

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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[Download a photo of Jones.](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sunbeamfamilyservices/47994698356/in/album-72157678689857958/)

***Oklahoma City Community Foundation Supports Seniors Experiencing Homelessness during COVID 19***

***Awards $35,000 in Grants to Sunbeam Family Services***

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – In order to support seniors who are experiencing homelessness during COVID-19, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation awarded Sunbeam Family Services with an additional $10,000 disaster relief grant. Since March, the Community Foundation has awarded a total of $35,000 to the nonprofit to help senior citizens.

In the Oklahoma City metro-area, 269 seniors age 55 and older are homeless each day. Sunbeam works to end senior homelessness, give hope and restore dignity through its Emergency Senior Shelter, the state’s only shelter equipped to assist seniors experiencing homelessness.

“We are grateful to the Community Foundation’s Trustees and donors who have supported our disaster relief efforts,” said Nancy Anthony, president of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. “Those contributions have helped organizations like Sunbeam Family Services that are on the frontline of the fight against COVID-19, helping the elderly, those experiencing homelessness and others suffering hardships amid this pandemic.”

Last fiscal year, 96 seniors aged 60 and older sought safety in the Emergency Senior Shelter, many of whom were without a family support system and had a limited monthly income. The shelter is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is supported by therapists from Sunbeam's Counseling program.

During their stay residents receive home-cooked meals, a warm bed and weekly laundry services along with comprehensive case management, including an individualized plan developed to support them in their path toward permeant housing. The efforts of the Emergency Senior Shelter have resulted in a 94 percent success rate in homeless seniors finding a permanent place to call home. Seniors like Ceon Jones.

Once a contributing member of society with a full-time career, a home and two cars, Jones was bouncing between homeless shelters in Oklahoma City, struggling with alcohol and drug addiction and battling prostate cancer. His situation all began with an on the job injury, resulting in loss of his ability to provide for himself.

 "It only takes one difficult life event to start the domino effect and then you find yourself in a tough situation. It could happen to anyone," said Jones. “This place means so much to me. They provided me with food, clothing, access to all kinds of services, assistance with social security and housing and connected me with local food banks. Before Sunbeam I was just living day to day, and with Sunbeam’s help I was able to think past that and look forward to what was ahead.”

To learn more about Sunbeam’s services, or how to help, visit SunbeamFamilyServices.org or call (405) 609-2311.

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About Sunbeam Family Services

Founded in 1907, Sunbeam Family Services is one of Oklahoma’s longest serving nonprofits, providing help, hope and the opportunity to succeed to people of all ages 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 the Oklahoma City Community Foundation

Founded in 1969, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity that works with donors to create charitable funds that will benefit our community both now and in the future. To learn more about the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, visit [www.occf.org](http://www.occf.org/).