

Spring/
Summer
2010



The H.E.A.T. Factor



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

St. Columba's Church Feels the H.E.A.T.

At St. Columba's Episcopal Church in Suwanee "hearts are free to change the world." The church set out to do just that when it conducted its second annual Feel the H.E.A.T. 5K/1 Mile Run that garnered \$3,200 to help Georgia's less fortunate families with their utility costs. The event, held at the church on a cold but sunny day in February, drew more than 300 participants of all ages and fitness levels.

H.E.A.T.'s Executive Director, Janet Joseph, participated in the event and expressed gratitude on behalf of H.E.A.T. and families served by her organization. "We are so appreciative of the donation from St. Columba's Episcopal Church. The downturn in the economy has forced many Georgia families to choose between heating their homes and buying food or medicine. The donation resulting from this race will help reach families most in need of emergency energy assistance," said Joseph.

Father Tripp Norris, rector of St. Columba's, explained that St. Columba's members believe in making a difference in the lives of others



Fr. Tripp Norris of St. Columba's Episcopal Church presents a \$3,200 donation to H.E.A.T.'s director, Janet Joseph.

through their words and deeds and that being a part of the community is an important role of the church. "This event is a wonderful way to bring people together from throughout the Atlanta area to support an organization that is so important, particularly during this especially cold winter. We're thrilled with the turnout of runners and support from sponsors this year."

Many thanks to St. Columba's for its dedication to help build a stronger community!

City of Winder's Festival Participation Raises Dollars for H.E.A.T.



Left to Right: Ricky Page, Angela Page and Mike Jewell of the City of Winder host a booth promoting H.E.A.T. and natural gas at the Jug Tavern Festival.

Employees of the City of Winder have a heart for helping their neighbors as demonstrated by their participation in the city's first annual "Jug Tavern Festival." The fun event featured arts and crafts, a car and tractor show, local artists, exhibits, and live entertainment. Additionally, under the leadership of the city's natural gas director, Mike Jewell, the Natural Gas Department hosted an exhibit to promote H.E.A.T. and the use of clean-burning natural gas and tankless water heating technology. A custom-decorated booth filled with informational posters, handouts, and brochures about H.E.A.T. encouraged passers-by to stop and learn more about the use of natural gas and how they can help

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From the Executive Director

Hello Spring!

It was a long, bitter winter here in Georgia, but we made it. Despite the continued economic downturn, H.E.A.T. was able to provide \$662,324 to families with energy emergencies last winter, thanks to you. For our part, we cut our already lean budget by 20% during 2009 and froze spending in certain areas to ensure that your donations would be used how and where you intended.

We welcome 2010 with a renewed energy and a continued commitment to our work. Warm weather is finally here, but many Georgians are still paying energy bills from last winter. **Heating bills during extremely cold weather can easily reach hundreds of dollars per month.** Although the economic environment is slowly improving, Georgia still had an unemployment rate of 10.6% in March 2010 – higher than the national average – making it difficult for many families to meet all of their needs.

Spring always brings change and growth, and H.E.A.T. has many exciting initiatives planned for the year ahead. Read on to find out how we plan to **“Save Green by Going Green,”** and to learn how you can help by signing up to receive our newsletter electronically. Meet some of the dedicated organizations like **St. Columba’s Episcopal Church in Suwanee** and the **Natural Gas Department of the City of Winder** that have partnered with H.E.A.T. on fundraisers and helped to spread awareness of our work in the communities we serve.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and encouragement, and we wish you and your families all the best.



Janet H. Joseph

Janet H. Joseph
Executive Director

Thanks... from the Heart... Reda Tucker

Until her husband became ill in 1999, Reda Tucker worked outside the home to help meet household expenses. But Mr. Tucker’s diabetes caused kidney failure, resulting in the need for routine dialysis. He then suffered two strokes that left him unable to walk and in need of round-the-clock home care. Financial resources were very limited. The family could not afford an in-home nurse or a nursing home. Mrs. Tucker had no choice but to quit her job and take full responsibility for the care of her husband. To further complicate matters, Mrs. Tucker suffered back and knee problems while lifting her husband to bathe him or turn him in bed.

Mr. Tucker’s limited monthly income did not



Reda Tucker

cover the family’s household expenses, let alone the cost of life-saving medication. With their propane tank only 10% full during the coldest time of the year, the Tuckers found themselves needing help to stay warm.

“All I could do was pray,” said Mrs. Tucker. “I called the Department of Human Services, and they told me about H.E.A.T. I got the help we so badly needed the same day I applied. It was like a miracle.”

Mrs. Tucker is so grateful for the help she received that she wants everyone to know about her experience. “I want to thank everyone who contributes to H.E.A.T.,” she stated. “It truly made a difference in our lives.”



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.

Wachovia Bank, N.A.

P. O. Box 930112

Atlanta, GA 31193



★ Need a new appliance? ★

Shop wisely to save money and help protect natural resources

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 appropriated funds to each state for the establishment and administration of appliance rebate programs. The first-come, first-served rebate program was launched February 12, 2010 with \$8,642,490 available to Georgia residents. As of April 2010, the program has approximately \$5 million dollars remaining. Georgia residents who replace an existing appliance with a new ENERGY STAR qualified appliance purchased after February 12 are eligible to apply for the rebate. Approved applicants will receive a Visa® Prepaid Card via mail.

A goal of the program is to stimulate the economy

by encouraging consumers to replace old appliances with new ENERGY STAR qualified models. Georgia residents are invited to participate in this program. By participating, you help protect our natural resources and boost Georgia's economy.



To apply for the rebate or find out additional information, visit the program's website at www.GeorgiaRebate.com or call 1-866-296-1633.

Source: Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority

City of Winder's Festival Participation

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their neighbors. Raffle tickets were sold for one dollar prior to the festival and on the day of the event for an opportunity to win a tankless water heater donated by Rinnai Incorporated. In addition to the grand prize, raffle participants won jackets, purses, restaurant gift cards, and much more.

After the festival, H.E.A.T. donation request letters were included with bill mailings to give those who could not attend the event an opportunity to contribute. Overall, more than \$1,800 was raised from both the drawing and the letter campaign.

And the planning never stops with Winder's employees. They are already preparing for the next Jug Tavern Festival, as well as other activities over the summer. We thank the City of Winder and its community for helping those in need. We couldn't do it without you!

Help H.E.A.T. SAVE GREEN by GOING GREEN

We are doing our part to cut costs and help preserve natural resources. You can help support our efforts by opting to receive our newsletter, *The H.E.A.T. Factor*, via e-mail. By making this simple change, you will help H.E.A.T. save \$4,000 annually – enough to assist nearly 12 families with an energy emergency, which averages \$345 per family.

Signing up is easy! Simply e-mail or call us.

- E-mail the following information to info@heatga.org:
 - ✓ E-mail address
 - ✓ Your Name
 - ✓ Mailing Address (to ensure that we accurately match your information with our records)
- Call us at 678-406-0212

Note: We do not and will not sell or share your information with third parties.

H.E.A.T. Needs You. VOLUNTEER!



H.E.A.T. is in need of volunteers with financial, grant writing, sales and social media expertise. Also, other volunteer opportunities are available.

Please call our office at 678-406-0212 or visit www.heatga.org to join our team!

*Georgians meet their energy needs
Helping low-income*

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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

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.



www.heatga.org