

News from the Savannah River Site

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bizarre Relay Race Brings Joy to those in Need this Holiday Season

Costumed runners walk, jog and run in a crazy, 10-lap race; a fundraiser for area children

AIKEN, S.C. (Dec. 10, 2015) – Dozens of contractor employees at the U.S. Department of Energy Savannah River Site (SRS) recently combined zany fun with athletic competition to create a race like no other, all for a good cause. Each year, the “Dash for Bikes, Walk for Trikes” relay race raises thousands of dollars to purchase bicycles and tricycles for the SRS Toys for Tots campaign.

According to event founder and SRNS environmental geologist Jeff Ross, this was the fifth Dash for Bikes, Walk for Trikes race held at the SRS training track. “Most teams wear some sort of costumes, each team with their own theme,” said Ross. “At this point, I feel like we’ve



SRS security contractor employees representing Centerra celebrated their victory after completing the fifth annual “Dash for Bikes, Walk for Trikes” relay race, which has raised \$25,000 for the Savannah River Site’s Toys for Tots campaign.

pretty much seen it all, from Christmas elves and super heroes to a bridal party; last year the fire department even ran in full gear wearing air tanks. I'm always impressed with the creativity and enthusiasm displayed by our contestants."

Up to ten members per team run 10 laps, handing off a toy of some kind as a relay baton. Returning champs, Centerra, finished first yet again and raised the most money, over \$3,000.

To date, more than \$25,000 has been donated through this annual event, which was used to purchase over 450 new bicycles and tricycles. Proceeds from last year's race alone enabled the procurement of about 150 new bicycles and tricycles.

"There are a lot of kids who may not have anything under the tree for Christmas this year," said Mike Griffith, SRNS Manager, Sample Data Management, Environmental Cleanup and Area Completion Projects. "It's good to get out here and raise some money, buy some toys and make sure they have a happy Christmas."

During this holiday season, many children throughout the greater Aiken-Augusta area will be thrilled to find a new bicycle or tricycle next to their Christmas tree, thanks to the caring participants and supporters of this very unusual race.

"This fundraiser is just one of many that SRS employees sponsor to support the Marine's Toys for Tots program at our site, which helps local underprivileged kids numbering in the thousands," added Ross. "Every participant in our crazy race is thrilled to contribute their time, money and, obviously, a lot of energy to make this event a success. I'm extremely thankful for every step run and dollar raised."

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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SRNS- 2015 – 417