

A Man of Service Receives Help from HEAT

Earl Farmer, 69-years-old, has lived an interesting life of service. As one of nine children, Earl says he comes from a family with “a tendency for teaching.” His love for community work began at 17-years-old by assisting with the Mathews-Dickey Boys’ & Girls’ Club in St. Louis, Missouri during its early stages. A few years later, he went on to help develop a youth program for a military academy. His success with the program eventually led to working with a local grade school to help students in first through eighth grade with behavioral issues. Earl has had the opportunity to do community work in 22 states helping teens, young adults and older citizens. Yet, he says his most rewarding service was back in Missouri. Noticing young people around town needing help, Earl acted as a mentor and caretaker for about 15 boys from their childhood through adolescence to counteract their unstable home life.

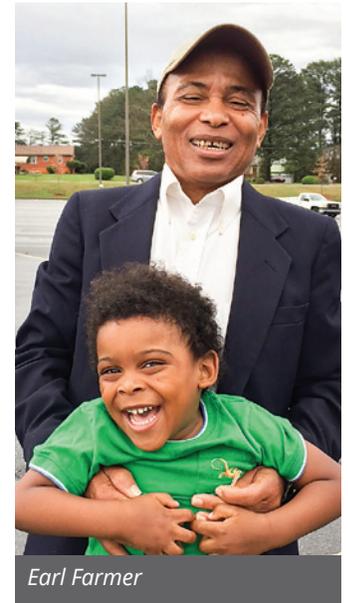
Even with a life full of good deeds for others, Earl found himself in desperate need of help now living in Georgia.

After a ministry opportunity began to fall through, Earl was blindsided when the mother of his child took off with their money last winter. Fortunately, the property owner of his home was gracious enough to waive his rent payment considering the circumstance. However, left with hardly any

funds to cover living expenses, it was not long before Earl and his son had no heat in their home. Luckily, HEAT came to his attention from a handout with a list of phone numbers.

The HEAT staff connected Earl with his local community action agency so he could apply for energy assistance. He is deeply grateful to the donors of HEAT for making it possible for him and his son to receive the help they needed.

Earl plans to continue contributing to society in ways that uplift people and better equip them to live productive lives. When asked what principles he wants to instill in his son, Earl said, “I never believed that I could not do something. I pray my son will be a stronger and better man than me. I like exposing him to new things so he won’t be held back by limitations.” 🔥



Earl Farmer

Energy Panel Discussion at Kennesaw State University



Energy panel at Kennesaw State with Dr. Hussein Abaza (front left) and Michael Collins (front right).

HEAT was invited to participate in an energy panel at Kennesaw State University for National Energy Education Day. Organized by Dr. Hussein Abaza, associate professor in the Department of Construction Management, the discussion focused on how the architecture community can promote better use of energy. HEAT sat down with Dr. Abaza to discuss what led him to his profession and his thoughts on energy efficiency.

Q. What led you to get involved in the field of architecture? How long have you been working in this field?

A. When I was younger, I observed my father as he did handiwork. Years later, I received a very good scholarship to enroll in school. I have been working in architecture for 30 years.

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Q. What led to your interest in energy efficiency?

A. My family was low income, so I had my first experience of no heat in my home during childhood. After moving to the U.S. on my own, there was a point when I needed to apply for energy assistance. I was unable to receive help because the funds ran out.

Q. From an architectural perspective, what are a few of the top issues with residential buildings that work against energy efficiency?

A. I think the main issue is it is not at the forefront of many architects' mind to create a building configuration for energy efficiency. There's no overall solution to help structures that are already built. Those issues would have to be solved on a case-

by-case basis. What may be a good solution to help one home may not be good for another. It will take visiting those homes to understand exactly where the problem lies.

Q. What can people look for when searching for a home that is energy efficient?

A. If possible, it would be helpful to look over that home's history of energy bills.

Dr. Abaza's long-time colleague and principal at The Sustinere Group, Michael Collins, added home buyers can also check if a potential home is certified for energy efficiency. Collins recommends Energy Star, LEED or Earth Craft as credible certifications. 🔥

Help Your Neighbor in Need by Joining the HEAT Sustainer Club

THE ISSUE

One out of every five Georgians lives in poverty and many of **those low-income households spend up to 30 percent of their income on utilities**. While HEAT serves thousands of families each year, federal sources report it is standard that **approximately 20 percent of Georgia's population is eligible for energy assistance**. Low-income citizens are often forced to put aside other basic necessities such as groceries and vital medications just to keep the heat on during cold weather. For many of our less fortunate neighbors, a past-due heating bill will cause them to lose their housing arrangement, leaving them homeless.

HOW CAN I HELP?

One of the most effective and simple ways to help HEAT raise funds for energy assistance is through recurring donations. By signing up to become a HEAT Sustainer, you help make it possible to increase funding through a steady stream of monthly donations. The more funds HEAT provides for energy assistance the more we help Georgians stay warm, maintain their homes and other living necessities, and continue life as productive citizens.

