**FOR** **IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Oct. 1, 2018

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**Foster Families Needed to Open Their Hearts and Homes**

**Support Children from Birth to 17 Years Old**

**(OKLAHOMA CITY)** – In Oklahoma, more than 8,400 children are in state custody. Sunbeam Family Services works with families in Canadian, Cleveland, Grady, Logan, McClain, and Oklahoma Counties to provide a safe home for children through Foster Care services.

“Becoming a foster parent is an act of love and a commitment to being a nurturing family for a child who has experienced many disruptions in their life,” said Jim Priest, chief executive officer of Sunbeam Family Services. “Children come into foster care because of severe neglect, abuse, abandonment, or because of a parent’s incarceration or death. With your love and encouragement, you can change the course of a child’s life, and by opening your home and heart, you may be a child’s first experience with an adult who lovingly cares for their needs.”

The program serves children from birth to 17 years old, and each child and foster family has access to Sunbeam’s Counseling services and priority placement in Sunbeam’s Early Childhood programs. Sunbeam’s Foster Care staff are available 24/7, which means foster parents can call at any time for assistance. Foster Care staff also make monthly in-home visits and provide trainings for foster parents.

“As a foster parent, it’s about the commitment you make,” said Missy Ward, a former Sunbeam foster parent. “Sunbeam has walked along with us through this commitment – always helping us in every step of the way.”

The nonprofit also works to certify families interested in providing care to siblings groups of two or more. Sibling relationships are emotionally powerful and critically important not only in childhood, but over the course of a lifetime.

Sunbeam foster parents must be at least 21 years old and can be single or married. To learn more about becoming a foster parent, or to support Sunbeam Foster Families, visit sunbeamfamilyservices.org/fostercare or contact Midge Woodard at 405.609.6671 or mwoodard@sunbeamfamilyservices.org.

Sunbeam has served Oklahoma’s children in foster care and their families for more than 100 years. Last year, Sunbeam placed 123 children in loving homes.

Sunbeam’s mission is to provide people of all ages with help, hope, and the opportunity to succeed through Early Childhood, Foster Care, Counseling and Senior Services programs. The nonprofit is committed to meeting the growing needs of Central Oklahoma’s most vulnerable citizens.

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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, counseling, foster care and senior services. To learn more, call 405.528.7721, visit sunbeamfamilyservices.org, or follow them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.