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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Decade of Dash for Bikes, Walk for Trikes: Relay Race Raises Funds for Toys for Tots Gifts

AIKEN, S.C. December 12, 2022 – A crowded field of 16 teams crazily competed during the annual Dash for Bikes, Walk for Trikes relay that raises money to buy bikes for the Savannah River Site (SRS) Toys for Tots campaign.

Running with the Gnomies team members won first place for best costumes. Shown from left are Savannah River Nuclear Solutions employees Karla Avery, Theresa Houston, Stacy Wyatt, Tysheka Wright and Tiffany Griffin.

After two years of not being able to hold the fundraising event due to COVID-19 restrictions, co-chairs Jared Wicker, Teresa Eddy and Kelsey Holcombe, from the Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Project program, decided to team up to reinvigorate the event, adding disc jockey Jerry Dowdey for entertainment.

“Due to inflation and the rising cost of bicycles and tricycles, my co-chairs and I felt that it was critical to do this kind of crowd-sourced fundraiser to ensure that the children in our community who wanted bicycles this Christmas could have their dream realized,” said Wicker.

Multiple teams from the primary companies located across the 310 square-mile U.S. Department of Energy site come together each year for this worthy cause. As a result, contestants share a sense of teamwork, mutual purpose and a lot of laughs.

This year, costumed contestants included Santas, gnomes and dinosaurs, who battled for the honor of raising the most money and finishing the race with the best time.

Over the years, the competition and costumes have become more elaborate, as an indication of growing site-wide support and passion for the relay race. For the second time, the event included both a walking heat and a running heat to accommodate multiple fitness levels.



Running with the Gnomies team members won first place for best costumes. Shown from left are Savannah River Nuclear Solutions employees Karla Avery, Theresa Houston, Stacy Wyatt,

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Since its inaugural race in 2012, approximately \$60,000 has been raised, resulting in more than 1,000 new bikes for children in need.

“Every year, I’m thrilled with the number of bikes lined up and ready to be loaded on Toys for Tots trucks,” said Rick Sprague, SRNS Senior Vice President Environment, Safety, Health and Quality and executive sponsor for the race. “It takes a considerable amount of time and many volunteers to load them. The generosity of our employees continues to amaze me for all the charitable fundraising events we support every year at SRS, dating back to the 1950s.”

“It is important to keep the tradition of the race, while engaging the newer Site employees, to reach our fundraising goals,” said Wicker. “The comradery within teams and the healthy competition have proven to really speak to our younger generation of workers.”



Participants in the Dash for Bikes, Walk for Trikes relay race compete to raise money for bicycles donated to the Savannah River Site's 2022 Toys for Tots campaign.