



City of Perry Residents Can Help Low-income Georgians Stay Warm This Winter

Last winter was a tough period for Charles and Ernestine T. 80-year-old Charles and 74-year-old Ernestine must maintain a tight budget to cover food, medication and other living expenses with their income limited to a Social Security check. Their finances became worse when Charles started riding the bus at \$24 a week to dialysis treatments because Ernestine stopped driving him due to heart problems requiring a medical procedure. When it was time to pay their heating bill, the couple did not know how they would come up with the money to stay warm in their home.

Each year, thousands of low-income Georgians like Charles and Ernestine struggle to pay their heating bills. Too many people in our community have to choose between staying warm and paying for other necessities. The good news is the City of Perry is partnering with the Heating Energy Assistance Team (HEAT), Inc., a nonprofit organization that is Georgia's oldest statewide fuel fund. City of Perry utility customers can help their neighbors by signing up to donate through their utility bill. Residents will receive a form this fall asking them to donate to help low-income families and individuals stay warm during the cold.

Since 1983, HEAT has provided more than \$23 million for energy assistance to nearly 100,000 households. Funds are distributed by the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services through community action agencies serving each county. In Houston County, \$8,464 was distributed to 25 households for energy assistance last winter. However, the need continues to be much greater than the funds available.

Your tax-deductible gift to HEAT will help an elderly couple trying to make ends meet on a fixed income, or a single parent caring for small children or a family whose primary bread winner just lost a job. With the help of generous citizens contributing to HEAT, people like Charles and Ernestine are able to receive the energy assistance they need.

How Can I Help?

- **Through your utility bill** – Pledge billing allows you to check off an amount that you agree to donate each month.
- **Online** – Visit heatga.org to donate online.
- **By mail** – Make your donation (check or money order) payable to HEAT and mail to...
HEAT
P.O. Box 451008
Atlanta, GA 31145

For more information, call HEAT at 678-406-0212 or the City of Perry at 478-988-2700.