

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 26, 2019

CONTACT:

Angie Doss

Chief External Relations Officer

adoss@sunbeamfamilyservices.org

405.609.2311 (o) | 619.347.4057 (c)



Foster Families Needed to Open Their Hearts and Homes
Support Children from Birth to 17 Years Old

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – On average, 8,000 children are in DHS custody throughout Oklahoma and have entered the foster system due to severe neglect or abuse. Children deserve safe, loving homes where they can grow and thrive. Sunbeam has served Oklahoma’s children in Foster Care for over 100 years.

Caring individuals and families make a difference in the lives of children in Central Oklahoma who need stability, guidance and community. Through the Foster Care program, Sunbeam works with families in Canadian, Cleveland, Grady, Kingfisher, Lincoln, Logan, McClain and Oklahoma counties.

“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. “With your love and encouragement, you can change the course of a child’s life by opening your home and heart.”

Sunbeam foster parents must be at least 21 years old and can be single or married. Sunbeam 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 provides safe, stable homes and loving families to children ages 17 and under. After recruiting and training new foster parents, Sunbeam’s Foster Care program provides ongoing support, case management, and access to our wraparound services to ensure long-term success. Sunbeam’s Counseling services are available to support foster parents and children. Additionally, children in foster care have priority placement in Sunbeam’s Early Childhood centers.

Children leaving our foster care program were either reunited with their birth families, placed with kinship families, in a higher level of foster care, in tribal foster care, or adopted by their Sunbeam Foster Families.

“Another great way to support foster children is by making a donation to Sunbeam,” said Priest. “Every \$20 donated provides the equivalent of one hour case management services for foster children and foster families. In-kind donations, such as baby clothing and toys, are also great ways to support children in foster care.”

To learn more about becoming a foster parent, or to support Sunbeam Foster Families, visit sunbeamfamilyservices.org/fostercare or contact Simyra Cooper at 405-609-8931 or scooper@sunbeamfamilyservices.org.

Sunbeam has served Oklahoma's children in foster care and their families for more than 100 years. Last year, Sunbeam placed 106 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.

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 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, or join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.