



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT

Katherine Bows Taylor

404.312.3498

katherine@kbtaylormarketing.com

HEAT Welcomes Five New Distinguished Leaders to its Board of Directors

ATLANTA, GA (October 13, 2026) – The Heating Energy Assistance Team (HEAT), Georgia's statewide nonprofit dedicated to helping vulnerable households meet their energy needs during times of crisis, is pleased to announce the appointment of five accomplished leaders to its Board of Directors: **Dr. Jasmine Clark**, State Representative for Georgia House District 108; **Tiffany Gilstrap**, Manager, Credit, Collections & Energy Assistance for Southern Company Gas; **Ashlie Franklin**, Commercial Account Manager at Walton Gas; **Jessica Sullens**, Operations Analyst at Colonial Energy; and **Keith Tunison, CPA**, Chief Financial Officer at EMC Natural Gas (d.b.a. True Natural Gas).

The addition of these distinguished professionals strengthens HEAT's commitment to serving Georgia families, seniors, and individuals facing energy insecurity through strategic partnerships, advocacy, community engagement, and industry leadership.

"Every day, HEAT sees the difference that energy assistance makes in the lives of Georgia families, seniors, and individuals facing hardship," said Don Brazil, **Chairman of HEAT Board of Directors**. **"We are honored to welcome these five outstanding leaders whose dedication to service and community aligns so closely with our mission. Together, we will continue building partnerships, raising awareness, and ensuring that more Georgians have the support they need to stay safe, healthy, and connected to essential energy services."**

Dr. Jasmine Clark

Dr. Clark serves as the State Representative for Georgia House District 108 and has established herself as a champion for public health, education, and community well-being. Her experience in public policy and advocacy will provide important perspectives as HEAT continues to address the growing challenges of energy affordability across the state.



*"HEAT's work directly impacts the health and well-being of families across Georgia," said **Dr. Jasmine Clark**. "I am honored to join the Board of Directors and am pleased to support the organization's efforts to ensure that vulnerable households have access to safe and reliable energy services."*

Tiffany Gilstrap

Tiffany Gilstrap has extensive experience in customer support programs, energy assistance initiatives, and utility operations through her leadership role at Southern Company Gas. Her expertise aligns closely with HEAT's mission and long-standing partnerships within Georgia's energy industry.

Tiffany Gilstrap serves as the Manager of Credit, Collections & Energy Assistance at the Southern Company Gas. *"I am excited to serve on the HEAT Board and contribute to an organization that makes a meaningful difference in communities throughout Georgia," said **Tiffany Gilstrap**. "HEAT's commitment to assisting families facing energy challenges is critical, and I understand the importance of advancing that mission across the state of Georgia."*

Ashlie Franklin

Ashlie Franklin serves as a Commercial Account Manager at Walton Gas and brings valuable experience in the natural gas industry, customer relations, and business development. Her understanding of the energy sector and commitment to community engagement will help further HEAT's efforts to support vulnerable households across Georgia.

*"Keeping your family warm or feeding your family should never be a choice any parent or family member has to make. Every family deserves both a warm home and a warm meal," said **Ashlie Franklin**. "That is why I support and believe in the mission of HEAT, to provide vital energy assistance to low-income families across Georgia. No family should have to choose between heating their home and putting food on the table."*

Jessica Sullens

Jessica Sullens, Operations Manager at Colonial Energy, contributes strong analytical and operational expertise. Her experience in energy operations and process improvement will support HEAT's strategic initiatives and ongoing efforts to maximize its impact for Georgia residents in need.



*"True community is about looking out for one another. I support HEAT because our board, partners, and donors working together help bridge the gap for Georgia families, ensuring basic energy needs are met through our collective strength and compassion," said **Jessica Sullens**.*

Keith Tunison, CPA

Keith Tunison, CPA, serves as Chief Financial Officer for EMC Natural Gas, doing business as True Natural Gas. Bringing extensive fiscal management and utility industry experience, Tunison's leadership and fiscal expertise will be instrumental in strengthening HEAT's governance and supporting the organization's long-term sustainability.

*"I support HEAT because a safe, warm home is a basic need every Georgian deserves, yet an unexpected illness, job loss, or financial hardship can suddenly place it out of reach," said **Keith Tunison**. "I believe we are called to stand beside our neighbors when they face difficult circumstances, offering not only practical assistance but also dignity, comfort and hope. I am honored to serve on HEAT's board and help advance its mission for individuals and families throughout Georgia."*

As HEAT continues its work to assist households across Georgia facing energy emergencies, the organization looks forward to the insight, leadership, and dedication these five new board members will bring to its governance and strategic direction.

"As demand for energy assistance continues to grow, strong leadership and collaboration are more important than ever," said Nichelle Mitchem Adamson, Esq., HEAT Executive Director. "We are excited about the future and grateful to have these talented individuals join us in advancing HEAT's mission of helping Georgians stay safe, warm, and connected."

About HEAT

The Heating Energy Assistance Team (HEAT) is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides year-round energy assistance to Georgia's elderly, disabled, and low-income families facing heating and cooling emergencies. Through partnerships with utility companies, donors, state agencies, and community-based organizations, HEAT helps ensure vulnerable Georgians can maintain safe and healthy living conditions by meeting their energy needs.

For more information about HEAT, visit **www.heatga.org**.

###

