“Anything we can do to increase our visibility as a good corporate citizen is a good thing,” said Jim Nobles, director of Ethics and Internal Audit. And few things make Y-12 more visible than 1,000 employees out working in local communities for Volunteer Day.

Alice Brandon, Public and Governmental Affairs, has coordinated Volunteer Day since its inception in 2003. Her team, including Nobles as this year’s senior management sponsor, begins its work early by deciding on a date for the event, usually in late April or early May because many of the projects involve outdoor work. Once a date is set, the planning team puts out a request for project ideas.

“We encourage our employees to come up with projects and submit them on YSource,” Nobles said.

Organizers look for and approve projects that will directly benefit the community at large — through churches, parks and organizations like United Way (rather than, say, landscaping Grandma’s yard).

Cont. pg. 4, Paws

Top: Julius (center) gets comfortable while being groomed by Travis Tipton (left), husband of Y-12’s Hayley Tipton, and Doug Ramseler, a Shelter Animals Rescue Group contractor. He was one of several dogs whose owners took advantage of the dog wash.

Right: The children of employees enjoy the day at Kids Kamp while their parents and grandparents volunteer their time and talents.
Brian Davis is a busy man. He puts in 40 hours a week as an emergency preparedness analyst for Emergency Services and another 40 or so as the corporate president of the Karns Volunteer Fire Department. On Volunteer Day, he added one more title: team captain of a KVFD project (projects were held at two KVFD stations).

Davis chose this project because of his unique awareness of the need to help those volunteer organizations that help the community. “Local organizations that rely on volunteers and donations are a worthy cause,” Davis said.

“Those people are out there trying to do something good, and they don’t have a budget to operate with. When we have an opportunity to help, we ought to do it,” he said.

On Volunteer Day, Davis and his team of volunteers helped landscape the Karns fire station, mulching, planting flowers and building a block wall around the grounds. That station is staffed almost exclusively by volunteers, most of whom have separate full-time jobs. The department’s 40-plus volunteer firefighters respond to about 3,500 calls per year.

“The guys down there are passionate about helping people in the community,” Davis said. Getting landscaping and repair work done on Volunteer Day saves the firefighters’ time for responding to calls and serving the community.

Every summer, KVFD holds a community day, an awareness and education event showcasing the department’s services and offering educational safety training to community members. Thanks to the work done on Volunteer Day, the Karns community will be welcomed to a clean, neatly landscaped firehouse.
Barbie Scates (Training Management and Delivery) and Tim Talley (Transformation and Projects) work at the Knox Area Rescue Ministries.

From left: Myra Mansfield (trail maintainer), Beth Becker (Transformation and Projects), Jack Mansfield (trail maintainer) and Brett Funk (son of Kevin Funk, Transformation and Projects) fill sandbags for erosion and drainage control on the Hendrix trail in Oak Ridge.

Wayne Carlton (Environmental Compliance) shovels mulch at the Contact Helpline office.

Barbie Scates (Training Management and Delivery) and Tim Talley (Transformation and Projects) work at the Knox Area Rescue Ministries.
No one can downplay Brandon’s role in organizing Volunteer Day, but she refuses to take all the credit. “It’s the team captains who truly make this day a success,” she said. “They plan the work schedule, pick up the materials, coordinate their volunteers and ensure all involved work safely. They have a tremendous volunteer spirit and it’s contagious!”

Like any Y-12 project, budget is a top consideration. Debbie Buchanan and her group, Financial Reporting and Compliance, assist with financing the individual projects. FRC sets up a B&W corporate charge account at the local Home Depot, where team captains can then get their supplies and charge them to the accumulating Y-12 account. Steve Jones, Atomic Trades and Labor Council president, helps ensure these supplies are used properly by providing teams with craft personnel who have the expertise a project may need.

Then, the day arrives and the work starts. “A great thing Volunteer Day does is offer free labor to local nonprofits,” Nobles said.

These organizations often spend the majority of funds on the specific services they provide, leaving little money for structural repairs and the associated parts-and-labor costs.

That’s where Y-12 volunteers step in. “By providing free supplies and labor, we allow the organizations to continue to focus their efforts and funds on directly helping the community,” Nobles said.

“We want to be a good corporate citizen and community partner,” Nobles said. “We see the need out there and we can really make a difference.”

John Stewart of Nuclear Safety Operations, who will chair Volunteer Day next year, encourages employees to “start thinking now about creating additional volunteer teams and what types of volunteer activities they would like to perform.”

Just as in past years, YSource will carry information about next year’s event. “Employees should watch YSource for the announcement of next year’s event and sign up to captain a team or help with one of the projects,” Brandon said.
Lighting up a Community Ministry

For Keith Wilson, an electrician with Facilities, Infrastructure and Services, the reason to participate in Volunteer Day was simple.

