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Marines accept thousands of toys and $35,000 for Toys for Tots at Vit Plant

RICHLAND, Wash. — Employees at the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant, also known as the Vit Plant, donated thousands of toys and more than $35,000 to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots campaign at the construction site.

"For the past several years, Vit Plant employees have been instrumental in ensuring our local Toys for Tots organization meets the community's needs, and we are grateful for their continued and generous support," said Glen Carter, local Toys for Toys coordinator.

Vit Plant employees designated $16,000 of the total donation to the Local 598 pipefitters' annual Bikes for Tikes campaign. Each year, the pipefitters purchase and assemble more than 1,000 bicycles for Toys for Tots.

In 2014, Vit Plant employees and parent companies Bechtel and URS donated more than $580,000 to community organizations and charities. Recipients included the United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties, Second Harvest, Junior Achievement, March of Dimes, and others.

"The Vit Plant's Toys for Tots campaign is one of the highlights of our year because we have the opportunity to give back to our community and ensure local children experience the joy of the holiday season," said Bryan Kerr, Vit Plant manager of construction.

Local businesses Griggs/Ace Hardware and Vintners Logistics also contributed to the Vit Plant's efforts. Griggs/Ace Hardware ensured the bicycle orders were fulfilled in time for Christmas delivery. Vintners Logistics will provide delivery for the toys and bikes.

For photos, visit www.hanfordvitplant.com.

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About Bechtel:

Bechtel National, Inc. is designing and building the world's largest radioactive waste treatment plant for the U.S. Department of Energy at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state. The Waste Treatment Plant, also known as the Vit Plant, will use a process called vitrification to solidify the radioactive liquid waste stored in 177 underground tanks.

Vitrification involves blending the waste with glass-forming materials and heating it to high temperatures. The molten mixture is then poured into stainless steel canisters to cool and solidify. In this glass form, the waste is stable and impervious to the environment, and its radioactivity will dissipate over hundreds to thousands of years.

The Vit Plant will cover 65 acres with four major facilities – Pretreatment, Low-Activity Waste Vitrification, High-Level Waste Vitrification, and Analytical Laboratory – as well as operations and maintenance buildings, utilities, other support facilities, and office space.