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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Hosts United Way Agency Day

AIKEN, S.C. (August 23, 2016) – 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.

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.

Child Enrichment Inc. was one of the United Way of the CSRA's partner agencies featured at the event. Founded in 1978 by a group of physicians, nurses and social workers, the nonprofit has two programs: the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). The CAC provides free counseling, forensic interviewing and expert court testimony for child victims of abuse and their non-abusing family members who live in the greater Augusta area. CASA represents children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect until they are placed in a safe and permanent home.



SRNS employees Hope Hartman (left) and Amanda Bressingham learn about the Community Ministry of North Augusta from Nancy Joyce (shown right) during United Way Agency Day at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, S.C. A member agency of United Way of Aiken County, the nonprofit provides short-term emergency assistance for food, utility bills, prescription medications, clothing and household items for residents of North Augusta and Belvedere.

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“The benefit of the United Way for Child Enrichment and for the community is that thousands of people become informed about not only the services available, but also the serious issues within our community,” said Dan Hillman, Executive Director, Child Enrichment, Inc. “If everyone does a little, it is so much better than a few doing most of the effort to help; thus, ‘United’ is the key. We are able to initially perform forensic interviews and follow up with counseling as frequently as the children need it because of the Savannah River Site employees’ support. With just a few dollars, you can change the lives of children you may never meet, but you have changed their lives by helping them along their road to recovery.”

Another agency at the SRS open house was the Community Ministry of North Augusta (CMONA), which provides short-term emergency assistance for food, utility bills, prescription medications, clothing and household items for residents of North Augusta and Belvedere.

“Last year, we helped over 2,400 families, and the dollars we receive from United Way made that possible,” said Nancy Joyce, Director of CMONA. “The most rewarding part of my job is when we follow up with former clients who fell on hard times but now have found employment through our referrals or other local organizations such as Megiddo Dream Station and South Carolina Vocational Rehab.”

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.

“United Way of Aiken County would not be here without Savannah River Site employees,” said Sharon Rodgers, President, United Way of Aiken County. “We couldn’t operate without your generous contributions and the hours you give volunteering at our member agencies. Volunteers help us keep costs low, so we can increase the number of programs we fund to assist people in Aiken County who need them desperately. Currently, your contributions provide funding for over 50 programs administered through 35 partner agencies. These programs must achieve measurable results. In 2015, more than 234,450 people received services.”

The Cumbee Center, like CMONA, was another United Way of Aiken County member agency at Agency Day. Since 1979, the Cumbee Center has provided free crisis intervention, emergency shelter, support groups and assistance to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Center has offices in Aiken, Barnwell and Edgefield Counties. “United Way funding helps us not only serve our victims, but it also helps us educate the public to help us try and break the cycle of abuse,” said Sarah Tuccitto, Volunteer Services Coordinator, Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons.

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.

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It's our responsibility to make sure the United Way of the CSRA partner agencies spend their money wisely," said Powell. "United Way staff members do not make the decisions about funding. Volunteers from our Citizens Review Panel make the funding recommendations after annually visiting the partner agencies, examining their budgets, assessing the outcomes and monitoring how the money is spent."

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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