

# HEAT Offers a Helping Hand to Neighbors in Need

## Meet Erica: A Tale of Resilience and Community Support

We want to introduce you to Erica, a remarkable individual whose journey through life showcases the power of resilience and the impact of community support.

Growing up in foster care, Erica learned to be resourceful and show compassion for her caregivers. She spent time in 15 homes in Georgia's foster care system. Around the age of 10, Erica was a foster child of a retired pastor and a retired teacher, whom she credits with providing her with the most beneficial and substantial foundation for her life.

After graduating high school and aging out of the foster care system, Erica faced the daunting transition into adulthood with limited resources. But she never forgot those who had cared for her. When a former foster mother in declining health needed care, Erica invited her to move in. During the packing and moving Erica discovered her home's natural gas service was disconnected..

With limited income and three kids of her own, Erica feared being without service because she could lose her housing if the utilities were off. Unsure where to turn, Erica contacted HEAT for help. "HEAT will not judge or make clients feel overwhelmed by their circumstances," Erica said. She greatly appreciates HEAT and the assistance they provided her with her natural gas bill. Erica affectionately stated, "No one has ever gone above and beyond to help the way HEAT did." Erica aspires to attend college and start her own business.



Erica (right) and a former foster mother she currently cares for.



- HEAT's mission is to provide energy assistance for Georgians in need. It is unique in that it brings together government, business and private citizens to help with the energy needs of Georgia citizens - thus the name Heating Energy Assistance Team.

- HEAT has distributed more than \$31 million in energy assistance to nearly 120,000 families since it began in 1983.

- During the 2022/2023 winter, HEAT provided \$763,000 to the Division of Family and Children Services to assist less fortunate families throughout the state.

- HEAT is the oldest statewide fuel fund program in Georgia.

- Eighty cents out of every \$1 donated to HEAT goes directly to help families in need.

## You Can Help} Here are 3 easy ways to partner with Walton Gas to help neighbors in need.

**1. Make a recurring donation.** My account number: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Recurring amount:  \$10 per month  \$5 per month  \$2 per month  \$1 per month  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with your bill or call 770-267-2505.

\*Walton Gas will add the amount you specified above to your bill each month unless otherwise notified. All donations are tax deductible.

**2. Make a one-time donation of:**  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25 or \$\_\_\_\_\_ (other amount).  
\$500 will help at least two deserving families stay warm this winter. **Any amount is appreciated!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this one-time donation form to:  
**HEAT**  
P.O. Box 849  
Smyrna, GA 30081

Gas provider: Walton Gas

**3.** Donate online at [heatga.org](http://heatga.org).

## gas up the stove Buttermilk Pie

### INGREDIENTS

6 eggs  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
1 1/2 sticks margarine  
1 tablespoon vanilla  
1 cup buttermilk  
2 (9-inch) pie crusts

### INSTRUCTIONS

Cream sugar and eggs together. Melt margarine, then add to creamed sugar and egg mixture. Add vanilla, then buttermilk, and mix well. Pour mixture into pie crusts. Bake in oven at 350 F for 60 minutes.

**Submitted by Sarah Williams of Lilburn.** Featured recipes are not independently tested, so we must depend on the accuracy of the cooks sending them. Always use safe food handling, preparation and cooking procedures from the recognized experts.

**SEND US YOUR RECIPES!** The best entry each month will appear in the Gasette and receive a **FREE** cookbook with over 650 recipes.

Send recipe, name, address to:

Walton Gas; Attn: Recipe  
P.O. Box 260  
Monroe, GA 30655  
or [gasette@waltonemc.com](mailto:gasette@waltonemc.com)

Recipes can also be submitted at [walgongas.com/recipe-submissions](http://walgongas.com/recipe-submissions).



# Lower Your Winter Energy Bill

If you want to save on your natural gas bill this winter, now is the time to take proactive steps. Try some of these hacks to use less energy and save money without sacrificing comfort.

**TURN DOWN THE THERMOSTAT.** Set your thermostat to 68 degrees in the daytime and 65 degrees when everyone is sleeping. Every degree you lower your thermostat below 70 can save 1% to 3% on heating costs.

**FLIP THE FAN SWITCH.** When you turn on the heat, remember to adjust the setting on your ceiling fan so the blades spin clockwise. This forces the hot air that rises to the ceiling down and into the room.

**TURN DOWN THE TANK.** Set your natural gas water heater temperature at 120 degrees. Every 10-degree increase above that wastes 3% to 5% on water heating costs. If your water heater is located in the garage, basement or other non-insulated space, wrap the tank in a water heater blanket to prevent heat loss.

**LOCK IN A RATE.** One of the easiest ways to save money on your natural gas bill is to lock in the rate you pay to Walton Gas. Though Walton Gas is typically one of Georgia's low-cost suppliers, natural gas prices tend to fluctuate over time in response to supply and demand. Locking in a fixed rate plan for 12 or 24 months helps you avoid drastic swings in energy costs.

Sign up for a low fixed rate plan now by calling 770-427-4328.

Find more ways to save on winter energy costs at [walgongas.com/walton-wise](http://walgongas.com/walton-wise).



GEORGIA PROUD  
**Walton GAS**

Toll Free 866-936-2427 or 770-267-2505

**Front Counter Hours**  
Weekdays, 8 AM to 5 PM

**Call Center Hours**  
Weekdays, 7 AM to 7 PM

**Monroe**  
842 US Hwy. 78 NW

**Snellville**  
3645 Lenora Church Rd.

**Watkinsville**  
2061-D Hog Mountain Rd.

**Jim Bottone**  
Vice President, Walton Energy & External Affairs

**Ashlie Franklin**  
Commercial Accounts  
[afranklin@walgongas.com](mailto:afranklin@walgongas.com)

**Sara Beddington**  
Marketing Specialist

**Call Atlanta Gas Light to report gas leaks or emergencies anytime.**

**Inside Metro Atlanta**  
770-907-4231

**Outside Metro Atlanta**  
877-427-4321

[walgongas.com](http://walgongas.com)

## Agriculture tax exemption

The Georgia Agriculture Tax Exemption (GATE) card is issued to farmers and producers who are exempt from state sales tax on the inputs used in the production of their commodity.

To find out what has changed or apply for a GATE card, visit [forms.agr.georgia.gov/GATE/](http://forms.agr.georgia.gov/GATE/)

To continue receiving this sales tax exemption from Walton Gas, producers must submit renewed cards to us no later than Jan. 31.



Copies of your renewed GATE card can be mailed, faxed or emailed to the following:

**MAIL:** Walton Gas, Attn: Evette Jones,  
P.O. Box 260, Monroe, GA 30655

**FAX:** 770.267.6479

**EMAIL:** [gatecard@walgongas.com](mailto:gatecard@walgongas.com)

