

Fall/Winter
2015



The H.E.A.T. Factor



A NEWSLETTER OF THE HEATING ENERGY ASSISTANCE TEAM, INC. heatga.org

H.E.A.T. Helps Disabled Mother and Son Survive the Winter

There's an old saying: when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. In some situations, that's possible. Other times, the challenges of life weigh so heavy, even our best efforts to turn things around don't succeed. That's when we have to look to others for help.

Last winter, H.E.A.T. provided energy assistance to nearly 3,800 Georgians who looked to us for help. Dannie Marks, an amazing woman and mother, and her son, B'Kai, are two of them.

Several years ago, Dannie and her son were in a severe car accident. The force from the impact tore Dannie's right eye from its socket, ripped her left arm apart, shifted all of her teeth to one side of her head and broke multiple bones throughout her body.

Dannie continues to have health problems as a result of the accident. She has had six surgeries on her right eye, and will soon have to undergo another procedure to repair the torn prosthetic she wears.

B'Kai, her 31-year-old son, needs constant care because he suffers from dystonia, an extremely painful disorder that causes his muscles to contract uncontrollably. Although deep brain stimulation offers some relief and a plate in his spine enables B'Kai to walk, he is still dependent on his mother for care.

At one point, Dannie was working as a substitute teacher, but after falling and injuring her back, she made the difficult decision to stay home and care for her son instead of taking another job; she refused to put him in a home, and preferred to care for him herself.

Living mainly off of B'Kai's disability income and some support from other sources, Dannie had a difficult time covering her heating bills last winter. She heard about H.E.A.T., applied, and was given much-needed help. "You are a godsend," replied Dannie when asked what she'd like to say to H.E.A.T.'s donors. "My son and I appreciate you so very much."

Never one to give up no matter the odds, Dannie is currently pursuing a master's degree at Strayer University and remains devoted to caring for her son.



*H.E.A.T. Recipient,
Dannie Marks*

- **Total funds provided by H.E.A.T. during winter 2014-15: \$567,000**
- **Total families assisted: 1,642**
- **Total individuals assisted: 3,782**

Dr. Dale Henry to Speak at H.E.A.T. Annual Meeting

We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Dale Henry will be the keynote speaker at the November 18, 2015, H.E.A.T. annual meeting to be held at AGL Resources. The annual meeting brings together representatives from different sectors interested in meeting the energy needs of less fortunate families, and heightening awareness of their plight.

This year's speaker, Dr. Henry, is the founder and president of Your Best Unlimited, Inc., a Tennessee-based training company. His many experiences in the field of business and education make him a natural when it comes to lively and humorous presentations. He speaks to and trains more than 100,000 professionals and executives each year for clients such as Levi Strauss, AT&T, Maytag, Cellular One, GTE, FedEx, MCI, Xerox, SunTrust, The Disney Company, as well as federal and international agencies. In 1999 alone, he presented to more than 40 of the Fortune 50 companies. Dr. Henry has been featured on numerous television and radio talk shows around the world and has developed several bestselling video and audio training programs through his own brand of "edu-tainment."



Dr. Dale Henry

SPOTLIGHT ON PARTNERSHIPS

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



Constellation

An Exelon Company

Constellation is proud to support H.E.A.T. for the tenth consecutive year. Like H.E.A.T., we are dedicated to helping Georgia residents meet their energy needs.

Constellation is a leading, competitive retail supplier of power, natural gas, and energy products and services for homes and businesses across the continental United States. One of the nation's 10 largest natural gas marketers, Constellation delivers more than 2 trillion cubic feet of gas annually to residential, commercial and industrial customers. Constellation's family of retail businesses serves more than 2.5 million residential, public sector and business customers, including more than two-thirds of the Fortune 100.

Constellation has served customers in Georgia since 2006, and today delivers natural gas supply to nearly 67,000 customers in the state. Its presence in the natural gas market spans the entire value chain from upstream investments in exploration and production properties, to midstream trading, transport and storage, to downstream physical gas supply, pricing, forward hedging and risk management.

