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

OICA, CMI4K and Sunbeam Family Services Receive Grant from The Oklahoma Group

OKLAHOMA CITY – Count Me in 4 Kids (CMI4K), a collaboration between Sunbeam Family Services and the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy (OICA) and other child advocacy groups that bring awareness to the needs of Oklahoma’s children, has received a work project grant from The Oklahoma Group (TOG).

TOG is a student-led consulting organization from the University of Oklahoma that provides pro bono services to nonprofits in central Oklahoma.

The framework for TOG’s project comes from research done by Sunbeam that identified trends in some of the most impoverished zip codes in Oklahoma County relating to the well-being of the state’s children under age 5. The trends show that children in these zip codes, six of which are in Oklahoma County, have the lowest wellness scores: Forty percent come from families with incomes below the federal poverty level. Also present are the highest numbers of child abuse and neglect referrals in the state, the highest levels of teen births and highest levels of uneducated mothers.

TOG’s project will focus on services that help to build family stability and economic well-being, which is essential to improving the quality of life for children and families within these zip codes. The research will identify the unmet needs of impoverished children, pinpoint gaps and duplication in services and develop a strategy to address those needs.

“This comprehensive survey of available resources for vulnerable children will provide insight into how the nonprofit community can collaboratively meet the needs of children more effectively and efficiently,” said Sunbeam Family Services CEO Jim Priest.

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.

About the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy

Since its creation in 1983, the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy (OICA) has been the statewide, independent, non-partisan voice speaking on behalf of all of our state’s children and their needs. OICA is a well-respected and trusted source of data, leadership, best-practice program strategies and effective policy solutions. To learn more, visit www.oica.org or follow them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Count Me In 4 Kids

Count Me In 4 Kids is a community-led collaborative with the goal of engaging all of Central Oklahoma in meeting the needs of the children in foster care. It will achieve that goal by strategically aligning needs and resources so that children and families are best served and by developing a clearinghouse to connect children, families, service providers, state leaders, and the community in ways that can support on-going improvement of the safety net for our community's children.