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## **SHELTERING ARMS TO HONOR ATLANTA SPEECH SCHOOL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMER YATES AT FUNDRAISING DINNER**

*Tickets and patron packages for the annual affair are available*

Atlanta, GA – September 14, 2017 - Sheltering Arms, Georgia’s largest nonprofit early education and child care organization, will host its annual fundraising event, Celebration Dinner, presented by Kaiser Permanente of Georgia, on September 30, at Porsche Cars North America and will honor Comer Yates, executive director of the Atlanta Speech School.

The auction-style gala brings together leaders from metro Atlanta’s business, education and civic communities to celebrate the power and promise of quality early childhood education. During the event, Sheltering Arms presents the Early Childhood Champion Award to a local leader for their dedication and dynamic work in early education.

“We have a long-standing relationship with the Atlanta Speech School and the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy,” said Blythe Keeler Robinson, president and CEO, Sheltering Arms. “This year, we’re thrilled to recognize Mr. Yates, a great partner who shares our passion for championing literacy and language in the earliest years of a child’s life.”

Yates has been the executive director of the Atlanta Speech School since 1998. It was founded 79 years ago as a free clinic for children who were deaf or hard of hearing, and has now evolved into the nation’s most comprehensive center for language and literacy with four schools, five clinics, summer programs and a professional development program.

Last year’s recipient of the inaugural Early Childhood Champion Award was Sarah-Elizabeth Reed, First Lady of the City of Atlanta.

Celebration Dinner attendees will enjoy an entertaining evening of Porsche driving experiences, an open bar, seated dinner and competitive bidding during the silent and live auctions. Tickets are still available for \$250. Patron packages range from \$750-\$10,000 and include special benefits.

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Proceeds from the event will help Sheltering Arms provide need-based tuition assistance, age-appropriate books for 2,400 children and specialized teacher training. For more information, including registration, visit [www.shelteringarmsforkids.com/celebration-dinner](http://www.shelteringarmsforkids.com/celebration-dinner).

### **About Sheltering Arms**

Sheltering Arms has provided high-quality early education, child care and comprehensive family support services since 1888. The agency serves more than 3,600 children annually and their families at 16 metropolitan Atlanta locations in Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fulton and Gwinnett counties and consistently meets accreditation standards by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. On average, children attending Sheltering Arms score in the 90th percentile for language and literacy, exceeding developmental milestones for kindergarten readiness. Learn more at [www.shelteringarmsforkids.com](http://www.shelteringarmsforkids.com).

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