

[Download Sunbeam’s New Logo](https://sunbeamfamilyservices.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SFS-PrimaryLogo-CMYK.png)

**FOR** **IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Share the Love**

***Sunbeam Seeks Foster Families to Open Their Hearts, Homes***

(LOGAN COUNTY) – This Valentine’s Day, Sunbeam Family Services is asking the community to open their hearts and homes by becoming foster parents. On average, 7,800 children are in Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKHDS) custody throughout Oklahoma and are in need of safe, loving homes where they can grow and thrive.

“While not everyone can be a foster parent, everyone can play an important part in the life of a child who finds themselves in a crisis,” said Midge Woodard, MSW, director of Foster Care at Sunbeam. “Foster parents do plan a key role in providing for a child’s care, safety and well-being.”

Sunbeam is a traditional foster care agency providing temporary care and supportive services in a home environment for children in OKDHS custody. Foster parents must live within 40 miles of Oklahoma City limits. Sunbeam works to improve the safety, well-being, and permanency of children from birth to 18 years of age by recruiting and training new foster parents as one of the 15 private foster care agencies in Oklahoma.

While OKDHS works with biological parents on a pathway to reunification, Sunbeam provides ongoing support to foster families through 24/7 case management, training and connection to resources. Children in Sunbeam’s foster care program receive priority placement and services from its early childhood services and mental health programs. Throughout the placement, Sunbeam staff also monitors placement stability, attends court hearings, and help ensures the overall success of the child in foster care.

The Shaw family, who fostered with Sunbeam for 10 years, has shared their home to nearly 30 children in foster care.

"(Kids) thrive in a home that is loving and meets their needs,” said past Sunbeam Foster Mom Jennifer Shaw. “Sunbeam is a fantastic organization to get involved with. They come alongside you and make the journey of fostering a lot easier. You need as many people as you can on your team.”

Sunbeam recognizes at the heart of a healthy foster care family is dedication and compassionate support. Sunbeam foster parents must be at least 21 years old and have the ability to love, understand, care for and support a child. Sunbeam’s program is open to individuals and families regardless of marital status, sexuality, gender identity, gender expression, religion or race.

To learn more, visit SunbeamFamilyServices.org, email fostercare@sunbeamfamilyservices.org or call Jana Hagermann at (405) 609-6682.

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About Sunbeam Family Services
Founded in 1907, Sunbeam Family Services is one of Oklahoma’s longest-serving nonprofits. The nonprofit helps children, families and seniors learn, grow and thrive. To learn more, call (405) 528-7721, visit sunbeamfamilyservices.org, or join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.