

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY 2007

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The national Make a Difference Day, America's largest day of doing good, takes place on the last Saturday of October. In 2006, 3,500 Sandians and other Albuquerque area residents volunteered for 248 different projects.



Make a Difference Day Volunteers help paint the Ronald McDonald House.

The projects that Sandians volunteered for varied from 20 Sandians folding thousands of t-shirts for the Animal Humane Society, three moving stacks of books at the Special Collections Library on Central, and 10 others painting three rooms at the New Mexico Ronald McDonald House.

For 2007 Sandians will complete projects from October 7th through the 28th. Locally and in other parts of the country the popular Make a Difference Day has turned into more of a "make a difference week." A wide variety of projects have been chosen in 2007 for Sandia volunteers, retirees, contractors, family members, and their friends to complete.

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

Sandia's 2006 Back to School Supply Drive ran during the months of July and August. Sandians donated 27,671 individual school supply items, from backpacks to rulers. This total included 1,069 packages of crayons, 2,192 erasers, and 1,328 glue sticks! Schools supplies were given to nine elementary schools, APS Homeless Project, CYFD, and The Crossroads.

Like other Sandia community projects, the Back to School Supply Drive is a team effort between different Sandia organizations. In this case, members of the Office Professionals' Quality Council (OPQC) Community Outreach Team worked with the staff of Community Involvement (Org. 3652) to run the program. Also, Sandia's Mail Services organization played a big role by picking up the donated school supplies daily and delivering them to Community Involvement in Research Park. In addition, the Sandia Laboratory Federal Credit Union established a special account where those who wished could transfer or deposit funds.

These generous cash donations allowed us to fill 75 backpacks provided by PNM with school supplies for the Children Protective Services Division of the State's Children Youth & Families Department. An additional 30 backpacks were purchased and filled with supplies for The Crossroads, a local non-profit organization that provides many services to homeless women and their children.



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To donate supplies or money to the 2007 Back to School Supply Drive, please contact Patty Zamora at pgzamor@sandia.gov or 844-2146.

READ TO ME BOOK DRIVE

The 2007 goal of the Albuquerque Business Education Compact's (ABEC) Fifth Annual Read to Me Book Drive was to collect 30,000 new or gently used children's books. The books in English, Spanish, Vietnamese or bi-lingual are collected for disadvantaged children, from preschool to fifth grade, to read over the summer.

Sandia was one of 50 Albuquerque area companies sponsoring the ABEC drive and collecting books. At Sandia the book drive is a combined effort between Sandia's OPQC and Community Involvement. For 2007 Sandians donated over 2,599 children's books to the drive.

Local children can receive a book, a bookmarker, and information about the City's Summer Reading Program at any one of the city's 18 libraries.



Children select their favorite books donated by Sandia employees

PROJECT LINUS

Project Linus Chapters are located in all 50 U.S. states, Canada, and in Great Britain. A Sandia group, part of the Albuquerque Chapter of Project Linus, meets the first Saturday of every month.

Project Linus can trace its beginnings to Christmas Eve, 1996, when an article titled "Joy to the World" appeared in *Parade Magazine*. The article was written by the Pulitzer Prize winning photo-journalist Eddie Adams and included a photo of a fragile looking little girl who stated in the article that her security blanket had helped her get through intensive chemotherapy treatments.



Sandia's blanketeers show their current masterpiece to be donated to needy children by Project Linus.

After reading the *Parade* article, Karen Loucks of Denver, Colorado, decided to provide homemade security blankets to the local Rocky Mountain Children's Cancer Center, and Project Linus was born. Karen's original goal was to collect 100 blankets in six months. She collected more than that the first three weeks.

Locally the Albuquerque Chapter of Project Linus, one of four New Mexico chapters, has delivered over 17,500 blankets to the Albuquerque Police Department, All Faiths Receiving Home, KAFB Family Support, Cuidando Los Ninos, UNM, Lovelace and Presbyterian Hospitals, and 20 other community organizations since its founding in January 1999 by Bette Maddox and Gail Doherty.

