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[Download photos of Chesapeake Energy employees reading to young children.](#)

United Way's Day of Caring Fosters a Love of Learning at Sunbeam
19 Chesapeake Energy Volunteers Donate Time to Support Early Learning

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – As part of United Way's Day of Caring on Oct. 4, 2019, 19 Chesapeake Energy employees donated their time to ignite a love of learning in young children throughout the Oklahoma City metro area. Volunteers spent their morning at Sunbeam Family Services' partner sites reading to students at 10 locations including Educare Oklahoma City, Southwest Child Development Center, Tony Reyes Bilingual Development Center and WovenLife, Sunbeam's newest partner site.

"Thank you so much for the opportunity to come and read to the kids at Educare OKC," said Paula Wade, data analyst, Chesapeake Energy. "Seeing the kid's eyes light up while hearing their favorite books being read to them, with many reading aloud with me, made me so happy. I was glad I was able to spend time with them and to share the joy of reading."

Sunbeam's Early Childhood program is a leader in early childhood education. Through Educare Oklahoma City, home-based services, and more than 20 partner child care centers located in Oklahoma City's most impoverished zip codes, Sunbeam prepares low-income children birth to five to enter kindergarten with the skills necessary to be ready for school - and beyond. Studies show children who are not prepared to start school at age five are at risk of never catching up, leaving an achievement gap that can persist until high school and beyond. This gap can be linked to social and economic problems later in life, including illiteracy, teen pregnancy, and high-dropout rates.

Each year, Sunbeam helps nearly 15,000 Central Oklahomans with life-changing services through our robust Early Childhood Education program, long-standing Foster Care program, compassionate Counseling program, and multifaceted Senior Services program.

Established in 1907, Sunbeam Family Services is Oklahoma's longest-serving social service agency. Founded as a children's home for dependent and neglected children, we have evolved to meet the growing needs of the community, serving vulnerable children, families, and seniors throughout central Oklahoma. Sunbeam has been a proud United Way Partner Agency since 1924.

For more information about Sunbeam's volunteer opportunities visit SunbeamFamilyServices.org/volunteer or contact Jane Meeks at jmeeks@sunbeamfamilyservices.org or 405-609-1755.

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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 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.