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Sunbeam Seeks Donations to Help Homeless Seniors
Randy Thurman CPA Offers Match to Support Seniors

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – Through March 31, Sunbeam Family Services invites the community to join them in raising \$65,000 to support homeless seniors. The nonprofit has identified a \$65,000 shortage in funding this year, and support is needed to continue providing this crucial service. In order to help meet this need, Randy Thurman, CPA, CFP has stepped up to offer a \$5,000 match.

In the Oklahoma City metro-area, 260 homeless seniors age 55 and older are homeless. Sunbeam works to end senior homelessness, give hope and restore dignity through its Emergency Senior Shelter, the state's only shelter equipped to assist homeless seniors.

Last fiscal year, 99 homeless seniors aged 60 and older sought safety in the Emergency Senior Shelter, many of whom were without a family support system and had a limited monthly income. The shelter is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is supported by therapists from Sunbeam's Counseling program.

During their stay, residents receive home-cooked meals, a warm bed and weekly laundry services along with comprehensive case management, including an individualized plan developed to support them in their path toward permanency. The efforts of the Emergency Senior Shelter have resulted in a 94 percent success rate in homeless seniors finding a permanent place to call home. Seniors like Jones.

Once a contributing member of society with a full time career, a home and two cars, Ceon Jones was bouncing between homeless shelters in OKC, struggling with alcohol and drug addiction and battling prostate cancer. His situation all began with an on the job injury, resulting in loss of his ability to provide for himself.

"It only takes one difficult life event to start the domino effect and then you find yourself in a tough situation. It could happen to anyone," said Jones.

Jones said he has "found calmness and peace" and stated, "all the staff here, from the person that cleans the building to the director - everyone has been wonderful to me and I love them a lot. Sunbeam goes above and beyond to help those in need."

Jones is working his program and doing everything he needs to do to better his situation, including completing multiple housing applications and keeping up with his oncology appointments.

"Before Sunbeam I was just living day to day, and now I can think past that and look forward to what lies ahead," said Jones.

To join Sunbeam in giving hope and restoring dignity, visit sunbeamfamilyservices.org/dignity or call 405-609-8994.

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.

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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 join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.