

# News from the Savannah River Site

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## SRS Employees Give Over 20,000 Christmas Gifts to Local Children

*Over 250,000 toys have been collected since the start of SRS Toys for Tots campaigns in 1991*

AIKEN, S.C. (December 10, 2015) – With only a couple of weeks until Christmas, Savannah River Site (SRS) employees celebrated the tradition of collecting toys by the truckload, partnering with the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program to benefit less fortunate children in the Central Savannah River Area.

The generosity of SRS employees was again proven with the collection of more than 20,000 toys for this year's drive.

"Words cannot explain how good a feeling it is to see everyone pulling together for those they don't know," said Staff Sergeant Gregory Allen, U.S. Marine Corps. "The staff at SRS has been holding this drive for about 25 years now, and still this special cause continues."

For the fifteenth year, construction employees also sponsored the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program, enabling SRS employees to adopt 840 area children. Many SRS employees chose to give more than 6,000 toys and clothing items specifically to Angel Tree recipients.



*Employees at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site celebrated nearly 25 years of support for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program with the collection of more than 20,000 toys this year and over 250,000 toys since the start of SRS Toys for Tots campaigns in 1991. The 2015 campaign marked the largest toy contributions to date at SRS, an effort requiring several large trucks and numerous volunteers.*

“The Angel Tree program is one of our longstanding traditions, and it benefits not only the recipients but also those who donate gifts,” said Aiken Salvation Army Capt. David Phelps. “Although the angel’s identity is kept confidential, the gift giver can enjoy picking out toys and clothing for a particular child and know their name. I’ve never seen as many Angel Tree items donated in one place.”

In addition, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, Savannah River Remediation and Centerra provide corporate monetary gifts to further add to the success of this year’s program.

The annual event is sponsored by SRS construction employees with the support and participation of the Department of Energy-Savannah River; National Nuclear Security Administration-Savannah River; Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC ; Savannah River Remediation LLC; Centerra Group, LLC; Augusta Building Trades; URS; and Parsons. These companies and employees contribute in a variety of ways, from donating toys to making monetary contributions.

“Even in these trying times, it still warms my heart to know that the good people at SRS continue to support the communities near SRS,” said Julie Kirby, Chair, SRS Toys for Tots Campaign. “I believe the hope and magic Santa brings to our children on Christmas day has a positive effect on how their young lives are shaped.”

Each year, several tractor-trailers full of presents from the “SRS Toy for Tots Pick Up” event are sorted at Salvation Army locations. Aiken Marines then distribute the gifts to children in Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell and Edgefield counties, as well as the towns of North Augusta, Beech Island, Belvedere, Williston, Salley and Couchton. The Marines from Augusta supply toys to Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Taliaferro, Warren, Washington and Wilkes counties and the town of Wrens.

Toys for Tots began in 1947, when Major Bill Hendricks, Marine Corps Reserves, and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles, collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. The 1947 pilot project was so successful that the Marine Corps adopted Toys for Tots in 1948 and expanded it into a nationwide campaign.

*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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