

News from the Savannah River Site

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Relay Race Brings Joy to those in Need this Holiday Season

Costumed runners walk, jog and run in a crazy race; a fundraiser for area children

AIKEN, S.C. (Dec. 4, 2018) – Dozens of Savannah River Site (SRS) employees recently combined 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 of bicycles and tri-cycles for the SRS Toys for Tots campaign.

Participants in this year’s “Dash for Bikes, Walk for Trikes” relay race raised a record total of over \$14,000 for the SRS 2018 Toys for Tots campaign. To date, more than \$56,000 has been donated through this annual event, which was used to purchase 924 new bicycles and tricycles. Proceeds from this year’s race alone enabled the procurement of 285 new bicycles and tricycles.

According to event coordinators and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions employees Mary Baird and Jessica Lape, this was the eighth Dash for Bikes, Walk for Trikes race held at the SRS training track. “From year to year, you’ll see teams with their own costume themes ... reindeer, minions, life-size holiday cards, super heroes and elves for example, all racing each other. We typically have six or seven members per team running a total of ten laps,” Baird said. “It’s all for a good cause at this unique track meet.”

Teams were particularly creative this year and included The Cousin Eddies, The Piggyback Racers, The Emojis,



Team members participating in this year’s “Dash for Bikes, Walk for Trikes” relay race raised nearly \$14,000 for the Savannah River Site’s 2018 Toys for Tots campaign.

The Christmas Trotters, Tutu Legit 2 Quit, The Woodsmen, Magic the Gathering, SnowBiz, Papa and the Smurfs, and The Christmas Hipsters. Returning champs Centerra claimed the trophy for first place again, seeking each year to set a new track record for this fun-filled race.

“Year after year we’re impressed with the commitment of each team and their desire to return to compete for such a wonderful cause, sometimes in difficult weather conditions,” said Baird. “Like many fundraisers at SRS, this competition crosses company lines. For one afternoon each year, we pass a baton-like toy during a relay race with one common goal in mind.”

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.

“I believe the members of each team are genuinely pleased to offer the effort, time and talent it takes to make this event a success every year,” said Lape. “The generosity of our employees can also be seen in the many types of fund-raising efforts supported at SRS resulting in the helping of underprivileged kids numbering in the thousands throughout the region,” said Lape. “The Christmas spirit is definitely alive and well at the Savannah River Site.”

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor-led company with Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, is 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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SRNS-2018-742