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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SRS Employees Take Time Off to Team Up and Help Neighbors in Need

Homes, charitable organizations in Aiken, Barnwell and Richmond counties receive assistance through SRS Days of Caring Program

AIKEN, S.C. – (March 17, 2017) – The ringing of hammers striking nails and shrill screech of table saws slicing through boards of wood recently filled the air during this year's SRS Project VISION (Volunteers in Service in our Neighborhoods) charitable event.

Project VISION was established in 1996 as a way to help United Way of Aiken County partner agencies with facility maintenance. Many of these agencies operate on limited budgets, and contending with day-to-day costs is often difficult.

By 1999, Project VISION had gathered so much support from Savannah River Site (SRS) employees that volunteers outnumbered the agencies needing assistance. As a result, the program expanded to include basic home repairs. These repairs significantly improved the living conditions of disadvantaged children, low-income senior citizens, the disabled and financially-challenged homeowners.

"I'm grateful and feeling blessed that employees from SRNS were willing to come and help me today," said Victoria Sapp, a resident of Aiken County. "I've been waiting for years since I applied for help with Project VISION to take care of the things my husband use to do before he passed away. My back door was just about ready to fall out. I greatly appreciate all they've done."



SRNS employees Danielle Elliott, H Area Training, and Sterling Robertson, H Area Engineering, work to install a new set of steps at a private residence during this year's SRS Project Vision, Days of Caring.

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In addition to replacing the front and rear doors on Sapp's house, a new set of stairs was constructed leading into the home, plus, extensive yard work took place.

According to Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) employee and Project VISION Coordinator Joey Smiley, approximately 250 SRS employees volunteer to take a day off each year to work on one of 12 to 15 project teams. This year, 17 teams stepped forward to help. In total, approximately 500 man-hours were invested in projects throughout Aiken County for this year's Project VISION day, part of the "Days of Caring" United Way program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site.

"I love working during Project VISION. We put our heart into all we do," said Tony Jacobs, HB Line Operations. "And, we bring safety from the plant out here as well. I really enjoy it."

"This is the first time I've met Ms. Sapp, but now, she's just like family. When our team is here, it's like this is our house, and we're going to fix it right the first time," added Jacobs.

United Way partner agencies receiving assistance this year include: Tri-Development, American Red Cross, Child Advocacy Center of Aiken, Community Medical Clinic of Aiken County, Mental Health America of Aiken County, Golden Harvest Food Bank, Helping Hands, Salvation Army and ACTS (Area Churches Together Serving).

Team projects typically include clearing debris, applying paint, repairing flooring, performing minor electrical work, putting up dry wall, constructing fences, building wheel chair ramps, replacing rotting boards, fixing faulty plumbing, caulking and performing yard work.

"The sheer number of SRS employees who volunteer each year for such a wide variety of good causes found throughout our neighboring communities is inspiring," said Stuart MacVean, SRNS President & CEO. "No matter the need, it seems they continually step up to assist people who are struggling to help themselves. Project VISION, Toys for Tots, the Heart Walk, Golden Harvest food drives and our annual United Way fundraising campaign are all good examples."

Days of Caring Projects CARE and SERVE will take place in April. Project CARE will focus on residents of Barnwell County, while Project SERVE will assist those living in Richmond County.

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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