



131 years.
Six generations
of families.
50,000 children.

In 1888, a group of concerned Atlanta women began Sheltering Arms' first "center"—initially a safe space for the children of textile workers while their parents toiled in the mills.

Today, we provide more than 3,500 children and their families with world-class early childhood education and family support services each year.

We know that early support makes a huge difference in changing the lives, trajectories and futures of children all over our state. So, we make early our mission and our mantra—offering learning opportunities as young as six weeks, and proactive support for families from GED courses to job search and housing assistance. Our mission is to give Atlanta's youngest learners the best possible start in the classroom and the real world. That makes for stronger communities, a stronger Atlanta, and even a stronger world.

OUR PROGRAM

- **14 neighborhood centers** in the metro Atlanta area form the heart of our program—safe, productive, NAEYC-accredited facilities that meet stringent health and safety standards. We proudly serve children and families in Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fulton and Gwinnett counties.
- **A two-generation approach** informs our work, a strategy that supports both the child and the parent together, creating a cycle of success that flows from one generation to the next.
- **3,500+ children**, ages six weeks to five years, benefit from our services each year, along with their families.
- **More than 700** dedicated Sheltering Arms employees work toward the mission of transforming the lives of children, their families and communities through model education and leadership in the field. 



Ninety-two cents of every dollar donated goes directly to services for Sheltering Arms kids and families.

OUR PROGRAM

- **More than 80%** of Sheltering Arms' teachers, coordinators and administrators have an associate's, bachelor's or master's degree and/or CDA credentials, and all receive more than twice the training required by the Georgia Day Care Licensing board every year.

HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- **100%** of our children receive timely immunizations for their age.
- **100%** of our families receive comprehensive support services.
- **93%** of our kids exceed developmental milestones for their age.
- **86%** of our families read to their children at least three times a week.
- **87%** of our families credit our quality child care as making their home and work lives more stable and balanced.
- **92%** find us invaluable for information on improving parenting skills.
- **96%** of our families have increased the number of books in their home during the school year.

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

Our curriculum has been approved for use in the Georgia PreK program and makes its way around the U.S. as professional development programs purchase and use our processes to boost theirs.

The Harvard Family Research Project and the National Association of State Boards of Education have twice included us in its studies of innovative childhood development programs.

The National Head Start Association has awarded us a Program of Excellence designation, its highest award for quality.

FUNDING

Our programs and services are funded by a healthy mix of private philanthropic sources, federal, state and county resources, including Head Start, Early Head Start, and United Way. Ninety-two cents of every dollar donated goes directly to services for Sheltering Arms kids and families.