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## **Area Children to Benefit from SRS Toys for Tots Campaign**

*Two decades of toy collection merit special celebration*

AIKEN, S.C. (Dec. 9, 2010) – Employees at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site (SRS) are celebrating 20 years of supporting the Marine Toys for Tots campaign with the collection of more than 13,000 toys in 2010 and over 215,000 toys since the start of the SRS Toys for Tots Program in 1991.

Today's event marked the largest toy contribution to date at SRS, an effort requiring several large trucks and numerous volunteers.

The annual event is sponsored by SRS construction employees with the support and participation of the Department of Energy-Savannah River; National Nuclear Security Administration-Savannah River; Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC; Savannah River Remediation; WSI Savannah River Site Team; Parsons; The Augusta Building and Construction Trade Council; Tyler Construction, Baker Concrete and Stone Ridge Construction. These companies and employees contribute in a variety of ways, including the donating of unwrapped toys, adopting a "Christmas Angel" or making a monetary contribution.

For the tenth year, construction employees also sponsored the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program, enabling SRS employees to adopt 300 area children. Many SRS employees chose to give more than 3,200 clothing and accessory items to Angel Tree recipients.

SRS Toys for Tots Chair Sheri Still said, "Our hearts go out to area parents who so badly need a little help this time of the year to do something, however small, to brighten Christmas day for their children. Many of these families are headed by single women and, largely due to the recession, the working poor. It's so impressive that each year employees strive to meet this need and contribute more than the year before."

Toys for Tots began in 1947, when Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR, and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. The idea came from Bill's wife, Diane. In the fall of 1947, Diane crafted a homemade doll and asked Bill to deliver the doll to an organization, which would give it to a needy child at Christmas. When Bill determined that no agency

existed, Diane told Bill that he should start one. He did. The 1947 pilot project was so successful that the Marine Corps adopted Toys for Tots in 1948 and expanded it into a nationwide campaign.

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