



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Gas South Ranks Third Overall among Top Small Businesses of the South**

*Local natural gas provider is one of only two companies in Georgia to be named to the list of leading small businesses*

(Atlanta – July 11, 2011) – Atlanta-based natural gas provider Gas South has been ranked number three overall among the Top 10 Small Businesses of the South by Business Leader Media. The award ranked the top 300 small businesses in Georgia, Tennessee, Florida and the Carolinas based on the percentage of sales in the local market, revenue growth, business achievements and civic contributions. Gas South was one of only two in Georgia to be named in the Top 10.

The United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, which works closely with Gas South on a number of programs and community initiatives, nominated the company in recognition of its extensive involvement in the community.

The final rankings for Business Leader Media's Top 300 Small Businesses of the South were announced July 8 on Internet radio station wsradio.com during an hour-long program that included interviews with the leaders of the top companies, including Kevin Greiner, president and CEO of Gas South.

"We are honored and appreciative that United Way nominated Gas South for this award. We have always believed in supporting the communities in which we do business. We work not only to be a good corporate citizen, but also a good partner. We place tremendous value on being a Georgia-based company and look forward to continuing a tradition of giving back to the communities we serve as we grow," said Greiner.

Gas South has been recognized several times for its corporate culture and community contributions. The company received an Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility in both 2009 and 2010, and has been recognized by the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce for its community service.

Gas South has a history of supporting community-focused initiatives through a range of traditional and sometimes unique efforts. This year is the second year the company has pledged to donate \$50 each time an Atlanta Braves pitcher records a strikeout during the baseball season. In 2010, Gas South donated more than \$62,000 to support the Salvation Army's Project SHARE based on the 1,241 strikeouts recorded by the Braves' pitching staff during the season. This year the donation will be divided between Project SHARE and the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta.

Gas South also partners with schools through the Partners in Education program, including Argyle Elementary in Cobb County and Heritage Academy Elementary and Coan Middle School in Atlanta. Through the program, Gas South supports special programs for students while a Gas South employee also sits on each school's Local School Council.

Gas South continues to help families and individuals facing financial difficulties through the Pay-As-You-Go™ program for credit-challenged consumers. The program is an innovative approach which requires no security deposit or upfront payments and helps assure families in need have access to affordable natural gas service. More than 15,000 households in Georgia currently receive natural gas service through Pay-As-You-Go™, and more than 6,000 households have transferred to Gas South's other rate plans after a year of good payment history on the program.

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#### **About Gas South**

Gas South is Georgia's fastest growing natural gas provider for the past three years, serving more than 250,000 residential, business and governmental customers across the state. Based in Atlanta, Gas South is locally owned and operated, with customer service provided through Georgia-based call centers. Gas South is committed to providing its customers with the best value for their energy dollar. For more information, visit [www.gas-south.com](http://www.gas-south.com).