



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sunbeam Family Services Receives Three-Year Grant from Arnall Family Foundation

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – Sunbeam Family Services has received a three-year \$717,000 grant from the Arnall Family Foundation, which will allow the organization to increase its focus on infant and early childhood mental health.

Oklahoma ranks 39th in the nation for overall child well-being with a high percentage of infants and toddlers living in environments with chronic stress, chaos and violence. The Arnall Family Foundation grant allows Sunbeam Family Services to increase the central Oklahoma community's access to infant mental health services through collaborations with the child welfare system, peer nonprofits who serve children birth to five, the legal community, higher education, mental health providers and early childhood educators and pediatrics.

"We strongly believe that infant mental health services are a critical part of improving the well-being of at-risk children in our community. We are proud to support the efforts of Sunbeam to increase capacity for infant mental health services," said Sue Ann Arnall, founder of the Arnall Family Foundation.

The Arnall grant is significant for supporting the progressive work Sunbeam does in infant and early childhood mental health, said Sunbeam CEO Jim Priest.

"We celebrate this generous donation and partnership with the Arnall Family Foundation because the need is so great among infants and toddlers who are suffering mentally as a result of neglect, abuse and other traumas. Research shows clearly that early intervention can change the trajectory of our infants' and toddlers' lives. This intervention is an early investment in reducing child abuse and neglect, school failure, criminal behaviors, and chronic mental and physical illnesses," Priest said.

The funding will support increasing an intentional focus on the child welfare and court systems to address the significant numbers of children, age birth to five, in foster care and developing Sunbeam's infant and early childhood mental health staff.

The Arnall Family Foundation

The Arnall Family Foundation was founded by Sue Ann Arnall with the vision to make lasting, transformative improvements to the systems and programs that serve at-risk children in the community. The Foundation has identified the overburdened, under-resourced child welfare system in Oklahoma County as a priority initiative. To learn more, visit www.arnallfamilyfoundation.org.

About Sunbeam Family Services

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