

News from the Savannah River Site

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“Mountains of Toys” for those in Need – Sorted, Logged and Repackaged for Delivery by Christmas Morning

SRNS employees become elves for a day

AIKEN, S.C. (Dec. 17, 2013) – Employees from the Department of Energy primary contractor Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) recently had a good type of problem to solve, sorting 15,570 toys collected during this year’s Savannah River Site (SRS) Toys for Tots campaign and Angel Tree program.

How do you ensure a toy made for a limited age group and a certain gender, be it boy or girl, gets to the right child in need? The answer is... one toy at a time.

To ensure the successful delivery of every item collected during the SRS toy drive, hundreds of plastic bags filled with toys were recently opened, sorted, logged and designated for specific children with the oversight of Salvation Army personnel at two locations, one in Augusta, Ga., and another in Aiken, S.C. Once processed, the thousands of toys and dozens of bikes will be provided to families throughout several counties in the greater Aiken-Augusta area.



A large group of SRS employees, all members of the SRNS Aspiring Mid-Career

SRNS Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals (AMP), from left, Helen Jefferson, Kylie Dunn and Wendy Peak sort through thousands of toys donated during a recent Toys for Tots campaign held at the Savannah River Site where more than 15,000 toys and bikes were collected. The AMP organization took on the challenge to assist the Salvation Army with this task during a day off from work. Toys were sorted at both the Aiken and Augusta Salvation Army locations.

Professionals (AMP) group, volunteered to spend Friday, Dec. 13, off from work to ensure each toy would reach its new grateful owner.

According to AMP Outreach Chair Teresa Eddy, AMP's philosophy towards engaging mid-career professionals centers on outreach, networking and professional development to enhance work experience and vested interest in the Savannah River Site and Central Savannah River Area. "This is our inaugural year as a professional group, and so far, we've pulled a plane at a fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House in Augusta, joined the Adopt-A-Highway program, working in Jackson, S.C., participated in this year's Project Vision Program for the United Way's Child Advocacy Center in Aiken and assisted with Celebrity Waiter Night to benefit Children's Place in Aiken as well," said Eddy.

AMP outreach opportunities provide a way for members to interact with one another in ways that they may never experience on the job. "While each employee has an important role in our day-to-day jobs at SRNS, there's just something special about the relationships that develop from working closely with a team to benefit others and our community," said AMP member Chad Shaver.

"The holidays are a special time of year for many of us in AMP, and the Salvation Army works to make sure that it is special for those who may not be as blessed as we are," added Shaver. "While we don't get to see the children's faces when they receive their gifts, we gladly give our time to make those moments happen."

With this year's Christmas season, employees at SRS are celebrating more than 20 years of supporting the U.S. Marine Reserves Toys for Tots campaign and Salvation Army Angel Tree program with the collection of more 220,000 toys since the start of SRS Toys for Tots campaigns in 1991.

"Every year we are absolutely amazed at the support that comes from the workers at SRS," said Major Angie Repass, Salvation Army of Aiken. "In my 15 years with the Salvation Army, I've never seen one company give to the extent that they have."

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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