The Sandia group of the Albuquerque Chapter has donated 175 quilts for kids of all ages since October 2005. Lockheed Martin provides the group much of the fabric and batting used in the quilts that are created in three "standard" sizes: 24" X 28" for a premie or infant, 30" X 40" for a crib, and 40"x50" for a teen. There is also a need for "isolette covers" at the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

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A nurse who works in the NICU said, "Just the other day a blanket was given to one of my baby patients. The mom was so grateful and wanted to thank the thoughtful person who made it. When I explained about your organization [Project Linus] she said she wished she could thank all of you. So I better say thank you too. This letter is a very important, heartfelt Thank You. Thank you to each and every one of you from the parents, the nurses, and especially the babies. You've touched all of our lives and we really wanted you to know."

If your talents don't run towards quilting, knitting, or crocheting, Project Linus, like all non-profits, greatly appreciates your financial support. Another giving option is the donation of much needed materials such as fabric, thread, and yarn.

Please contact Darline Polonis in Sandia's Community Involvement Department (Org. 3652) at 284-8340 or you can e-mail dpoloni@sandia.gov for more information on Project Linus.

SHOES FOR KIDS

Over the last 50 years Sandians have donated more than 11,000 pairs of shoes to local children. It all started during the holidays 50 years ago in 1957 as part of a lab-wide trend to donate the money used in the past exchanging cards to various charities and needy families. Three Sandians, Director of Military Liaison Services (7100), Art Mackin, and Department Managers, Ivan Moore and Bob Knapp decided they would use their department's card money to buy shoes for needy children. Like all good managers they tasked two of their staff members, Don Brooks and Charles Herndon, "to start the ball rolling and use Christmas card money contributed by both departments to buy shoes." This information is from a November 2006 e-mail to Sandia Corporate Historian, Rebecca Ullrich from Don Brooks.

Don also wrote that at the time he was acquainted with Desi Baca, the Principal of Riverview Elementary School, and "the location of many needy children." Working with Desi, bus loads of kids were brought to the Kinney Shoes Store located at Central and Wyoming and provided with new shoes and socks.

From this not too modest start, Shoes for Kids progressed from a multi-Department, to a Center, and then to a Division-level program. In 1995 Sandia National Laboratories adopted the Shoes for Kids Program as an official corporate sponsored project.

For 2006, 25 students from each of the selected 21 APS schools received a new pair of shoes between the first shoe fitting at the Coronado Mervyn's on November 7, to the last on February 15, 2007. All were purchased from the \$17,309 dollars donated by generous Sandians.

While Sandians donated the cash, the Sandia Laboratory Federal Credit Union collected it in a special account and also helped to advertise the event. The Coronado Center Mervyns sold the shoes at their sale price less 10 percent. This team effort was also supported by APS Student Transportation Services that bused the 525 kids and school volunteers from their schools to Mervyns. Other Shoes for Kids team members are the Center 3500 Assistants who coordinated the December Socks for Kids drive. In 2006, 437 pairs of socks were donated to the drive.

Sandia President and Labs Director, Thomas O. Hunter described Shoes for Kids in a November 6, 2006 employee memo, as "Sandia's flagship giving program."

For more information on how to volunteer with next year's shoe fittings or to make a financial donation, please contact Patty Zamora at 844-2146.



A child picks out a new pair of shoes at a Shoes For Kids fitting.

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EMPLOYEE CARING PROGRAM (ECP)

From the \$96,100 contributed in 1957, to the \$3,331.337 in 2006, Sandians and Sandia retirees have pledged almost \$51M to ECP campaigns and the United Way of Central New Mexico over the last 50 years. Last year's impressive total partly resulted from the large number of Sanidas who donated at or above the Leadership giving level (\$500) to the campaign. In 2007 Sandia will celebrate 50 years of being the United Way's largest contributor with a goal of 75 percent participation by Laboratory employees.

Sandians can donate to the United Way's Community Fund which supports a wide variety of local groups or to any organization in the world that meets the Internal Revenue Service's 501(C)(3) standards. Because of the generous donations of Corporate Cornerstone Companies (including Lockheed Martin) who pay for all of the United Way's administrative costs, 100 percent of your contribution goes directly to where you choose.

For more information contact Pam Catanach at pcatana@sandia.gov.



Visit us at <http://www.sandia.gov/about/community/index.html> or call (505) 284-5200 for more information.

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