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[Download a photo from Sunbeam's Early Childhood Services program.](#)

[View a video about Early Childhood Services.](#)

**Donation Match Helps Children Prepare for Kindergarten – and Beyond**  
***Donations to Help Children Thrive Matched Through Aug. 31***

**(OKLAHOMA CITY)** – There is still time to help Sunbeam Family Services meet its goal of raising \$30,000 to help children across central Oklahoma grow, learn and thrive. Thanks to Tall Oak Midstream, donations made through Aug. 31 will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$5,000.

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. 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. By providing full-day, full-year center based services in more than 15 locations across the Oklahoma City metro, families are able to invest in their children during this crucial period of development. The nonprofit's Early Head Start home-based program is also available for children ages birth to three.

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 help the child and his or her family achieve their 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 whole family, including the personal and professional goals of the parent.

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

Single mom Sanaya Jeffrey was trying to complete her college education, but struggled to find dependable childcare. Often, she would take her son with her to classes.

"It was tough with my school schedule," said Jeffrey. "People would say they'd babysit for me and then have to back out - and child care was way too expensive. When I learned about Educare Oklahoma City, I applied. It was like a weight lifted off of my chest when he was able to come here. I've always heard that it takes a village to raise children and it was good to know that I came across a place that was really crucial in helping me raise my kids. Everybody here is like a partner; we are all working together for the greater good of my child. That makes me feel good."

Sunbeam's Early Childhood Services is just one of the many programs that helps Oklahoma children when they need it the most. Through Foster Care, Sunbeam provides safe, stable homes, and loving families to children ages 17 and under. Caring and compassionate counseling services help children heal and thrive. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program empowers grandparents by offering support groups, school supply assistance, holiday assistance and other resources.

Join the movement to help children grow, heal, learn and thrive. To make a donation visit [SunbeamFamilyServices.org/thrive](http://SunbeamFamilyServices.org/thrive) 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. Last year alone, nearly 15,000 Oklahomans benefited from Sunbeam's services.

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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](http://sunbeamfamilyservices.org), or join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.