

# News from the Savannah River Site

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## SRS Employees Hit a “Home Run” for Local United Way Agencies

*Twelfth Annual Tournament Raises More Than \$18K for United Way*

AIKEN, S.C. (July 5, 2016) – Savannah River Site (SRS) employees and members of the community competed in the 12th annual SRS Softball Tournament, a tradition that benefits the United Way and draws hundreds of volunteers, players and spectators.

So far, SRS has achieved over \$18,000 as a result of the teams’ fundraising efforts and concession stand, which was a joint effort among volunteers from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), Savannah River Remediation LLC (SRR), United Way of the CSRA and United Way of Aiken County. SRNS coordinated the event.

Throwing the ceremonial opening pitch to kick off the two-night tournament was Gayle Lofgren, the Director of the Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County, a United Way of Aiken County member agency. Founded in 2005, the nonprofit provides a safe environment and supportive services that promote healing to abused children and their families through intervention, treatment and prevention. The Child Advocacy Center serves residents of Aiken, North Augusta, Edgefield, Saluda, Barnwell and Bamberg.



SRNS employees Ariel Flurett (middle) and Connie Yung (right) wait for the pitch while Roger Poore, Savannah River Remediation employee, umpires a game during the 12th annual SRS Softball Tournament at Citizens Park in Aiken, S.C. The tournament benefitted 16 local United Way agencies.

“I felt like it was important to cheer from the stands and let the players know how much the Child Advocacy Center appreciates their support towards United Way member agencies,” said Lofgren. “Our organization wouldn’t be able to function without the United Way. We had 450 children through our doors last year, and the year before it was 360. The funds raised from this tournament go directly towards assisting the

cost of forensic interviews, medical examinations and counseling services for abused children, as well as educational programs in our local area to help prevent abuse and neglect.”

Four major contractors from SRS participated in the tournament, which included 18 teams among SRNS, SRR, Centerra Group, LLC, and CB&I AREVA MOX Services, LLC. Chasing this championship for seven years, SRR Avengers manager Bill Ferguson said the years of perseverance paid off. The SRR Avengers, who sponsored Children’s Place, Inc., a United Way of Aiken County member agency that provides a therapeutic and behavioral health child-care center, defeated the SRNS Executive Committee with a score of 17-16. “This team was full of not only good players, but good teammates who encouraged one another.” Ferguson said. “We won for each other and for Children’s Place.”

Prior to the event at Citizens Park in Aiken S.C., SRS employee “owners” raised money for their team, so they could then be eligible to “buy” players, ranging from \$20 to \$350, depending on skill level. Then, each team earned money toward their designated United Way agency based on how their team finished in the tournament.

“We are so appreciative of the Site’s support through special events like this, and it just shows how our slogan ‘Live United’ is about everybody coming together to make an impact in our community,” said Sharon Rodgers, President, United Way of Aiken County. “Every summer, I look forward to this tournament because it provides an opportunity for friends and family to spend a few evenings together cheering for their team, and it raises much-needed funds for our member agencies.”

Tournament organizer Eric Schiefer was an inaugural participant of the SRS Softball Tournament and has played in the highly competitive event every year.

“When we started this tournament 12 years ago, I never envisioned the tournament would become an event of this magnitude,” said Schiefer, an SRNS engineer. “Each year that it increases in popularity, the more money we can raise for such a worthy cause. I want to extend a special thanks to all the players and volunteers who take the time on a weeknight to make this fundraiser a success every 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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