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

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – Sunbeam Family Services is 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. Applicants must 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. This program helps eliminate the financial burden of back to school expenses and ensures their grandchildren are prepared for the upcoming school year.

Qualified grandfamilies can download an application at sunbeamfamilyservices.org/GRG, pick up an application at Sunbeam Family Services, located at 1100 N.W. 14th St. in Oklahoma City, or call 405-609-1904 for more information. Applications will be available while supplies last and the backpack and supply distribution will take place on July 31. The first 50 grandfamilies approved will receive a gas card. 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 – and room is still available to benefit from the 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 basic 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. Oklahoma is one of the top states in the nation for grandparents raising their grandchildren. According to the U.S. 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.

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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.