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## Annual SRNS and Shepard Community Blood Center Partnership Saves Thousands of Lives

**AIKEN**, S.C., March 8, 2022 – During the last five years, Savannah River Site (SRS) employees have donated more than 1,000 gallons of blood to the Shepard Community Blood Center in Augusta, Ga., potentially saving approximately 28,000 lives throughout the greater Aiken-Augusta area.

“It’s hard to imagine what nearly 10,000 units of blood would look like in one place, but that’s what has been donated since 2017 at SRS.” said Sarah Schultz, Recruitment Specialist at Shepard. “They’ve been the backbone of all our annual collections. Just this past year, we had 84 blood drives at the Department of Energy site near Aiken.”

“SRS employees always rise to the challenge in support of charitable organizations found throughout the region, including the Shepard Community Blood Center,” said Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) President and CEO Stuart MacVean.

Shultz affirmed how important it is for local residents to see a community blood bank and SRS organizations working to keep those donations in the area.

Shepard currently supplies blood, plasma and platelets to 25 local hospitals, including the recent addition of Aiken Regional Medical Centers. “This new contract will require the need to collect an additional 2,000 units a year,” said Shultz.

In 1992, Rich Deible, SRNS Engineer and Site Coordinator for SRS blood drives, found himself in a South Carolina hospital needing three pints of B-negative blood, which can



*Savannah River Site Blood Drive Coordinator Rich Deible tours the Shepard Community Blood Center in Augusta, Ga., as Donna Stroud, Director of Technical Services, describes how donated blood is processed prior to being distributed to local hospitals.*

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only be found in 2% of the U.S. population. He clearly remembers marveling that one unit came from New Hampshire. It drove home the importance and genuine value of donating blood. This experience also led him to volunteer at SRS as an Area Coordinator.

“Twenty years ago, we only had five blood drives each year,” said Deible. “Now, we have one about every 56 days in fourteen areas across the Savannah River Site. We are so grateful to those who visit the Shepard donation centers and busses to support this amazing organization and the life-giving service they provide to those in nearby communities.”

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 located near Aiken, South Carolina.