



Who can deny that this year has been difficult for most families in our state, especially the working poor, low-income families and senior citizens? Gas prices skyrocketed in Georgia to over \$4 per gallon. Additionally, during this hurricane season, a number of evacuees sought shelter and services in Georgia. Our citizens and organizations answered the calls by opening their homes and wallets to help fellow Americans. Even though H.E.A.T. doesn't contribute money to purchase gasoline or shelter, many households that have difficulty buying gas for transportation are in arrears on their home energy bills.

Our own neighbors are experiencing financial hardships. Some people are forced to choose between purchasing

gasoline, food or medicine and paying their energy bills. An inability to pay utilities is second only to an inability to pay rent as a reason for homelessness. **Georgia has a history of pulling together in tough times.** For the 2007-2008 winter, H.E.A.T. contributed more than \$700,000 to help 2,854 households pay their energy bills. Children reside in most of the households assisted and the average income is only \$7,740 per year, significantly below the poverty level. Please continue to extend a helping hand to Georgians in need by sending a donation today. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Janet H. Joseph
Executive Director

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER: *Passing the Gavel . . .*



Ira Shucker

Ira Shucker has graciously and diligently served as H.E.A.T. Chair for seven years. Before his election as Chair, he served as the Vice Chair and Treasurer for the H.E.A.T. board. H.E.A.T. has benefitted tremendously from his judgment, professionalism, compassion and wisdom. We are forever grateful for his leadership. Mr. Shucker will continue to serve H.E.A.T. as a board member.



The Board of H.E.A.T. is delighted Chris Strippelhoff will assume the Chairman's position in January 2009. Mr. Strippelhoff's enthusiasm, compassion and insight made him a strong candidate for the position. He has served the Board for two years and has more than 24 years of professional business experience, with more than 19 years of consulting and management experience in the natural gas industry. We look forward to working with him!



Chris Strippelhoff

Patrick Hlavaty of Woodstock, GA

Until January 2008, Woodstock resident Patrick Hlavaty was a full-time musician, playing and teaching piano and guitar. But a sudden diabetic seizure caused him to fall, leaving him unable to walk normally and no longer able to use his left hand to play musical instruments. He was forced to retire without enough resources to make ends meet.

At the time of the seizure, Mr. Pat, as he likes to be called, was the sole bread winner for his family. His wife was not able to work after having hip replacement surgery. Their only income was a small teacher's pension and a limited amount of social security. "I've been an independent person all my life. I've always worked," he said. "But that one day forced me to depend on other people and organizations. It bothered the heck out of me."

Concerned about mounting energy bills, Mr. Pat applied for energy assistance and received much-needed help to pay his heating bills. "I want to thank all contributors to H.E.A.T.," he says, "because without caring people like them, anyone in my situation would not know where to turn." Hopeful that surgery will help correct his condition, Mr. Pat looks forward to playing music again in the future. "I want to be back at work and be self-sufficient again," he says.



Donate to H.E.A.T. *Many less fortunate families need your help today.*

Donate online at www.heatga.org or complete this form and mail it with your check to the address below.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: (_____) _____

H.E.A.T.

Wachovia Bank, N.A.

P. O. Box 930112

Atlanta, GA 31193



Spotlight on Partnerships

Featuring businesses, cities or individuals who are making a difference in the lives of others



SCANA Energy, a leading natural gas marketer in Georgia, proudly began its partnership with H.E.A.T. in 2001. Since then, SCANA Energy has donated more than \$1,000,000 in financial contributions and in-kind services to H.E.A.T. for Georgians in need of energy assistance. SCANA Energy is the only natural gas marketer that gives customers the opportunity to donate to H.E.A.T. through their natural gas bills. For more information and to make a tax-deductible donation to this vital program, please visit www.scanaenergy.com or call **1-877-GO-SCANA (467-2262)**. SCANA Energy also helps raise awareness of H.E.A.T. through its ongoing grass-roots outreach programs and various promotional activities.

SCANA Energy is part of a family of companies that has been a trusted source of energy in the Southeast for 160 years and currently provides natural gas to more than 475,000 homes and businesses across Georgia. SCANA

Energy also has a regulated unit: in 2002, SCANA Energy Regulated Division was selected by the Georgia Public Service Commission as the state's first, sole regulated natural gas provider to serve low-income and credit-challenged natural gas consumers.

SCANA Energy is recognized for a number of factors, including its stability, extensive experience in the competitive, deregulated natural gas industry, overall customer service performance, fairness of pricing plans, and long-standing concern for low-income and elderly consumers.

SCANA Energy is pleased to honor its commitment to meet the needs of its communities throughout Georgia. By supporting charitable causes and collaborating with community and state organizations, SCANA Energy is able to provide relief year-round to Georgia's citizens.

SCANA Energy looks forward to continuing its partnership with H.E.A.T. and to warming more homes and hearts in our neighborhoods.

News You Can Use

1. Set the thermostat to 68 degrees in the winter.
2. Purchase a programmable thermostat.
3. Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees.
4. Caulk and place weatherstripping around windows and doors.
5. Open shades in the daytime to allow solar energy to enter the home during the winter.

Surviving a Winter's Outage

With the uncertainty of weather forecasts, no one is really able to predict Mother Nature. Just as the residents in Gulf Coast communities have to be prepared to secure their homes for an emergency evacuation during the hurricane season, all consumers need to be aware and prepared for winter outages which can result from freezing rain. Listed here are a few precautions to take just in case you experience an outage this winter.

- ✓ Keep first aid kits, flashlights, batteries, matches and candles in an accessible location.
- ✓ Ensure that you have a supply of bottled water and non-perishable food to last 5 days.
- ✓ Keep enough blankets available for everyone in the household.
- ✓ Stock up on a reasonable supply of medications for those who require them.
- ✓ Invest in a home generator for backup energy if possible and affordable.



Tips for Senior Citizens



1. Make sure your home is properly insulated.
2. Place more blankets on the bed at night to keep warm.
3. Wear sweaters and socks whenever possible around the home.

We are Glad that You are on our Team!

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Municipal Gas
 Authority of Georgia

**Georgians meet their energy needs
Helping low-income**

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Did you know?

- Natural gas leaks should be reported to Atlanta Gas Light Company by calling 1-877-427-4321.
- The website of the Georgia Public Service Commission lists competitive pricing rates of natural gas marketers. www.psc.state.ga.us
- SCANA Energy Regulated has been approved by the Georgia Public Service Commission to provide natural gas service to low-income and elderly consumers, as well as individuals whose credit histories prevent them from obtaining service from another gas marketer. Call 1-866-245-7742 for assistance.
- Senior Citizens who are at least 65 years old, with a household income of \$14,355 per year or less, and are customers of Georgia Power can qualify to receive up to a \$14/month discount on their bill. Call their customer service number at 1-888-660-5890 for an application.
- Senior Citizens who are at least 65 years old, whose household income of \$14,355 per year or less, can qualify to receive up to a \$14/month discount on the base charge portion of their natural gas bill. Call the Atlanta Gas Light Company customer care number at 1-800-427-5463 for an application.

H.E.A.T., Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides energy assistance statewide for Georgians in need. Qualified households receive assistance regardless of the energy used – natural gas, electricity, propane, oil, or other types of energy sources.