

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

AIKEN, S.C. (Dec. 1, 2016) – 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 hundreds bicycles and tricycles for the SRS Toys for Tots campaign.

According to event coordinator and SRNS engineer Mary Baird, this was the sixth Dash for Bikes, Walk for Trikes race held at the SRS training track. “Over the years we’ve developed a fun tradition where each team wears some kind of costume,” said Baird. “Each team develops their own theme and it can get pretty crazy. The extensive effort they put into their outfits each year demonstrates their obviously high level of commitment. We’re always amazed with their high level of enthusiasm and inspiring creativity.”

Team names were particularly creative this year: Totally Rad, Vicious and Delicious, Centerra Soldiers, US Mint Condition and Generations X, Y, Z.

Up to ten members per team run 10 laps, handing off a toy of some kind as a relay baton. Returning champs from Centerra finished first yet again, having also raised the most money, over \$6,000.

To date, more than \$35,000 has been donated through this annual



Team members participating in this year's “Dash for Bikes, Walk for Trikes” relay race raised \$8,700 for the Savannah River Site's 2016 Toys for Tots campaign. The Centerra Soldiers team came out on top in first place.

event, which was used to purchase over 650 new bicycles and tricycles. Proceeds from last year's race alone enabled the procurement of about 200 new bicycles and tricycles.

"Some of the teams train for this race and take it very seriously," said Teresa Eddy, Environmental Cleanup and Area Completion Projects. "While others just walk the track and smile. After all, it's really about putting joy on the faces of as many children as possible on Christmas day."

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.

"The Marine's Toys for Tots program at our site creates a level of generosity that results in multiple fund-raising efforts of all types to support this worthy cause, which collectively, results in helping underprivileged kids numbering in the thousands throughout the region," said Baird. "And, I believe every member of every team participating in this amazing race is humbly pleased to contribute their time and a lot of energy to make this event a success year after year."

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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