“We [at Y-12] are blessed with our jobs, and there are people not so fortunate as us,” Wilson said. “We need to give back as much as possible to our communities.”

Wilson did just that by serving as team captain for a Volunteer Day project at Oliver Springs Community Ministries, a local food pantry that helps an average of 690 families, or about 1,800 people, every year.

Before the event, Wilson worked with several people involved with OSCM, including two former Y-12 employees, to see exactly what the organization wanted and needed.

“From that we planned what we could do in a day, to get the most bang for the buck,” he said.

Wilson and his group of 20 volunteers spent the day painting, cleaning and installing electrical outlets and light switches. They refurbished and rewired an old, unused building that had recently been donated to OSCM.

“The new place gives them plenty of storage and also lets them expand to other ministries such as clothing or coats,” Wilson said.

The lighting in the newly rewired building is brighter now, but the faces of the OSCM employees may outshine it. When Wilson saw them after the project, he knew his team had provided important work to the OSCM volunteers.

“It gives them that second wind to make it through and continue to serve their community,” he said.
Employees, family and friends of the Y-12 National Security Complex covered the region April 29 and 30 to help nonprofit agencies in a variety of ways — painting, landscaping, building and repairing, visiting with the elderly and much more.

With more than 1,000 participants — including employees, their family members and other volunteers recruited by Y-12 employees — this year marks the biggest turnout in the nine years of the annual Volunteer Day.

The work took place primarily over the weekend, with a few projects scheduled on other dates, and all of the projects benefit local individuals and organizations due to the generosity and dedication of the volunteers.

"Every day we are proud to contribute to the security of our nation, but we also are proud to be residents of East Tennessee, and we are always ready to lend a hand here at home," said Darrel Kohlhorst, president and general manager of B&W Y-12, which buys supplies for volunteers to use on the projects.

"This event just keeps growing," Kohlhorst said. "We've steadily gained more projects and more volunteers to help out those who need us. It's a great feeling to be able to reach out to this many organizations and people."
Around Y-12 ...

- B&W Y-12 is the presenting corporate sponsor of the 2011 Secret City Festival to be held June 17–18 in Oak Ridge. Concerts this year include the Village People (June 17) and Grammy winner Ricky Skaggs (June 18). Discounted tickets to the Friday and Saturday concerts are offered until June 16 to B&W Y-12 employees at $12 each (an $8 savings). To purchase discount tickets, contact the ticket line at 865-482-4352 (credit card orders only — no processing fee) or stop by the Oak Ridge Civic Center, 1403 Oak Ridge Turnpike (cash and checks only). Mention that you want to purchase tickets at the sponsor price. During the festival, Y-12 will offer special tours of the Y-12 National Security Complex to the public June 18. Site tours will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., and participants can register online to secure a seat. One-hour tours will begin and end at New Hope Center, 602 Scarboro Road, with buses leaving every 20 minutes. On the tour, guests will see the Manhattan Project calutron magnets in Building 9731 and view the site from the overlook at Chestnut Ridge. Online registration (www.y12.doe.gov/news/events/y12publictour) is open until June 16, with all remaining seats available the day of the tours on a first-come, first-served basis at New Hope Center. To participate in a tour, visitors 18 years and older must provide a form of government-issued photo identification and complete and sign documentation certifying their U.S. citizenship.

- Mark Sundie from the Y-12 Site Office and Kathy Martin of B&W Y-12 Production have been named National Nuclear Security Administration Defense Programs employees of the quarter. Sundie serves as the training program manager and operations engineer for the Y-12 Site Office. He was instrumental in the reaccreditation of YSO’s Technical Qualification Program. YSO is the first site office to go through a reaccreditation review, and one of the few U.S. Department of Energy site offices to have an accredited program. Martin is an enriched uranium production support manager. Under her leadership, her team has significantly contributed to the continued success of Defense Programs requirements for enriched uranium, plus the needs of uranium disposition, Naval Reactors and reactor supply programs, meeting all customer deliverables for the past 5 years.

- National Nuclear Security Administration Administrator Tom D’Agostino gave the keynote address at the Tennessee Valley Corridor Summit, held in Chattanooga, May 16. D’Agostino spoke of Y-12 during his remarks: “At NNSA, we are committed to doing our part to support the economic vitality of the Tennessee Valley. With roughly 8,000 people working at Y-12 on a given day, Y-12 is one of Tennessee’s largest employers. It has also become a major training center for security forces from around the nation and world. We expect Y-12 will draw well over 1,000 to Oak Ridge for training.”

- Gloria Mencer, Y-12’s socioeconomic programs manager, was named management and operations small business program manager of the year at the U.S. Department of Energy’s annual Small Business Conference held May 10–12 in Kansas City, Mo.

