believe in a brighter future. We are incredibly grateful for the families who answer this calling.”

Throughout May, The Baby Fold encourages the community to celebrate foster families and consider how they can support children in foster care — whether through fostering, donations, or advocacy.

To learn more about foster care opportunities through The Baby Fold, visit the [TheBabyFold.org](http://TheBabyFold.org) or contact the Foster Care team directly at (309) 557-1121 or [Fosterparentinquiries@thebabyfold.org](mailto:Fosterparentinquiries@thebabyfold.org).

**About The Baby Fold:** Since 1902, The Baby Fold has been providing life-critical services to children and families throughout Central Illinois. The Baby Fold's healing-centered programs include foster care, adoption support, special education, autism programs, early childhood initiatives, crisis intervention, and more. The Baby Fold cares for our youngest citizens so they can be blessed with the loving homes, stable lives, and the futures they deserve.

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