

# Adopt-a-family programs alive and well at Hanford

Even though Hanford no longer has a coordinated site-wide adopt-a-family program, individual organizations within the Department of Energy and all the Hanford contractors have kept the spirit of giving alive by seeking out and “adopting” needy families for the holidays.

For example, Fluor Hanford’s Hanford Site Operations team is hoping to make Christmas a lot more memorable for some area families who may be having trouble making ends meet. They’ll benefit from the voluntary efforts of HSO’s 10 functional groups that have adopted 12 families and the Fluor Community Involvement team, which has adopted 74 local children.

The families were suggested to HSO for adoption by local charitable organizations such as the Salvation Army and St. Vincent DePaul. Others were found simply through personal contacts by HSO employees or their families. The majority of those assisted have been through recent, sudden losses of a parent, have a family member with a life-threatening illness, or simply are having trouble making ends meet. Consequently, they lack basic necessities like warm clothing or cookware, so the gift requests aren’t at all lavish. “We’re buying a lot of coats, gloves, sheets and dishes,” said Michelle Turner of HSO’s Strategic Planning and Reporting organization.

Last Friday, the Site Fabrication Services organization also provided Christmas to Adult Day Services in Kennewick for the fourth year in a row. The fab shop employees and other HSO team volunteers prepared a luncheon and presents to Adult Day Services clients, who are always thankful for the special attention. “Sometimes the elderly are forgotten during the holidays and we are just happy to provide them with a party all their own,” said Mike Butterworth, Site Fabrication Services manager.

Day & Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford, also a part of HSO, went one step further.

In addition to the adopt-a-family effort, PTH employees also provided food for the needy and contributed items to the local Salvation Army youth center. The delivery of the adopt-a-family gifts will be done by HSO employees today and tomorrow.

At CH2M HILL Hanford Group, the Tank Farms Construction Projects organization is just one of many CHG groups adopting families for holiday sharing. Clothing, toys, food, soap, toothpaste and much more have been either donated or purchased through fund-raising event held throughout the year. Families have been referred to CHG by the Women’s Resource Center at Columbia Basin College and by organizers of the Benton City Sharing Tree. ♦