

Summer
2009



The H.E.A.T. Factor



A NEWSLETTER OF THE HEATING ENERGY ASSISTANCE TEAM, INC.

From the Executive Director

H.E.A.T.'s mission is a caring and humanitarian one – to provide energy assistance for Georgians in need. Although our mission gives us direction, it is often overwhelming, especially in these difficult times. With the downturn in the economy and reeling unemployment, new faces are emerging among those in need of help – perhaps an accountant, a real estate professional, an engineer or a construction worker. In an instant, consumers are being taken from successful members of Georgia's work force to needing social services.

Last winter 42 percent of the calls H.E.A.T. received were from individuals who had lost their jobs and were struggling to buy food and pay mortgages or rent and home heating costs. The need for energy assistance has drastically increased, with more than 700,000 families in Georgia living at or below the poverty level. Therefore, the people we serve and the demand for our services are growing dramatically – so dramatically, in fact, that resources cannot keep pace!

To continue fulfilling our mission, we must maintain focus on our clients, the communities we serve and the much-needed service we provide. In addition, we must do more with less and have a greater return on investment. To that end, we reduced our already frugal budget by 14 percent in 2008 and nine percent during the first quarter of 2009. We remain committed to keeping expenses as low as possible in order to be good stewards of the support entrusted to us. ***More than 80 cents of every dollar given to H.E.A.T. for energy assistance goes directly to help families in need.***

To continue our sustainability, support from all our partners – individual donors, businesses, municipalities, board members, community affiliates, volunteers and staff – is crucial. We need everyone working together to bring about positive change. As Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do little; together we can do so much."

Janet H. Joseph
Executive Director

A Lifetime of Service to Mankind...Britt & Nan Pendergrast

By Delores Smith-Johnson, H.E.A.T. Board Member and Community-Based Consultant

For most, after leading very successful careers and full lives, it would be time to sit back and relax – but not Britt and Nan. They have dedicated their lives to reaching out to the underserved, with a particular interest in civil rights, the environment and education. H.E.A.T. has been so blessed to be among the many endeavors that this couple has been involved in. In a recent interview with Janet Joseph, executive director for H.E.A. T., they stated that they became involved with H.E.A.T. after they met the late Frances Pauley, the founder of H.E.A.T. and a long-time board member and supporter. They were touched by her character and the humanitarian aspect of the organization. In Britt's words, Mrs. Pauley "never developed a flaw." Both Nan and Britt served on the Advisory Committee when H.E.A.T. was a program of Atlanta Gas Light, and Nan served as secretary from 1991-1998.



During H.E.A.T.'s 25th anniversary celebration last fall, Executive Director Janet Joseph, above left, presented an award on behalf of the organization to Britt and Nan Pendergrast for more than 22 years of dedicated service.

The Pendergrasts are an inspiration to everyone they meet. Married for 70 years, they raised seven children, and despite having extremely long "to-do lists," they have always been there for H.E.A.T., and they continue to be active board members. Over the years Nan became more and

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Your Support is Making a Difference...



Jackie Horner is appreciative of the help she received through H.E.A.T.

A single parent for 13 years, Jackie Horner assumed she would always have her job in corporate America. But she found out that no one is assured of job security during tough economic times. With her oldest child in college and 16-year-old twins at home, Ms. Horner suddenly found herself jobless. "Companies are downsizing everywhere, and finding a job opportunity is tough right now," she says. "I knew I needed help."

H.E.A.T., she says, helped make winter a little less harsh for the Horner family.



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

Claxton Number-One City in H.E.A.T. Donations

Claxton, known as the "Fruit Cake Capital of the World," has recently acquired another distinction – the number-one city in raising contributions to help neighbors with energy emergencies.

The city outpaced 21 other Georgia cities to win the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia H.E.A.T. Award at the authority's recent annual membership meeting. The award recognizes the outstanding effort put forth by a city in inspiring local citizens to help their neighbors in need pay their heating bills. Award winners are determined by the number of dollars raised per meter. Claxton's concerted effort included letters to their customers, newspaper publicity and exposure on the local cable channel. Their tremendous teamwork resulted in a donation of \$1,993, or \$2.23 per meter, to H.E.A.T. last winter. The funding helped provide assistance for nine deserving families.

"The City of Claxton's outstanding efforts are commendable, and the generosity of people in the greater Claxton area demonstrates true compassion among neighbors. H.E.A.T. is grateful for communities with heart like Claxton," said Chris Strippelhoff, H.E.A.T.'s board chairman.



Claxton City Administrator Gayle Durrence and Mayor Luther Royal, above right, accepted the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia H.E.A.T Award at MGAG's recent annual meeting. Shown at left are H.E.A.T. reps Chris Strippelhoff and Janet Joseph.

CONSERVE ENERGY TO SAVE MONEY AND HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Today's consumers are seeking ways to conserve energy, increase environmental consciousness, and stretch their hard-earned dollars, especially during the current economic downturn. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, "the average American family spends about \$1,900 a year in energy costs." Sadly, most of those energy costs, according to the report, are spent on wasted energy.

Consumers often do not realize that by taking some very simple steps, they can conserve energy, help the environment, and help their wallets at the same time. The following are some simple tips and their cost effectiveness taken from an article entitled, "19 Ways to Slash Your Utility Bill," by Jim Gorman.

- Program your thermostat to save about \$180 a year.
- Keep your air conditioner filter and coils clean to save about \$100 a year.
- Install a low-flow shower head to reduce your hot-water usage from 3.5 gal/min to 1.5 gal/min and save about \$180 a year.
- Wash full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine to save about \$51 a year.
- Air-dry clothes during the warmest six months of the year to save about \$57 a year.

Clearly, the annual savings for an average family adds up quickly. Every family can make a dent in energy costs with little up-front effort or expense. And over time, making small changes to conserve energy helps the environment – a huge benefit for all of us.

For additional information and tips, you may review the article mentioned above in the MSN archives, and check out the U.S. Department of Energy's website, www.energy.gov.



A Lifetime of Service to Mankind...

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more involved with education, serving as a tutor for many years in public schools.

In recent years, Britt and Nan have scaled back some of the organizations that they are active in. After all, Britt is now 92 and Nan is 89 – ages when many people would be seeking rest and relaxation. But the Pendergrasts continue to be involved with H.E.A.T. because, they say, "H.E.A.T. is one of the most important organizations, primarily because of the warm glow you feel in your heart when you think of people who are able to stay warm because of the help that they received from H.E.A.T." It's easy to see why Georgia residents and the H.E.A.T. organization are blessed to have Britt and Nan Pendergrast on their side!

H.E.A.T. Needs You – VOLUNTEER!

H.E.A.T. is in need of volunteers to help write copy for its semi-annual newsletter and to assist with fundraising.

Also, other volunteer opportunities are available. Please call our office at **678-406-0212** to join our team!



Welcome to the Board

Katherine D. Bows is the Director, Marketing Communications, for the Georgia Institute of Technology. With more than 20 years of marketing and public relations experience, she joined Georgia Tech in June 2007. Prior to Georgia Tech, she spent twelve years in the financial services industry, including five years at SunTrust. She also was senior vice president of marketing and public relations for Flag Bank in Atlanta until its acquisition by RBC Bank in 2007. Ms. Bows is a native Atlantan and earned a bachelor of business administration degree and a bachelor of arts degree in Ibero-American Studies from Southern Methodist University. She also received an MBA from Emory University. Ms. Bows will serve on H.E.A.T.'s Marketing/Fund Development and Strategic Planning committees.



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

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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.