

RETHINK POVERTY: THE POVERTY SIMULATION™

While Atlanta holds the reputation of being an economic powerhouse and a significant cultural hub, its prosperity and potential often bypass a considerable portion of its population, especially communities of color. It is estimated that 21.6% of Atlanta's population and 31% of Atlanta's children live in poverty. Unfortunately, many understand poverty as an individual failing rather than a systemic issue affecting our community. To bridge the gap from misconception to understanding, Sheltering Arms now hosts the Poverty Simulation to sensitize community participants about the realities of poverty.

The Poverty Simulation is a unique, enlightening experience that helps individuals understand what life is like with a shortage of money and an abundance of stress. It moves people to think about the harsh realities of poverty and to talk about how communities can address the problem collectively. Sheltering Arms utilizes The Poverty Simulation to show the realities of poverty to others using the Missouri Community Action Network® (MCAN) kits. These kits feature a poverty simulation known as Community Action Poverty Simulation® (CAPS).

This interactive experience breaks down stereotypes by allowing participants to step into the real-life situations of others with a live-action simulation to role-play the lives of families with limited or no access to economic resources. Poverty is often portrayed as a standalone issue. This Poverty Simulation allows individuals to walk a month in the shoes of someone facing poverty and realize how complex and interconnected the issues of poverty are.

- + A single parent with limited resources and no transportation must find a way to get to work and get their child to child care.
- + An elderly couple must raise their grandchildren and deal with their health and employment issues.
- + A young adult must care for siblings while their parent is incarcerated.

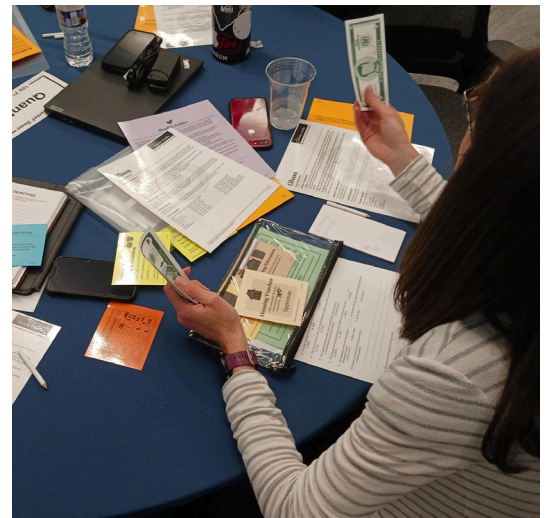




As we roll out these events, participants will glimpse into structural barriers and some of the personal and emotional repercussions people in poverty face. The experience lasts 2 to 3 hours, including pre-briefing, a breakdown of the simulation ‘weeks,’ and a debriefing period with participants and volunteer staff. In the debriefing, participants will share what they learned about the lives of people in poverty and ultimately generate ideas for applying the lessons of CAPS to their personal and professional lives. This activity helps people identify areas of change that can directly impact the effects of poverty on individuals, families, and communities.



The Poverty Simulation promotes poverty awareness, increases understanding, inspires change, and transforms perspectives. The Poverty Simulation will be one of Sheltering Arms’ central Georgia Training Institute (GTI) offerings for the community. The Poverty Simulation supports Sheltering Arms Diversity, Equity, Belonging, & Inclusion (DEBI) Initiatives and work.



Sheltering Arms closes opportunity gaps stemming from systemic racism by transforming the lives of children and their families through high-quality, equitable early education and leadership in the field. We nurture and teach up to 3,500 children and their families annually, offering learning opportunities to children from six weeks to five years old. Our programming includes the entire family. Our two-generation approach allows families to succeed emotionally, academically, and financially.

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For more information please visit www.shelteringarmsforkids.com, or contact Shaneshia Nickerson, Director, Georgia Training Institute at snickerson@shelteringarmsforkids.com.

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