

News Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE • AIKEN • SC 29808

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions hosts United Way Agency Day

AIKEN, S.C. (August 21, 2014) – Several United Way (UW) agencies from the local community recently showcased their work for UW Agency Day at the Savannah River Site (SRS). This event gave Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) employees an opportunity to learn about various UW organizations that benefit from the annual SRNS employee UW campaign, which is taking place during the month of August.

“Today gives us a chance to explain where your generous contributions are going. I know that I want to feel comfortable with an organization before I entrust them with my charitable dollars, and this open house gives people the chance to ask questions and make sure they are giving to an agency they feel passionate about,” said Sharon Rodgers, President, UW of Aiken County. “I just want to thank everybody at the site for their support. We can’t do the work we do in this community without your support, and each and every year the site is always there; it’s loyal, it’s faithful, and it’s generous. We can’t thank you enough for that.”

According to Kim Grimes, Resource Development Manager, UW of the CSRA, SRS employees play an active role in the Citizens Review Panel, which determines how their 23 partner agencies receive funding.

“Not only does United Way give to a multitude of causes, but it’s also very accountable,” said Grimes. “It’s not the United Way agency staff members who make the final decisions about funding; however, it’s the volunteers from the Citizens Review Panel who



SRNS Employee Ryan Cullum (left) asks about Helping Hands, the organization that Kevin Banks (right) represented at the Savannah River Site's United Way Agency Day. Helping Hands is a partner agency of United Way of Aiken County.

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visit the partner agencies to examine their budgets, assess the outcomes, and make sure the money is spent effectively. Some of the volunteers who serve on the Citizens Review Panel year after year are Savannah River Site employees.”

Overall, each exhibit at the event represented how UW strives to help people with the building blocks of life, which include a good education, access to healthcare and financial stability.

Augusta Training Shop (ATS), one of the UW of the CSRA's partner agencies at the event, employs mentally and physically challenged adults. Wendy Thoman, ATS Executive Assistant, described how her organization teaches their employees the skills to refinish furniture and re-canoe chairs. The employees earn a salary for their craftsmanship.

Thoman explained that an ATS employee who is nonverbal taught himself how to make a snowflake out of reeds. He then shared the intricate technique with his coworkers, and now it has become a highly successful project that was featured in Garden and Gun magazine.

“One of our employees even got a thank you note from someone in New Mexico who had received a snowflake as a gift. The person expressed how they could tell he put a lot of time into making the snowflake and that they respected his craftsmanship. He carried that card with him for over a month, and it made him very proud of his work,” said Thoman.

Another agency at the SRS open house was the Barnwell Ministerial Association, which provides financial counseling and emergency relief for people facing difficult situations. Cliff Rodgers, who represented the organization said, “The most rewarding part is when I find somebody a job, and it's putting them on a road to a better life. So many people I talk with have lost the feeling of self-worth, and after they are able to succeed in finding employment, you can see in their face that a burden has been lifted.”

SRNS employees raised over \$1 million to support the United Way campaign in 2013. In addition, \$200,000 was provided by the SRNS parent companies through corporate giving. Events like UW Agency Day allow SRNS employees to understand and appreciate how the funds are used by the agencies.

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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