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Sunbeam Receives \$4,500 Grant from Walmart to Bring Holiday Joy to Grandparents Raising their Grandchildren

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – Today, Sunbeam Family Services announced it received a \$4,500 grant from Walmart to bring holiday joy and toys to grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. This generous donation supports the 19th annual Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Holiday Program.

The Holiday Program is made possible by generous support from the Oklahoma City Police Department, the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office, TRIAD and the Oklahoma Recyclers Association, who truly embrace the giving spirit by raising donations to provide holiday gifts to grandfamilies. Last holiday season, this program made the season brighter for 328 grandfamilies, including their 869 grandchildren.

Oklahoma ranks ninth in the nation for grandparents raising their grandchildren. Through the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) program, Sunbeam supports Oklahomans age 55 and older raising grandchildren without the presence of parents in the home who live in Oklahoma, Cleveland, Canadian and Logan counties. This program receives funding through Title III-E funds administered by the AreaWide Aging Agency.

Sunbeam empowers grandparents raising grandchildren through support groups, school supply assistance, holiday assistance and additional resources. Grandparents like LaDonna.

"This group helps me to feel that I am not alone in parenting a grandchild," said LaDonna. "I appreciate how friendly and welcoming the group members were. Having my granddaughter in the play area in the same building helped me to feel comfortable and able to focus on the group."

For more information about the GRG program, visit sunbeamfamilyservices.org/GRG or contact Talena Ford at 405-609-6551 or ford@sunbeamfamilyservices.org.

Join Sunbeam in the movement to help children grow, heal, learn and thrive. 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.

About TRIAD: Established in 1997, TRIAD is a collaborative effort between the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office, Oklahoma City Police Department and senior citizens working together to reduce and prevent crimes against seniors. <http://oksheriff.org/community-information/triad/>

About AreaWide Aging Agency:

Since 1973, Areawide Aging Agency has been the principal developer, coordinator and provider of services which meet the needs and advance the dignity, independence, and quality of life of senior adults in central Oklahoma. Areawide Aging

Agency is dedicated to advancing the dignity and independence of older adults in our community. Areawide assess the needs of seniors, coordinates programs such as congregate and home delivered meals, transportation, and respite care for caregivers.

Provided by Sunbeam Family Services through a Title III Older Americans Act Grant from Areawide Aging Agency and community partners. The Caregiver Fundamentals Program makes no distinction on the grounds of race, color, gender, age, ancestry, national origin, religion, or disability. A portion of the project costs are met by state and federal Older Americans Act funds from Areawide Aging Agency and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services Aging Services Division. There are no costs to participants; however, donations are accepted. Suggested donation per services: Information Services, \$1/activity; Access Assistance, \$1/activity; Support Group, \$2.50/meeting; Respite, \$2.50/visit; School Supplies, \$5/family; and Training Seminar, \$5/seminar.