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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Hosts United Way Agency Day

AIKEN, S.C. (August 24, 2015) – United Way agencies from the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) recently showcased their work for United Way Agency Day at the Savannah River Site (SRS). This event gave Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) employees an opportunity to learn about how the annual SRNS employee United Way campaign impacts local nonprofit organizations.

“We appreciate the opportunity to meet employees and talk with them one-on-one about how our 35 member agencies support disaster relief, health and wellness, education, and financial stability for people of all ages and abilities,” said Sharon Rodgers, President, United Way of Aiken County. “Volunteering is such a big part of what we do – it’s how we keep costs low, so we can help people in Aiken County who need it desperately. United Way of Aiken County would not be here without Savannah



*Alpha Dunbar from the Aiken Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Services shows a “Tar Jar” to SRNS employee Trina Minnis-Carter during United Way Agency Day at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, S.C. Dunbar uses this visual aid for prevention programs at area schools, and the jar represents the amount of tar in tobacco smoke that an average 20-a-day smoker inhales every year. The Aiken Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Services is a member agency of United Way of Aiken County, which is one of nine agencies supported by the annual SRNS employee United Way campaign.*

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River Site employees. We couldn't operate without your generous contributions and the hours you give volunteering at our member agencies."

According to Rina Powell, Senior Director of Resource Development, United Way of the CSRA, a group of volunteers on the Citizens Review Panel determines which charities receive funding. Every year, SRS employees volunteer to serve on this panel.

"During the United Way campaign, we ask SRS employees to contribute, so it's our responsibility to make sure the agencies spend their money wisely," said Powell. "United Way staff members do not make the decisions about funding; however, volunteers from our Citizens Review Panel make the funding recommendations after visiting the member agencies, examining their budgets, assessing the outcomes and monitoring how the money is spent."

Overall, each exhibit at the agency fair represented how United Way strives to help individuals with the building blocks of life, which include a strong foundation in education, access to healthcare and financial stability.

Tri-Development Center was one of the United Way of Aiken County's partner agencies at the event. The nonprofit offers services for children and adults with autism, head and spinal cord injuries and intellectual disabilities in Aiken, Barnwell and Edgefield.

The fifth largest employer in Aiken County, Tri-Development Center houses 180 residents in facilities that offer round-the-clock care and supervision. The center also assists individuals with disabilities by helping them find jobs at local businesses and offering recreational opportunities, including movie nights and trips to the bowling alley. Tri-Development Center also supports SafeKids of Aiken County, an educational program that focuses on the prevention of childhood injuries. Each year, SafeKids reaches thousands of area parents and caregivers through programs such as "Helmets on Heads," which provides helmets for children.

"Without United Way, SafeKids wouldn't exist. We are able to have the Special Olympics and offer year-round recreational activities because of the Savannah River Site employees' support. It's amazing that with just a few cents, you can change the lives of people you will probably never meet, but you have changed their lives just the same," said Bonnie Anne Fulghum, Special Events/Safety/Prevention/Volunteer Coordinator, Tri-Development Center.

Another agency at the SRS open house was the Aiken Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Services, which provides prevention, intervention and treatment services for adolescents and adults who have been impacted by alcohol and other drug use. The center's prevention curriculums include "Too Good for Drugs" for fourth graders and "LifeSkills" for fifth graders and middle and high school students.

"The dollars we receive from United Way make it possible to offer our programs to schools across Aiken County at no cost. We provide evidence-based prevention programs that raise...

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awareness of the harmful effects and the consequences of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use. These programs are not just about the workbooks and visual aids – we strive to connect with the students, so we can teach students the necessary skills to resist peer pressure for at-risk behavior and to help them develop self-confidence,” Alphia Dunbar, Director of Preventative Services, Aiken Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Services.

The SRNS employee United Way campaign is taking place this month. Last year, SRNS employees achieved over \$1 million to support the United Way. In addition, \$200,000 was provided by the SRNS parent companies through corporate giving

*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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