

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 10, 2019

CONTACT:

Angie Doss

Chief External Relations Officer

adoss@sunbeamfamilyservices.org

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



Applications for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren School Supply Assistance are now Available through Sunbeam Family Services

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – Sunbeam Family Services is now accepting school supply assistance applications for grandparents, age 55 and older, who are raising their own grandchildren in the absence of parents in the home and live in Oklahoma, Cleveland, Canadian or Logan county. The “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren” school supply program at Sunbeam provides pre-qualified grandparents with backpacks filled with grade-specific school supplies for their grandchildren, helping to eliminate the financial burden of back to school expenses and ensuring their grandchildren are prepared for the upcoming school year.

Qualified grandfamilies who would like to apply for this program can download an application at sunbeamfamilyservices.org/GRG, pick up an application at Sunbeam Family Services at 1100 NW 14th Street, Oklahoma City, or call 405-609-1904 for more information. Applications are due by May 31 and the back and supply distribution will take place on July 31. The first 50 grandfamilies approved will receive a gas card and the first 100 children approved will receive new shoes and a school uniform. This year, 450 children will benefit from the school supply assistance program.

“Sunbeam celebrates its partnership with grandparents raising grandchildren to ensure school success,” said Talena Ford, caregiver fundamentals project manager. “On average, \$100 is spent per child just on the bare minimum school supplies. This doesn’t include uniforms, shoes, calculators, and other specialty items needed. By providing school supplies to our grandfamilies, they can shift their focus to other needs.”

This program is made possible through the collaboration of Sunbeam and local law enforcement agencies. In the United States, more than a million children are being raised by grandparents without the presence of parents in the home and each year this number continues to rise. According to the US Census Bureau, grandparent-headed households are more likely to be without health insurance, more likely to receive public assistance and more likely to fall below the poverty line than parent-headed households.

Launched in 2003, Sunbeam’s “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren” program empowers grandparents by offering support groups, school supply assistance, holiday assistance, and other resources. Grandparents, ages 55 years or older, who are raising their grandchildren are given support that will help them secure valuable resources and information for their family.

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. Last year, the organization served nearly 15,000 central Oklahomans. For more information call 405-528-7721 or visit sunbeamfamilyservices.org.

###

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.