There are four club levels you can choose from based on the impact for your neighbors in need:

- **HEAT Guardian Level (\$87)** helps approximately **three families annually**
- **HEAT Friend Level (\$58)** helps approximately **two families annually**
- **HEAT Promoter Level (\$29)** helps approximately **one family annually**
- **HEAT Keeper Level (\$12)** provides **partial amount to assist one family annually**

HOW DO I SIGN UP TO BE A HEAT SUSTAINER?

1. Visit **heatga.org** and click **DONATE NOW** at the top of the page.
2. Choose **Credit or Debit** from the giving options.
3. Enter the amount that reflects the Sustainer Club level you want to join and select **Make This Donation Monthly**.
4. Fill out the remaining details and submit your information.

With your help, we can continue providing relief for our neighbors struggling to make ends meet.

New Municipal Partners: Cairo and Social Circle

HEAT's mission to provide energy assistance affords a special opportunity to pursue partnerships with municipalities that provide home heating service for their residents. Georgia has 84 municipalities that manage their own natural gas system. HEAT has been fortunate to work with 24 cities across the state to help raise funds through utility customers. Two municipalities HEAT is glad to welcome on board are the cities of Cairo and Social Circle.

City of Cairo

- Located in Grady County
- Known as "Georgia's Hospitality City"
- Approximately 10,000 residents
- Founded in 1870 and incorporated in 1905
- Interesting fact: Cairo is the birthplace of famous baseball player Jackie Robinson

"We take pride in being known as 'Georgia's Hospitality City,' and if you visit you will see why. We're a quiet, pleasant town made up of good-hearted people who truly value our community and helping visitors enjoy their time with us. Cairo is particularly a great place for people who like outdoor activities such as golfing, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, motorcross, antique car rallies and unique festivals," said Chris Addleton, city manager.

City of Social Circle

- Located in Walton County
- Known as "Georgia's Greatest Little Town"
- Approximately 5,000 residents
- Founded in 1832 and incorporated in 1904
- Interesting fact: Social Circle has more than 50 homes on the National Register of Historic Places.

"With only being in Social Circle for a short time, I realized very quickly how close-knit the community is. When Hurricane Irma came through in September, city employees, neighbors and industry workers took to the streets to see how they could help someone in need. Our mayor and public safety used social media to inform residents twice a day of clean-up efforts, when power would be running and where to get a hot meal. That's teamwork. That's community at its finest. By working together, we prove every day that Social Circle is 'Georgia's Greatest Little Town,'" said Velinda Hardy, downtown director.

HEAT Welcomes New Board Members

Denise Campbell is the vice president and branch manager of Fidelity Bank's branch in Tyrone, Georgia. She leads her team in the areas of operations, sales, service and business development. Joining Fidelity in June 2013 as a teller, Denise soon advanced in the roles of personal banker, lead teller and support for both the branch manager and assistant branch managers.



With more than 30 years of experience, Denise has been an integral part of major banks in Georgia such as Bank South, Bank of America, SunTrust and Wachovia (now Wells Fargo). In addition to her profession, she is a member of PowerCore of Peachtree City, Business Women of Fayette and Coweta, Rotary Club of Fayetteville, Fayette County Chamber of Commerce and is a board member for The Ronnie Thames Foundation. Denise also serves the community through Special Populations Tennis Program (Special Pops) for persons with intellectual disabilities and assists students in local schools with reading and schoolwork.

Tim Hallmark is the eastern regional manager of Consolidated Pipe & Supply. He is responsible for all branch operations and sales in Georgia, Idaho, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, Utah and Virginia. Tim moved to Lawrenceville, Georgia in 1992 and two years later he opened the first of eight Consolidated Pipe branches in Georgia. He has worked with the company since 1986.



A native of Blount County, Alabama, Tim attended Jefferson State College. Married since 1987, he and his wife, Debra, have two children, Summer and Dustin.

HEAT is also glad to welcome back to the board Mike Jewell, natural gas director of the city of Covington.





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*Helping low-income
Georgians meet their energy needs*



HEAT Ambassadors Program



One of the challenges HEAT faces in balancing administrative and fundraising activities through the year is building more relationships with volunteers. Like any nonprofit, HEAT understands the value of community engagement by offering meaningful activities to allow citizens to get involved with our mission. To better connect volunteers with the organization, we are developing the HEAT Ambassadors Program. This is an opportunity for Georgians who want to make a difference to become a voice for their neighbors in need who often go unnoticed.

Maintaining a source of heat during cold weather is a necessity for everyone. For many residents whose heat and

light source are the same, no heat also means no electricity in their home. We can all give several examples of how badly our life would be impacted by losing our home energy. As a HEAT ambassador, volunteers have the advantage of speaking about an issue to which they and an audience of their fellow Georgians can easily relate. The key activities for ambassadors will be educating communities about how to receive help and assisting with raising funds.

HEAT's long-term goal is building ambassador relationships statewide that advance efforts to increase awareness and donations for energy assistance. Be on the lookout for more information about the Ambassadors Program on HEAT's social media. 🔥

The HEAT Factor is a newsletter published for friends and supporters of HEAT, Inc.

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HEAT, 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.

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

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