



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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[Download photos from Foster Care](#)

Commented [AD1]: Ap Style. Don't use "th" in full dates

Commented [AD2]: OK my bad...AP style used to say dashes and then changed to () at some point. I had to google it :)

Fostering Hope This School Year
Sunbeam Seeks Foster Families to Open Their Hearts, Homes

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – According to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS), nearly 7,800 children are in DHS in custody. OKDHS estimates it will need approximately 900 foster homes in 2020 to support children who are in need of safe, loving environments where they can grow and thrive.

Sunbeam Family Services is asking Oklahomans to open their hearts and homes by becoming foster parents. Sunbeam is a traditional foster care agency providing temporary care and supportive services in a home environment for children in OKDHS custody in Canadian, Cleveland, Grady, Kingfisher, Lincoln, Logan, McClain, and Oklahoma counties.

As one of the 14 private foster care agencies in Oklahoma, Sunbeam works to improve the safety, well-being and permanency of children from birth to 18 years of age by inclusively recruiting and training new foster parents. The organization provides children in new placements with items from its basic need pantry such as clothing and hygiene items. Throughout the placement, Sunbeam staff monitors in-home stability, attends court hearings and ensures the overall success of the child in foster care.

Commented [AD3]: Love the language about inclusive recruiting

"There is constantly a critical need for foster families in Oklahoma" said Midge Woodard, director of Foster Care at Sunbeam. "We want to make the best placement possible for child needing out-of-home care. That is why it's so important to recruit families who are willing to open their homes to children in OKDHS custody."

While OKDHS works with biological parents on a pathway to reunification, Sunbeam provides ongoing support to families through 24/7 case management, training and connection to resources, even during COVID-19.

"The pandemic has put immense stress upon our foster families," said Woodard. "We are able to provide additional support and wraparound services to our families during this time. We hope foster parents and the children in their care never feel like they are in this alone".

Sunbeam has served Oklahoma children in foster care, and their families, for more than 100 years. Last year, 109 foster children were placed in loving homes and Sunbeam wrapped services around 97 foster parents and their biological children

Sunbeam Foster Parents must be at least 21 years old and can be single or married. To learn more about becoming a foster parent, or to support Sunbeam, visit sunbeamfamilyservices.org/fostercare or contact Simyra Cooper at (405) 609-8931, or scooper@sunbeamfamilyservices.org.

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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.

Commented [AD5]: @Jillian Walker update from the annual report on the website

Commented [AD6]: Double checking - was this from the annual report? If so, we are good!

Commented [JC7]: @Angie Doss @Jillian Walker I like the email being in there purely out of convenience for the recipient or reader.