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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SRNS Employees Team Up, Helping Those in Need throughout the CSRA

AIKEN, S.C. – April 28, 2017 – More than 100 employees from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) volunteered to work at multiple United Way agencies located throughout the greater Augusta area as part of this year's Project SERVE.

Employees committed to work during their day off to take on projects that will improve the living conditions of disadvantaged children, low-income senior citizens, the disabled, single-parent homeowners or specific United Way partner agencies.

“United Way funding is not used for brick and mortar. It's specifically for the programs, so a lot of these agencies don't have the funding to provide much-needed repairs,” said Rina Powell, Senior Director of Resource Development, United Way of the CSRA. “We really appreciate the hard work of all the volunteers from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions. It's amazing how much gets accomplished in just one day.”

Team projects typically include painting, repairing flooring, putting up drywall, building fences and wheelchair ramps, replacing rotting boards, fixing faulty plumbing and performing yard work.

One of the locations for this year's Project SERVE was the Graniteville Farmers Market, where volunteers cleared the land of debris and worked on restoring a 15,000 square foot barn, cleaning and painting the interior and exterior of the structure.



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) employee Danita Myler cleans the exterior of the red barn at the Graniteville Farmers Market in Graniteville, S.C., during the Savannah River Site's annual "Project SERVE." On April 28, more than 100 SRNS employees volunteered on their day off for this event. The focus of Project SERVE is to provide services to different United Way agencies including cleaning, building repair, property maintenance and painting, which allows partner agencies to focus their efforts and resources on the people they serve.

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“As a resident of Graniteville, I wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to volunteer in my own neighborhood,” said Brian Vining, SRNS General Certification Official. “It’s been hard work, but I’ve been working with a great team, and it’s been worth it to see things get accomplished. Even if we won’t see the end product until months or years down the road, we’ve had an impact because every task we do today is something less that another team of volunteers will have to do tomorrow.”

According to Phin Hitchcock, agency director of Fireside Ministries & Industries, Horse Creek Trust bought the Graniteville Farmers Market property with goal of revitalizing the community.

“Right now we’re working on converting the mill properties into something environmentally-friendly,” said Hitchcock. “We’re repurposing this red barn that’s over 100 years old for an indoor farmers market. Outside, we plan to have several raised beds and a greenhouse, a picnic area, woodshop and amphitheater.”

Fireside Ministries & Industries serves at-risk families in Augusta. Their outreach initiatives include jobs-skill training and financial counseling for at-risk families. The organization also coordinates renovation projects for Heritage Academy and plants neighborhood gardens throughout the CSRA to build relationships and community. For more information, visit www.firesideaug.org.

Other Project SERVE teams from the Savannah River Site worked at the Augusta Family Counseling Center, Heritage Academy (Fireside Ministries & Industries) and the Salvation Army Store.

Projects SERVE, CARE (Barnwell County) and VISION, short for Volunteers in Service in Our Neighborhoods (Aiken County), assist United Way agencies throughout the Central Savannah River Area.

Project CARE was held the same day as Project SERVE and provided assistance for Barnwell County. Thirty volunteers from SRNS worked on cleaning up Barnwell State Park from damage caused by a recent tornado.

SRNS employee Melanie Lepard volunteers as a board member of Barnwell County United Way, and she coordinated activities during this year’s Project CARE. “I have lived in Barnwell County for 30 years, and I first got involved with United Way to simply help people in the community because that’s what living in Barnwell is all about: helping each other,” Lepard said.

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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