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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## SRNS Employees Volunteer to Tackle a “Fixer Upper” for Golden Harvest

*Construction Employees Volunteer to Repair Walk-In Cooler*

AIKEN, S.C. (May 6, 2015) – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) employees recently volunteered their construction skills at Aiken’s Golden Harvest Food Bank. Led by SRNS Vice President Dan Armstrong, a group of construction, project management and project control employees volunteered their Fridays off to re-engineer and repair a walk-in cooler.

At the Golden Harvest facility, the plywood flooring that supported a walk-in cooler had fallen into disrepair. Over time, the flooring became so warped and unstable that Golden Harvest was not permitted to use the space.

“For many years we were unable to fix our cooler room. The labor and materials needed were going to cost us more than \$10,000,” said Johnathan Adams, Chief Operations Officer, Golden Harvest Food Bank.

Tim Bolen, a manager in SRNS Environmental Management Operations and the company’s liaison with Golden Harvest, found out about the broken cooler. He called Armstrong to ask if he knew of any volunteers who could help them out. “Dan and the volunteers did a tremendous job of quickly taking ownership and solving the problem in a turnkey fashion,” said Bolen.

The first task was to find out what was causing the damaged insulated floor to feel bouncy and spongy. When



*SRNS Construction General Superintendent TC Green repairs the floor at Golden Harvest Food Bank in Aiken, S.C. Led by SRNS Vice President of Project Management and Construction Services Dan Armstrong, a group of construction, project management and project control employees volunteered their Fridays off to re-engineer and repair a walk-in cooler, saving the food bank \$10,000.*

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Armstrong's volunteers initially ripped up the first layer of plywood flooring, they were expecting to find wood rot or a lack of floor supports. Instead, they found layers of stainless steel and galvanized steel that had caved in.

"It was not at all what we expected. We weren't expecting to find stainless steel under the floor. When the demo didn't go as predicted, we called a safety 'time out,' stopping work until we had the right tools and appropriate personal protective equipment for the job," said Armstrong.

After Armstrong's volunteer team reassessed the hazards, the group safely removed the damaged floor in the cooler without having to demolish the structure's walls. Using donated materials, they installed new supports for the walls and a curb inside the cooler to prevent pallets from contacting the walls. They also filled the gaps in the cooler room's walls with spray foam and installed a new door seal. As a final step, a group of volunteer construction painter apprentices applied epoxy paint to the cooler floor.

"I really appreciate the energy from the group of volunteers from SRNS and their skills put into action. Golden Harvest's five locations collected 17 million pounds of food last year, and a lot of that food was fresh produce. Now we can store more refrigerated goods, and in turn, reach out to more agencies that help people in need in our region," said Adams.

Armstrong, who has led volunteer construction projects for many years, finds that these kinds of projects not only build camaraderie but also provide an opportunity for people without a construction background to learn some tricks of the trade.

"With every service project, there's always someone who hasn't done more than hang a picture on a wall. It's very rewarding for me to see these volunteers hand out water bottles and run after tools the first day, but by the second day, they want to learn how to safely use a nail gun or hang dry wall," said Armstrong.

*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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