

News from the Savannah River Site

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SRS Softball Tournament a “Home Run” for Local United Way Agencies

Eleventh Annual Tournament Raises More Than \$24K for United Way

AIKEN, S.C. (July 2, 2015) – Savannah River Site (SRS) employees and members of the community competed in the 11th annual SRS Softball Tournament, a tradition that benefits the United Way and draws hundreds of volunteers, players and spectators.

So far, SRS has achieved over \$24,000 as a result of the teams’ fundraising efforts, home run derby and concession stand, which was a joint effort among volunteers from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), Savannah River Remediation (SRR), United Way of the CSRA and United Way of Aiken County. More than 30 volunteers umpired, kept score and worked at the concession stand.

For the first time, all five major contractors participated in the tournament. SRNS coordinated the event, which included fifteen teams among SRNS, SRR, Centerra, Parsons and CB&I AREVA MOX Services.



Blair Warren (middle) and SRNS employee Nyle Elmquist (right) wait for the pitch while Fred Dohse, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer, umpires a game during the 11th annual SRS Softball Tournament at Citizens Park in Aiken, S.C. The tournament benefitted 15 local United Way agencies.

“Every summer, the tournament provides an opportunity for friends and family to spend an evening together cheering for their team. The number of tournament participants increasing with each year demonstrates the overwhelming support from Savannah River Site employees. As a nonprofit agency, we are humbled by this outpouring of generosity from the players and volunteers,” said Sharon Rodgers, President, United Way of Aiken County.

“The employees of the Savannah River Site are so generous with their time to organize and participate in this tournament year after year. It not only brings teams together and promotes camaraderie, but it also raises awareness and much-needed funds for United Way member agencies. We are so appreciative of the site’s support through special events like this, and it just shows how our slogan ‘Live United’ is about everybody coming together to better the community,” said Rina Powell, Senior Director of Resource Development, United Way of the CSRA.

Prior to the event at Citizens Park in Aiken S.C., “owners” raised money for their team, so they could then be eligible to “buy” players, ranging from \$20 to \$350, depending on skill level. Then, each team earned money toward their designated United Way agency based on how their team finished in the tournament.

Tournament organizer Eric Schiefer was an inaugural participant of the SRS Softball Tournament and has played in the highly competitive event every year.

“Despite having to reschedule the second night of the tournament due to rain, we still had our best year yet. For eleven years, the tournament has made a tremendous impact to our community. We wouldn’t be able to do this if it wasn’t for all the players who participate and the volunteers who work hard to make sure the event runs smoothly.” said Schiefer, an SRNS engineer.

The softball tournament was a field trip for the Aiken Youth Development Center, which is a United Way member agency that serves at-risk children in Aiken County. The organization was founded by Leroy and Wanda Green as the “Aiken Boxing Program” in 1993. What started with a punching bag in their backyard and Hooked on Phonics on the front porch has evolved into the physical fitness and tutoring program that it is today serving over 300 children in the Aiken area.

“The focus of our program is teaching children how to play sports and stay active, but we also take into account the whole person. We strive to develop the athlete’s physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being before they get ready to play a sport,” said Wanda Green, Executive Director of the Aiken Youth Development Center. “The funds raised from the softball tournament are so important to our organization. This helps provide us with resources for the children such as sports equipment, tutoring supplies and healthy snacks.”

Another United Way member agency that cheered from the stands was the staff from Area Churches Together Serving (ACTS). Formed in 1986 by area churches to centralize food and clothing donations, ACTS is a nonprofit charitable organization that serves residents of Aiken County. ACTS has four staff members, a board of directors, more than 40 member churches and nearly 300 volunteers who greet and interview clients; assist them with food, clothing and referrals; negotiate with utility companies; keep records; and provide maintenance of the facility.

“I used to play softball – it’s something I really enjoy. I felt like it was important to come out and support EM Operations Black Ops and let them know how much we appreciate them picking ACTS to be the United Way member agency they sponsored,” said Cloud. “The funds raised will not only help cover the cost of food, diapers, clothing and utilities for our clients, but also go towards incentives for our clients. We try to build incentives for clients who are trying to better their situation. If somebody gets a job and needs a uniform, we would like to be able to provide that uniform for them.”

EM Operations Black Ops, Ops Excellence Murdoch’s Mavericks, SRNS Engineering High Flyers and Parsons made it to the final four. Black Ops defeated Murdoch’s Mavericks with a score of 24-6.

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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