

Message from the Director: Jeffrey Joseph

A principle I find to hold true in life is, in order to receive a blessing, you have to be a blessing to others.

I am truly grateful for many experiences of helping someone in need, from loved ones to total strangers, and having people return that same kindness to me. Those moments are a constant reminder that we are all better off when we do what we can to help each other through difficult times. With this life lesson in mind, I am pleased to have the privilege of serving as HEAT's new executive director.

I was first involved with HEAT's daily operations by providing pro bono accounting services for 17 years. However, prior to that role, I witnessed the early efforts of creating the energy assistance program during a time of significant increase for home heating costs. Seeing the challenges HEAT faced and the achievements that helped it become a great nonprofit inspires me to continue its mission for Georgians struggling to make ends meet.

Our team is working on different avenues to increase awareness about HEAT's purpose and impact with the goal of dramatically increasing annual contributions.

A few projects include:

- Introducing a newly designed website with improved search engine optimization through partnership with Macquarium
- Monthly visits to build new municipality partnerships across Georgia
- Researching opportunities for community engagement through activities and events
- Establishing new business partnerships for corporate donations



While we know meeting our goal will not be easy, we are encouraged by having a solid foundation to build from with faithful supporters. It is an exciting time and the organization is in a good place to embrace new opportunities. HEAT has a bright future and I look forward to you being a part of this journey. 🔥



Jeffrey Joseph
Executive Director



When the Averys Were Left in the Cold, HEAT Was There to Help

Have you ever watched someone you love suffer through pain and had little to no power to make it stop? This is the battle for Rebecca Avery with her husband Dennis. Dennis suffers from bone deterioration and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) due to past work that exposed him to vapors from a harmful paint chemical nearly 30 years ago. He is unable to lift more than five pounds, has occasional hand tremors and has received three epidurals for pain relief. It's a life the Averys would not have imagined when they became a couple back in 1997.

Some people may question the spouse they chose when hard times are this severe. However, if you ask Rebecca, she will tell you Dennis is her soul mate. She oversees Dennis' daily needs such as his schedule for about four medications and helping him use an inhaler when he has trouble breathing in the morning. Despite his condition putting him out of work as a handyman, Dennis still managed to drive Rebecca from time to time to her job in construction. But after losing two builders in the area, Rebecca's work came to a halt and the couple was left with no source of money.

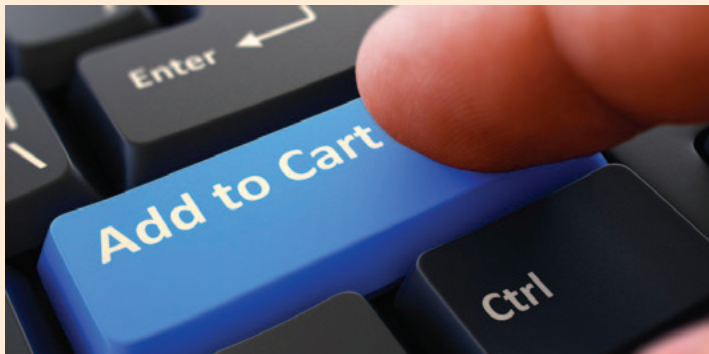
The loss of income could not have happened at a worse time. It was winter, their heat service was disconnected and it is especially difficult for Dennis to breathe during the cold. Luckily, the Averys learned from their gas company they could apply for HEAT's emergency funds. Rebecca is thankful that the staff at their local community action agency was

comforting and went the extra mile to help them with the application process. Rebecca and Dennis were fortunate to qualify for the funds they desperately needed to restore heat for their home.

The couple is now looking forward to Dennis' major surgery with a VA medical facility in the next few months. Their hope is that the procedure will decrease his pain. During this hardship, Dennis finds solace in fishing when the nearby lake is not crowded and Rebecca enjoys planting in the backyard. They also make time to volunteer with their local food pantry and, as a survivor of ovarian cancer, Rebecca still donates hair to Locks of Love.

