



IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Feb. 4, 2017

CONTACT:
Erin Engelke, APR
Chief External Relations Officer
eengelke@sunbeamfamilyservices.org
405.609.2311

Sunbeam Family Services Director of Foster Care among Top 10 Social Workers

OKLAHOMA CITY – Midge Woodard, Sunbeam Family Services Director of Foster Care Services, has been named by *Social Work Today* magazine as one of the ten finalists in its 10 Dedicated and Deserving Social Workers.

“Since the day I joined Sunbeam I have been impressed with Midge’s deep passion and willingness to do whatever it takes to help children, families and Sunbeam,” said Sunbeam Family Services CEO Jim Priest. “When I first heard about the request for nominations there was no doubt in my mind Midge was worthy of the honor and I’m glad the whole country knows what we have known for a long time, Midge is tops!”

Woodard came to Sunbeam in 2002 after serving as regional emergency foster care program director at Lutheran Social Services from 2001-2002 and as program manager for the Oklahoma State Department of Human Services from 1972-2001, where she managed the statewide foster care program, trained child welfare staff and developed curriculum for pre-service adoption and foster care training, as well as was one of the seven adoption specialists for DHS with emphasis on placing children with special needs, including siblings and older children.

Woodard says she loved social work from the beginning and a case that remains close to her heart is one where she found a young child living in a shed with her mother.

“I think of her often as she always wanted me to take her to the park when I would visit with her in her foster home,” Woodard said. “I have a deep passion for the work and have always wanted to be a voice for children who could not live with their own parents and were removed from their own home at no fault of their own.”

Woodard received her bachelor’s degree in psychology and sociology from Northeastern State University and her master’s degree in social work from the University of Oklahoma.

About Sunbeam Family Services

Founded in 1907, Sunbeam Family Services is one of Oklahoma’s longest serving nonprofits, providing people of all ages with help, hope and the opportunity to succeed through early childhood, counseling, foster care and senior services. To learn more, visit www.sunbeamfamilyservices.org or follow them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Foster Care is the oldest program offered at Sunbeam, serving children birth to 17 years old. Each child and foster family has access to Sunbeam’s counseling services and priority placement in the organizations early childhood programs.. Sunbeam has more than 90 years’ experience recruiting foster families and placing children who are victims of abuse and neglect in loving, supportive homes. In 2016, 77 children were placed with families.