Recently, a friend asked why I accepted the executive director position at H.E.A.T.

I was already familiar with the program, having managed it for 12 years at Atlanta Gas Light Company. When the natural gas industry in Georgia was deregulated, H.E.A.T. was reorganized as a nonprofit, and I was hired as the first executive director, a position I’ve held for 12 years.

I took the position because I was inspired by H.E.A.T.’s founder, Frances F. Pauley, and by advisory committee members who truly cared about those less fortunate. I wanted to do what I could to make a difference in the lives of families who struggle to meet their day-to-day needs.

Although well established, H.E.A.T. isn’t a high-profile nonprofit. My team is small—just two people—because there is no choice between spending more money on staff and giving less money to families in need. So the two of us work harder and longer.

“Why have you stayed?” my friend asked, perplexed.

I paused to think. Why HAVE I stayed? H.E.A.T. is celebrating a milestone anniversary this year—30 years. This is a good time, I thought, to reassess why I do what I do.

I have stayed because I believe in H.E.A.T.’s mission. I have stayed because I know firsthand how hard it can be to live on a limited income. I have stayed because the amount of federal funds allocated to help poor Georgians pay their energy bills has been cut by 36 percent—in just three years.

Yes, it’s challenging. Yet, despite it all, we’ve distributed more than $21 million to nearly 92,000 families since inception.

I’m deeply grateful to be part of H.E.A.T.’s past, but I’m even more grateful to be part of its future. Won’t you join me on this journey?

Janet H. Joseph
Executive Director

It’s official! After successfully passing the vetting process, the Personnel Board for the State of Georgia and University System has voted to include H.E.A.T. in the 2013-2014 State Charitable Contributions Program (SCCP) campaign. All state and university employees now have the option to donate to H.E.A.T. through payroll deduction. For more than 15 years, the state and university system employees have generously contributed to charitable causes of their choice. If you are a state or university employee and not currently a H.E.A.T. donor, please consider supporting H.E.A.T. through SCCP. The program code for H.E.A.T. is 101405. Working together, we can help more families statewide stay warm during the cold winter months.

H.E.A.T. Included in State Charitable Contributions Program
When Donald James, a 63-year-old husband and father of five, began experiencing severe dizzy spells and migraines, he thought he was having a heart attack. He was rushed to the hospital where he learned that his blood pressure was 200/100 mm Hg. The American Heart Association considers a reading this high to be a “hypertensive crisis” requiring immediate care. The emergency room attendant prescribed medicine for Mr. James’ blood pressure and migraines. Unfortunately, this relief came at a high price – just six blood pressure pills cost him $85.

Mr. James went home, but got no relief from the migraines. He returned to the emergency room and was prescribed a new drug for this blood pressure – one almost twice as expensive as the first. Now he was paying $160 for six pills.

In total, Mr. James spends $250 per month on medicine alone. This expense is in addition to necessities such as food, housing and utilities. “I live on a fixed income,” said Mr. James, who sometimes does not have enough money to cover all of this bills.

About five years ago, Mr. James heard about H.E.A.T., but had never needed any help. Not now. However, with the drastic increase in the cost of this medicine, Mr. James could no longer afford to pay his energy bill. After applying for assistance with H.E.A.T., he was given enough money to help with his bill. Mr. James said, “This is the first time I’ve ever received any aid. H.E.A.T. really helped me out of a bind. Once I get back on my feet, I’m going to donate and help others, too.”

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 ( ______ ) _____________________  Email __________________________________

H.E.A.T.
Wells Fargo
P. O. Box 930112
Atlanta, GA 31193
We are pleased to announce the winners of this year’s MGAG H.E.A.T. Award for the cities that raised the most funds based on the number of active meters.

The city of Claxton won for the fifth straight year representing the under-1,000 active meters category. No stranger to the winners’ circle is the city of Tifton which won for the 1,000 to 5,000 active meters category and the city of Winder, a previous winner, won for the 5,000-and-over active meters category. This year, MGAG also presented an award to the city that raised the most funds during H.E.A.T.’s “Neighbors Helping Neighbors Keep Warm” campaign. The honors went to the city of Covington.

We thank not only our winners, but also all the cities that partner with H.E.A.T. to help those in our communities who are less fortunate.

Things to do before the first chill gets in the air!

- Have your furnace professionally serviced.
- Check caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors.
- Change your furnace filter.
- Install a programmable thermostat that automatically adjusts the temperature when you’re not at home.

For 30 years H.E.A.T. has kept Georgia families warm. From 1983 until 2013, the organization has served nearly 92,000 families and provided more than $21 million to assist low-income families with their energy needs. We sincerely thank all of our partners and donors for your continued support and generosity throughout the years.
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Helping low-income
Georgians meet their energy needs

MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

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City of Austell
City of Blakely
City of Camilla
City of Claxton
City of Cochran
City of Covington
Fort Valley Utility Commission
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