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CONTACT:

Angie Doss

Chief External Relations Officer

adoss@sunbeamfamilyservices.org

405.609.2311 (o) | 619.347.4057 (c)



[Watch a video about joining the Sunbeam family.](#)

[Download photos of Sunbeam's Early Childhood Services.](#)

Educare Oklahoma City Celebrates Students, Teachers and Families
New School Year Brings Support to Young Children

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – Educare Oklahoma City, a program of Sunbeam Family Services, kicked off the new school year this month by celebrating students, families and teachers. This year, more than 170 at-risk children, from birth to five, will learn the skills necessary to help them thrive.

“Sunbeam is a leader in early care and education. Children who are not prepared to start school at age 5 are at risk of never catching up, leaving an achievement gap that can persist throughout their entire lives,” said Paula Gates, director of Early Childhood Services at Sunbeam. “To help children and families thrive in our community, Sunbeam provides opportunities for families who might normally have difficulty in accessing high quality early learning and care programs.”

Sunbeam is committed to helping children develop strong social skills including self-confidence and emerge better prepared for kindergarten. By nurturing early learning, Sunbeam, and its community partners and their families, work together to close the achievement gap for central Oklahoma children.

Families are essential to the success of the child. Through Sunbeam’s Early Childhood Services, each family has a dedicated family advocate who actively helps problem solve, locate resources within the community and achieve child and family goals. Families are also invited to volunteer with classrooms and are encouraged to apply for employment opportunities. This holistic approach addresses the needs of the entire family, including the personal and professional goals of the parent.

“We would like to thank our amazing teachers, who make an impact in young children’s lives every day through their high-quality instruction and care,” said Paula Gates, director of early childhood services at Sunbeam. “Our team is expanding and if you’re looking for a way to make a very personal impact in the community of Oklahoma City, Sunbeam is the place you need to be.”

Sunbeam is still in need of 50 early childhood professionals to help children thrive this school year. The nonprofit is an employee-first organization where employees are valued, respected and encouraged to grow. That’s one of the many reasons Sunbeam was voted ad one of Oklahoma’s ‘Best Places to Work’ for the fifth year in a row.

Sunbeam is proud to be recognized as a 2019 Family Positive Workplace by the Potts Family Foundation and the OK25by25 Coalition. This award recognizes businesses throughout the state who intentionally help their employees balance work and family responsibilities.

To learn more or join the Sunbeam family, visit SunbeamFamilyServices.org/careers.

Another way to help Sunbeam in the movement to help children grow, heal, learn and thrive is to make a financial donation. Through Aug. 31, donations made to help children will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$5,000. This donation match is made possible thanks to Tall Oak Midstream. To donate visit SunbeamFamilyServices.org/thrive 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 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.