

Fluor honored with 2003 AWB Community Service Award

On May 22, the Association of Washington Business honored the Fluor Corporation for its contributions to the community through the "Backpack Basics" project. Fluor offices in more than 25 countries on six continents participated in the project, including Fluor Hanford and Fluor Federal Services in Richland. This is the fourth AWB Community Service Award to Fluor in four years.

Through the Backpack Basics project, Fluor provided school supplies to underprivileged children all over the world. Fluor Hanford and Fluor Federal Services collected enough supplies in the Tri-cities area to fill 575 backpacks. In addition, the two Richland companies contributed \$10,000 to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Benton and Franklin counties.

Volunteers from the Fluor Community Involvement Team collected crayons, spiral notebooks, glue, rulers, pencils, pens, markers, folders and notebook paper before the beginning of the school year, and the Fluor Corporation donated the 575 backpacks to be filled. More than 70 Tri-Cities-area Fluor volunteers collected and sorted the supplies, filled the backpacks and distributed them to the children.

Fluor asked the Boys and Girls Club of Benton and Franklin Counties to join the partnership because more than 85 percent of its young members are from low-income families. "Without the Backpack Basics project, most of these children would have begun the school year without adequate school supplies," said Fluor's Lynn Tegeler, organizer of the project.

The first 275 backpacks were distributed on Aug. 14 to elementary-school children in Alaska's Delta Junction, where Fluor Federal Services has a work site staffed by Fluor's Richland-based employees. On the designated Tri-City distribution day, Aug. 22, children and their parents lined up at the Boys and Girls Club in Pasco to receive their brand-new backpacks stuffed with school supplies. Fluor's \$10,000 donation to the club was used to underwrite the \$10 annual club membership fee for children who were unable to pay.

The annual AWB Community Service Awards were presented to 25 companies during the association's board meeting in Spokane. "These companies realize the importance of being good neighbors in their communities," said AWB President Don Brunell. "All of them have invested substantial time, money and other resources to improve their corner of the state." ■



On an "off" Friday last August, more than 20 members of the Fluor Community Involvement Team, including Patty Olson (left) and Sharon Steele, worked to fill backpacks donated by Fluor Corporation for the Backpack Basics project.