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[Download photos from the Friends of Sunbeam Book Fair.](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sunbeamfamilyservices/albums/72157674372177888)

**Nurturing the Love of Reading**

**Friends of Sunbeam Partners with Metropolitan Library System for Preschool Book Fair at Oklahoma City Educare**

**(OKLAHOMA CITY)** – Oklahoma City Educare, a program of Sunbeam Family Services, is dedicated to developing early literacy skills in children. Thanks to the Friends of Sunbeam volunteer group, this week 40 preschool children at OKC Educare received colorful bags full of books to nurture their love of reading.

“I love introducing children to books,” said Phyllis Stong, a Friends of Sunbeam member and Sunbeam board member who organized the book fair. “My family grew up reading and it opened the world to us. It’s an amazing gift to be here with the children who are so excited about reading.”

As part of the book fair, Ms. Cheryll, a librarian from the Metropolitan Library System, read a variety of children’s books, sang a few favorite children’s songs and played interactive learning games.

Friends of Sunbeam volunteers collect books year-round to support the book fair at OKC Educare, which happen in October and May.

The Friends of Sunbeam serves Sunbeam clients and staff by donating their time, talents and support of advancing the nonprofit’s mission of to provide people of all ages with help, hope, and the opportunity to succeed through Early Childhood, Foster Care, Counseling and Senior Services.

Friends of Sunbeam members include: Karen Mobly, president; Diana Harden, vice president; Jennie Penner, secretary; Linda Burns, treasurer; Deanna Atkinson; Carolyn Bean; Robin Bickley; Phyllis Brawley; Peggy Burris; Bernest Cain; Carolyn Caudill; David Goss; Steve Grigsby; Candy Herrald; Barbara Hill; Sherry Maynor; Evelyn McCoy; Shirley Perkins; Rampriya Ramkumar; Patti Ross; Becky Roten; Joane Schmidt; Jeanne Shaughnessy; Phyllis Stong; and Leslie Woolery.

For more information on Friends of Sunbeam, contact events@sunbeamfamilyservices.org.

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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.

About OKC Educare

Children who attend OKC Educare develop strong social skills, including self-confidence and emerge better prepared for kindergarten. OKC Educare is a state-of-the-art school that provides early childhood education and ignites a love of learning in children birth to five years old. The school nurtures early learning and close the achievement gap of children who are in families who face the greatest number of obstacles to success. OKC Educare builds partnerships with families, coming alongside them to help with goal-setting and accessing community resources. For more information visit okceducare.org or call 405.605.8232.