- Almost 1,000 people received free medical, dental and eye care at a clinic held by Remote Area Medical in Clinton April 30 and May 1. The clinic was supported by a $10,000 contribution from B&W Y-12, as well as more than 20 Y-12 volunteers. Garry Whitley, former president of the Atomic Trades and Labor Council, asked B&W Y-12 to support the effort. “I knew there was a great need for medical services in our area and I wanted to help,” Whitley said. Y-12 employees volunteered at the event as part of the company’s annual Volunteer Day.

- Dennis Hough, Y-12’s technology outreach manager, recently was named deputy director of the Oak Ridge–Huntsville Partnership Office. The Partnership Office, created in 2009, is a collaboration of Y-12, Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Oak Ridge Associated Universities, working alongside the University of Alabama in Huntsville and the Savannah River National Laboratory. The Partnership Office promotes collaboration between its partner organizations and the federal and military agencies in the Huntsville–Redstone Arsenal communities, as well as academia and private industry in solving technical challenges. Hough spends time in both cities each month building working relationships.

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In memoriam

Matthew Gutjar of Quality Assurance passed away April 26. He was a member of IBEW Local Union 270. He had one year of company service.

“Matt was a happy person,” said co-worker Gil Bradshaw. “He was always smiling and had a laugh that would carry through a room. He had a way about him that could cheer up any situation. Matt was a good worker and very dedicated. We all enjoyed working with Matt and will miss him greatly.”

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June

44 years
Development: George L. Powell
Engineering: Samuel M. O’Neal Jr. and James H. Rollins
Quality Assurance: Michael W. Poore

43 years
Quality Assurance: Ralph S. Leete Jr.

42 years
Business Services and Performance Assurance: Letitia P. Malone
Information Technology: William D. Cain
Program Planning: Roger D. Bolin
Resource Management: Dewitt Upton

41 years
Emergency Services: Robert P. Galyon
Production: Perry Anthony Jr.

35 years
Development: Charles J. Agle Jr.
Engineering: Gary P. Haynes, William D. Simpson, Gary L. Williams and Mark A. Wilson
General Accounting: Bessie M. Jowers
Information Technology: Denis M. Kelleher Jr.
Production: Elmo Goins, Charles Huskey, Vernon Lowe and Steven W. Roddy
Program Management: Carl E. Cardwell

30 years
Development: Lilla B. Cunningham
Information Technology: Clifford K. Cobb and William B. Matthews III
Material Management: Jeniece V. May

25 years
Engineering: Keith D. St. Onge
Program Management: Duane L. Bias

20 years
Engineering: Ronald J. Brewer, Bradley J. Martel, Mahender K. Singhal and Sandra D. Willis
Human Resources: Deborah L. Villarreal
Industrial Hygiene: Troy W. Jenkins and Winona O. Richards
Office of the President: Connie E. Westmoreland
Performance Assurance: Susan I. Donnelly
Production: James E. Taylor
Quality Assurance: Larry D. Miller
Radiological Control: Roy R. Redmond
Resource Management: Gregory H. Hood

Safeguards, Security and Emergency Services: Ronnie M. Gainey and John B. Woods
Sustainability and Stewardship: Carol L. Long
Volunteer Day from the eyes of a new hire

Ashley Douglas joined Y-12 in 2010 as an editor in Communications Services. Here, she shares her first Volunteer Day experience.

We’re so fortunate to have roofs over our heads, sturdy shoes and decent clothes to wear. What do you do when you see hundreds of people in your own backyard who don’t?

—Ashley Douglas Communications Services

We helped prepare food then received instruction on handing out clothing. “Only one shirt and a pair of shoes and pants per person,” explained a seasoned volunteer. How do you tell someone that they’re only allowed one pair of shoes when they’re debating between dirty sandals and worn sneakers?

Then it began to pour. Tornadoes were touching down in the area and these people were living under bridges. One woman handed me the blanket we had just given her. “My husband just told me our tent’s been washed out. I don’t have a place to keep this and I can’t carry it around,” she said and walked away. How would you respond?

Volunteer Day is one of the most worthy outreach programs at Y-12. As a new employee, this was my first event, but it certainly will not be my last.

Ashley Douglas joined Y-12 in 2010 as an editor in Communications Services. Here, she shares her first Volunteer Day experience.

The good thing about spending several months with an “uncleared” status was it gave me the opportunity to work on many, many articles about Y-12.

One such article was eye-opening to say the least. I was able to interview the recipients of the Aluminum Beverage Can Committee’s fall donations. The story of Lost Sheep Ministry’s founder, Maxine Raines, was stunning.

She told me about her childhood on the streets and her mission to help others. She began feeding, sharing her faith and providing clothing to the homeless of Knoxville. “I’ve been on a journey,” she said, “I’m just doing what someone else did for me.”

As I looked through the 2011 Volunteer Day projects, I had trouble deciding on one. When I landed on The Lost Sheep Ministry, Raines’ story came back to me and I wanted to see the event for myself.