To HEAT's donors, Rebecca says, "Thank you from the bottom of my heart. You're the reason people have heat and you'll truly be blessed for what you do for others." 🔥

Make HEAT Your Charity of Choice on AmazonSmile



HEAT is now registered as a charitable organization that customers can donate to each time they shop through AmazonSmile. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price for eligible purchases to HEAT whenever you shop. To make identifying eligible items easier, products will be noted as "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on the product detail page. When customers shop on smile.amazon.com, they will find the same selection for products, low prices, shopping features and Amazon Prime member benefits as they find on Amazon.com.

How do I choose HEAT for my charity on AmazonSmile?

1. Visit **smile.amazon.com**
If you do not have an Amazon account, select "Create an account" to register.
2. Search for **Heating Energy Assistance Team Inc.** when asked to select your charitable organization.

You can also encourage family and friends to choose HEAT as their charity of choice. Happy shopping!

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You shop. Amazon gives.



Donate to HEAT. 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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HEAT, Inc.
P. O. Box 451008
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Like, Follow and Subscribe on Social Media

HEAT is making its way onto four social media platforms! The plan to improve HEAT's online presence has been in the making for a few months and we are excited to interact with our supporters. Not only will social media make HEAT more accessible to current donors, partners and people served, but it will also help spread awareness about the organization

to new faces. The growth of our energy assistance funds has always been tied to increasing the number of individuals, businesses and government groups we engage throughout the year. Be sure to connect with HEAT for weekly updates on the profiles below and invite your online network to like, follow and subscribe.

facebook

Heating Energy Assistance Team, Inc. (@heat.fuelfund)
now active
facebook.com/heat.fuelfund

LinkedIn

Heating Energy Assistance Team (HEAT), Inc.
now active
linkedin.com/company/heating-energy-assistance-team

twitter

HEAT, Inc. (@heat_fuelfund)
active on October 16
twitter.com/heat_fuelfund

YouTube

Heating Energy Assistance Team (HEAT), Inc.
active on November 13
youtube.com/user/heatfuelfund

2017 HEAT Award Winners for MGAG Annual Membership Meeting

Congratulations to this year's winners of the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia's (MGAG) HEAT Award!

These MGAG member cities prove that small gifts can add up to make a big difference when a community pitches in for a great cause. The results were based on the total dollars raised per utility customer in three categories.

- Under 1,000 customers — **Sylvester, Ga.**
- 1,000 to 5,000 customers — **Madison, Ga.**
- More than 5,000 customers — **Winder, Ga.**

Like many of HEAT's municipality partners, this year's winning cities have supported our cause for more than 10 years. A big thank you to all the cities that partner with us and their citizens who donate to provide a warm home for their low-income neighbors. 🔥

Three Common Heating Mistakes to Avoid This Season

1. Leaving electronic devices (i.e. TVs, computers and monitors) plugged in when not in use.
2. Leaving air leaks through windows, doors, electrical outlets and other areas unsealed.
3. Taking long, hot showers (18% of energy costs goes to water heating).

(source: Energy Saver Guide, U.S. Department of Energy)

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

Contributors

Shelley-Ann Williams and
Jeffrey Joseph, HEAT Staff

Katherine Bows Taylor,
Marketing, Communications
& Branding Consultant

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

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.



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HEAT, Inc.
2296 Henderson Mill Road, N.E.
Suite 305
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

Phone: (678) 406-0212
Fax: (866) 214-2033
info@heatga.org
heatga.org

*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 Claxton
City of Cochran
City of Covington
City of Douglas
City of Dublin
City of Eatonton
City of Elberton
Fort Valley Utility
Commission
City of Hartwell
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City of Tifton
City of Toccoa
City of Union Point
City of Waynesboro
City of Winder

Municipal Gas
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