

Sheltering Arms Sunday

Lectionary Texts Suggestions

- The Old Testament: Exodus 34:29-35
- Psalm 99
- 2 Corinthians 3:12-42
- Luke 9:28-36, 37-43a

SAF Stories of Hopefulness

Advocacy

Through the united efforts of a broad coalition of advocates called MinneMinds in which Sheltering Arms plays a leadership role, over 15% of Minnesota's low-income three and 4 year olds have access to scholarships enabling them to attend high quality preschools. The lives of these young children are off to a bright start due to the opportunity to attend a preschool that can help to get them ready to succeed in school and life.

Grantmaking

The Sheltering Arms Foundation made a grant to the The Children's Theatre Company to support an artistic play-based early childhood learning experience to low-income families in the Twin Cities. After bringing students to a performance of an early childhood play, *Balloonacy*, a PICA HeadStart curriculum specialist from Minneapolis shared with us a story from one of her teachers, who was sitting next to a young student who is on the autism spectrum during the performance: "[he] was sad when the balloon deflated, and he asked her for some tissues (she thought it was for his nose), wiped his eyes and gave it back to her. Once the balloon was patched up, that child lit up with joy and was so ecstatic about the balloon being fixed!" The teacher conveyed how significant it was for this child to display emotion, and particularly empathy, in response to the story in front of him.