FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2026

Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services is proud to announce a $10,000 grant from **Waterloo Region Community Foundation** to support the creation of an **Inclusive & Accessible Sensory Garden** at its Kitchener campus.

GROWING CONNECTION THROUGH AN INTERACTIVE & ACCESSIBLE SENSORY GARDEN

Sunbeam's new sensory garden will offer a welcoming, inclusive outdoor space where people can explore a diverse range of plants and features that engage the senses of sight, smell, sound, taste and touch. Designed with accessibility in mind, the garden will help foster meaningful experiences, connection and well-being for people of all ages and abilities across the community at large.

This project is rooted in partnership and community. Sunbeam is collaborating with the Cambridge Shelter Corporation's "In Our Backyard" Social Enterprise Program and local gardening and horticulture groups to help bring the garden to life. Meaningful community connections are already taking shape through collaboration with neighbouring Trinity Village and ongoing discussions with the City of Kitchener. As the project progresses, Sunbeam plans to expand its outreach across the Fairview Park and Kingsdale neighbourhoods, raising awareness and encouraging community participation.

Waterloo Region Community Foundation recognizes this initiative as place-making social infrastructure, creating a space that brings people together and supports community life, inclusion, well-being, and social connection. Their support will help Sunbeam design and create an interactive sensory garden that is accessible to all. A place where inclusion, wellness, and connection can flourish.

> *"We are grateful to Waterloo Region Community Foundation for this generous investment in our community," said Brian Swainson, CEO of Sunbeam. "The sensory garden will serve as a lasting community resource that reflects what is possible when organizations and communities work together to promote health and wellness in a safe, accessible and inclusive outdoor space."*

Sunbeam extends its sincere thanks to Waterloo Region Community Foundation, community partners and supporters for helping bring this meaningful new space to life at its Kitchener campus.

ABOUT SUNBEAM COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services creates inclusive communities where people of all abilities are valued. Sunbeam has been operating for 70 years, serving more than 18,000 individuals and families across Waterloo Region, Wellington County, Dufferin County, Peel Region, Halton Region, York Region and Simcoe County.

The organization offers inclusive living, children's overnight respite, day program and clinical services, as well as professional services and other supports through Sunbeam's Developmental Resource Centre and Sunbeam Clinical Services. Sunbeam is also the host agency for Developmental Services Ontario-Central West Region.

Sunbeam serves and supports individuals of all ages living with a developmental disability and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder, and their families.

Website: sunbeamcommunity.ca

Facebook: Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services