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## Tickets on Sale for Sunbeam Family Services Shine A Light Gala

**OKLAHOMA CITY**— Tickets are now on sale for Sunbeam Family Services annual Shine A Light gala scheduled for Thursday April 13, at the Downtown Embassy Suites. All funds raised will directly support Sunbeam’s programs that help children, families and seniors.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and is designed with a family atmosphere while reflecting Sunbeam’s mission of supporting vulnerable individuals and families. Prior to the meal volunteers and children in Sunbeam programs will help with a balloon pull. Guests will have the opportunity to purchase a balloon representing a chance to win prizes that include gift cards to restaurants, hair and spa establishments, retail clothing and gift stores, and much more. There also will be a silent auction that will include luxury trips, day passes to the Riversport Adventure and other exciting, family packages. Guests will share a family-style meal during which they will be entertained by the Canterbury Youth Voices.

The gala is planned entirely by a volunteer committee with OKC Thunder’s Russell Westbrook serving as Honorary Event Chair. The evening’s program will focus on the impact and importance of Sunbeam’s early childhood services, which serves more than 500 children and 2,200 family members through 15 early child care programs in some of the poorest zip codes in the Oklahoma City area. Oklahoma City Public Schools Superintendent Aurora Lora will serve as the evening’s keynote speaker.

“Sunbeam’s early childhood programs are dramatically changing the direction of vulnerable children’s lives and just as intentionally, the direction of whole families who’ve had difficult hurdles to overcome,” said Sunbeam CEO Jim Priest. “On April 13, we will *shine a light* on how our work encourages, equips and nurtures children and families so they can reach their potential, feeling confident in school and in life.”

Sunbeam’s 2017 Aspire Award will be presented to community leaders Ray and Pat Potts, co-founders of the Potts Family Foundation. The Potts have dedicated their time and resources to helping better the lives of children, families and seniors.

The Aspire Award is presented to individuals who have made a difference in the well-being of children, families or seniors through remarkable community or humanitarian service and who model a life others “aspire” to model.

Last year’s winner was the late Sandy Trudgeon, a longtime Sunbeam supporter, who served three board terms from 2005-2014. She helped to lead the organization’s Centennial Celebration, OKC Educare’s groundbreaking and dedication and the *New Home Forever Family Capital Campaign*.

Tickets to the gala may be purchased for \$150 each. To purchase tickets, learn more about the event or sponsor a table, contact Sunbeam Family Services Director of Development Katherine Craig at 405.609.8994, email [kcraig@sunbeamfamilyservices.org](mailto:kcraig@sunbeamfamilyservices.org) or visit [shinealightokc.org](http://shinealightokc.org).

**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, foster care, counseling and senior services. To learn more, visit [www.sunbeamfamilyservices.org](http://www.sunbeamfamilyservices.org) or follow them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.