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[Download photos of the Little Hearts Playground Mural Project and Progression](#)

Sunbeam Partners with Community Groups to Create Playground Mural

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – As a recipient of a previous Early Head Start Expansion and Early Head Start –Child Care Partnership Grant, Sunbeam Family Services has been able to promote school readiness and help break the cycle of generational poverty and provide comprehensive early childhood education, mental health, health nutrition and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families in central Oklahoma.

Little Hearts Child Development Center is one of the early childhood partner sites for Sunbeam and has recently benefitted from playground renovations thanks to the CCP grant and generous community partners.

Angela Duckett, Sunbeam area supervisor of instructional coaches, stated, “We want to give every child an opportunity to explore, feel safe and be successful in a rich learning environment. One of our goals is to make the classrooms and playgrounds stimulating for children that may be at risk in their educational endeavors.”

After brainstorming ideas for the playground renovation, Duckett and her team determined transforming a blank wall that was shared between Little Hearts and the American Legion Auxiliary of Oklahoma into a colorful mural would enhance the playground. Once approval was given to move forward, Duckett reached out to several schools about assisting with the mural. Oklahoma City University responded to the challenge, stating they were interested in the partnership as a way to provide senior art students an opportunity to gain experience.

This unique playground mural is the result of a partnership among Sunbeam Family Services, Little Hearts Child Development Center, American Legion Auxiliary, Oklahoma City University, Munger Paint and Wallpaper Company and local artist, Lynette Atchley.

Duckett stated, “We would like to thank the students of OCU who spent numerous hours in the cold, wet and sometimes hot temperatures. If you look closely at the mural, you will be able to find their signatures hidden in the picture. We would also like to thank the American Legion Auxiliary of Oklahoma for allowing us to use their building to stimulate and engage the young minds of Little Hearts families. We also appreciate Munger Paint and Wallpaper for providing supplies at discounted rates. As we know, it takes a village and these partners have been our village for this project.”

A reception was held to celebrate the reveal of the playground mural and attended by Sunbeam staff, Little Hearts families, OCU students, the Oklahoma City Arts Commission and other community partners.

For more information about Sunbeam’s Early Childhood Services program, visit SunbeamFamilyServices.org or call 405-528-7721.

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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.