Constellation supports organizations that are working to improve the quality of life in the communities it serves through financial and human-capital investments. The company's investments are focused on energy, education, the environment and economic development.

In order to realize a positive community impact, Constellation partners with local and national non-profit leaders like H.E.A.T. in support of key community needs. In 2014, Constellation contributed more than \$4 million to charitable causes, and its employees logged 17,500 employee volunteer hours.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fall always feels like a good time for a fresh start. Maybe it's because the beginning of the school year coincides with fall. Some of us can still remember the optimism we felt when we started a new grade. There were new clothes, new teachers and a new chance to excel in the classroom. Or maybe it's the thrill of a brand new football season, and the opportunity for our favorite team to "take it all the way." Whatever the reason, here at H.E.A.T., this fall truly is a season of fresh starts! We're still settling into our new office on Henderson Mill Road. (But we need to finish fast because our annual meeting on November 18 is right around the corner). Plus, we're starting some exciting new projects that you will hear more about as they unfold. With so much happening, it's easy to forget that summer is over and it will soon be time for winter coats.

Fall sits in the perfect place: the blistering temperatures of the summer have dropped into the 70s, there's no need to run AC

or heat and energy bills are low. Sadly, fall doesn't last long. This is the time of year I start to think about how many people will need H.E.A.T.'s help over the coming months. The National Weather Service is forecasting a colder-than-normal winter for 2015-16. Statistics show that one in five Georgia households – 20 percent – will struggle to pay their heating bills this winter. That percentage represents thousands of children, elderly and disabled residents, like Dannie and her son B'Kai that are profiled on the front page. I remind myself every day that they are the reason H.E.A.T.'s work is so important. Thank you for supporting us, and your neighbors. Wishing everyone a safe, and warm winter.

Janet H. Joseph

Janet H. Joseph
Executive Director



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

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

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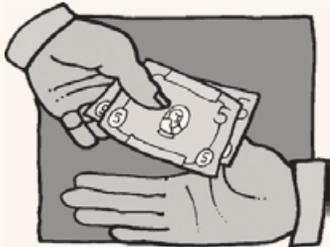
Atlanta, GA 31193



PREPARE FOR A WINTER OUTAGE

Winter is the perfect time of year to heed the Boy Scouts' motto: "Be Prepared!" A nasty ice storm or freezing rain can knock out power and leave you stranded in a cold, dark home. Here are a few precautions you can take in case you experience an outage this winter.

- ❖ Keep first aid kits, lanterns, flashlights, batteries, matches and candles in an easily accessible location.
- ❖ Ensure that you have enough bottled water and non-perishable food to last five days. Make sure you have a manual can opener.
- ❖ Have 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.



ATTENTION

All State of Georgia and University System employees. You can now donate to H.E.A.T. via payroll deduction!

Use program code 101405.

Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (MGAG) Recognizes 2015 H.E.A.T. Award Recipients

At its annual membership meeting, MGAG honored three of its member cities for partnering with and contributing to H.E.A.T. Member cities that partner with H.E.A.T. offer their utility customers the option of donating through their utility bills, or mailing a donation to the organization. The awards are presented annually to municipally owned natural gas systems served by MGAG. Below are the winners in each category.

Up to 1,000 customers – **Claxton, GA**, contributions averaged \$2.49 per customer
1,000 to 5,000 customers – **Americus, GA**, contributions averaged \$1.39 per customer
More than 5,000 customers – **Winder, GA**, contributions averaged \$1.13 per customer

We applaud all the MGAG cities that participated in the effort to help their neighbors in need! Thanks to you, more than 114 families received assistance.

H.E.A.T. Has a New Home!



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The H.E.A.T. Factor is a newsletter published for friends and supporters of H.E.A.T., Inc.

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**Our mission is to
provide energy
assistance for
Georgians in need.**

H.E.A.T., Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) statewide nonprofit organization that raises funds to help Georgians who need temporary financial assistance with energy bills. Thousands of households need help, but only limited funding is available.



heatga.org



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