

News from the Savannah River Site

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SRS Employees Give Over 10,000 Christmas Gifts to Local Children Toys for Tots Campaign

AIKEN, S.C. (December 7, 2017) – The Toys for Tots campaign has collected over 385,000 toys for area children since the start of the program at the Savannah River Site (SRS) in 1991.

Partnering with the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program to benefit less fortunate children in the Central Savannah River Area has been an important tradition supported by the largest contractor companies at SRS.

"Participating in this campaign each year is part of what makes the Christmas season special," said SRS Toys for Tots Chairperson and Savannah River Nuclear Solution's employee Natalia Johnson. "The generosity of our employees continues to amaze me. They contributed over 10,000 toys this year alone and more than \$17,500 in donations for gifts."

In addition, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, Savannah River Remediation and Centerra provide corporate monetary gifts to further add to the success of each year's toy drive.

"It's inspiring to arrive and see several truckloads of toys and bikes set out for display, row after row," said Staff Sergeant Gregory Allen, U.S. Marine Corps. "I've been involved with Toys for Tots for more than 30 years and this level of giving is nearly unheard of. And, it's all highly organized as well."

For the seventeenth year, employees also sponsored the Salvation Army's



Employees at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site celebrated 26 years of support for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program with the collection of more than 10,000 toys this year and over 385,000 toys since the start of SRS Toys for Tots campaigns in 1991.

Angel Tree program, enabling SRS employees to adopt 400 area children, giving toys and clothing items specifically to Angel Tree recipients.

Johnson noted that the numerous gifts provided by SRS employees are exceptional in quality as well. “As your eyes scan over all these toys, again and again I stop and focus on fairly expensive items. In addition, about 350 bicycles and tricycles have been donated for this worthy cause.”

“There will be a lot of children on Christmas day who will be absolutely thrilled with each package they open from SRS,” she said.

The annual event is managed by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC and supported by the Department of Energy-Savannah River; National Nuclear Security Administration-Savannah River; Savannah River Remediation LLC; Centerra Group, LLC; Augusta Building Trades; and Parsons. These companies and employees contribute in a variety of ways, from donating toys to making monetary contributions.

At the close of each year’s SRS Toys for Tots celebration, trucks full of presents leave the site in parade formation led by Santa Claus heading for multiple Salvation Army locations where the gifts will be sorted. Aiken Marines then distribute the gifts to children in Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell and Edgefield counties, as well as the towns of North Augusta, Beech Island, Belvedere, Williston, Salley and Couchton. The Marines from Augusta supply toys to Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Taliaferro, Warren, Washington and Wilkes counties and the town of Wrens.

“It seems the need for support in our communities continues to grow every year, especially during the holiday season,” said Teresa Sheppard, SRR Toys for Tots and Angel Tree Coordinator and SRR employee. “But year after year, the SRS family continues to step up their giving spirit. These toys we provide brings a small amount of hope and a smile in some situations where those two things are few and far between.”

Toys for Tots began in 1947, when Major Bill Hendricks, Marine Corps Reserves, and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles, collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. The 1947 pilot project was so successful that the Marine Corps adopted Toys for Tots in 1948 and expanded it into a nationwide campaign.

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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