

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

March 15, 2019

**CONTACT:**

Angie Doss

Chief External Relations Officer

[adoss@sunbeamfamilyservices.org](mailto:adoss@sunbeamfamilyservices.org)

405-609-2311 (o) | 619-347-4057 (c)



**[Download Photos from the Friends of Sunbeam Book Fair](#)**

**Nurturing the Love of Reading**

***Friends of Sunbeam hosts Book Fair for Children at Educare Oklahoma City.***

**(OKLAHOMA CITY)** –Educare Oklahoma City, a program of Sunbeam Family Services, is dedicated to developing early literacy skills in children. Thanks to the Friends of Sunbeam auxiliary volunteer group, children at Educare OKC received colorful bags full of books to nurture their love of reading. Friends of Sunbeam collect books year-round to support the book fair at Educare OKC, which happens twice a year.

“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.”

Friends of Sunbeam provide valuable volunteer, in-kind and financial support to Sunbeam’s programs. The group helps make a difference in the lives of hundreds of Sunbeam clients year after year. In addition to hosting the book fairs, the group also serves as reading buddies at Educare OKC and provides exit baskets filled with home necessities for senior adults who are leaving Sunbeam’s Emergency Senior Shelter and moving into their new home. The group also recognizes birthdays of children in Sunbeam’s foster care program, hosts the annual Foster Care Easter egg hunt and provides support for young parents who attend Emerson Alternative High School.

Sunbeam’s Early Childhood program is a leader in early childhood education. This program prepares children from prenatal to five to enter kindergarten with the skills necessary to be ready for school - and beyond. Sunbeam helps families who might normally have difficulty in accessing high quality early learning and care programs by providing home-based and full-day, full-year center-based services at no cost to the family of the child. Last year, this program served a total of 741 children and more than 2,500 family members.

Through March 31, Sunbeam is asking the community to join them in “giving hope and restoring dignity” for Oklahoma’s seniors who are homeless through raising \$65,000 to fund Sunbeam’s Emergency Senior Shelter. Thanks to Randy Thurman CPA, CFP, donations will be matched up to \$5,000. For more information, visit [sunbeamfamilyservices.org/dignity](http://sunbeamfamilyservices.org/dignity) or call 405-609-8994.

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**About Sunbeam Family Services**

Founded in 1907, Sunbeam Family Services is one of Oklahoma’s longest serving nonprofits and is one of the original United Way of Central Oklahoma Community partners. Sunbeam’s mission is to provide 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](http://sunbeamfamilyservices.org), or join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.