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SHELTERING ARMS INVITES COMMUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL READ-A-THON

Individuals and groups wanted to help bring books to life through storytelling and play

Atlanta, GA – April 10, 2018 – Sheltering Arms, Georgia’s largest nonprofit early education and child care organization, will host its annual read-a-thon and is inviting metro Atlanta communities to volunteer by reading to a class or participating in planned book-related activities.

The read-a-thon, called **Operation Storybook**, is the agency’s literacy program, launched 10 years ago in response to Reading Is Fundamental’s research finding that children who do not have access to books and do not read regularly are among some of the most vulnerable Americans, in terms of social outcomes.

“We have an intense focus on language and literacy, and one of our goals is to make sure every child has an early and meaningful relationship with reading,” said Blythe Keeler Robinson, Sheltering Arms’ President and CEO. “Operation Storybook is a fun way to involve the community in getting our little ones interested and excited about it.”

Every year, Sheltering Arms invites corporate and community groups, and individuals like parents, professional storytellers and special VIP guests – including political officials, police and fire departments, radio personalities and other local celebrities – to volunteer for 30-minute shifts and read from special-themed books or participate in fun activities that help bring the books to life.

This year, Operation Storybook will take place **April 16-20**, at all [16 Sheltering Arms locations](#), in conjunction with the Week of the Young Child™, an annual celebration of early learning, sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

In addition to the read-a-thon, Sheltering Arms emphasizes early literacy by providing all 2,400 children, 90 percent of whom receive financial assistance, with new age-appropriate books for their own home libraries.

(more)

Quick and easy instructions on how to sign up as a volunteer or make a contribution toward the purchase of new books can be found at shelteringarmsforkids.com/events.

About Sheltering Arms

For 130 years, Sheltering Arms has provided high-quality early education, child care and comprehensive family support services. 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. Visit shelteringarmsforkids.com for more information.

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