

## PROVIDING

### As a great country we could do more to provide basic needs, says Warren Cox

Warren Cox (4137) is Sandia's representative on New Mexico's Collaboration to End Hunger, an association of organizations and individuals focused on ending hunger in New Mexico. Lockheed Martin has committed to donating \$42,000 a year for three years to support the Foods for Kids backpack program at six sites. The program fills backpacks with child-friendly, nonperishable, and easily consumed food that children take home. Warren provides volunteer leadership at two sites.

The collaboration has begun an Intergenerational Summer Food Program at two of the sites. The program involves having the older generation teach the younger generation how to grow its own food.

"I guess you could say I am passionate about fighting food insecurity," says Warren. "New Mexico ranks fifth in the United States for people fighting food insecurity which affects more than 14 percent of the state's population."

He describes food insecurity as "limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways. "Eating enough nutritious food is fundamental to well-being in many ways," he adds.

"My interest in helping make things better goes back to when as a young man Kennedy idealism resonated everywhere. I believed in President John F. Kennedy's words 'Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.'"

After undergraduate college and military service, he joined the Peace Corps and was sent to Cartago, Columbia, a city

of about 100,000. He would go anywhere he was needed. In Cartago he helped local businesses.

While he was there he met, fell in love, and married another Peace Corps volunteer, Sue, who worked in malaria eradication.

In Cartago, they lived in a recovery facility for poor children. "All this time, I had been helping the higher echelon," says Warren. "Living in the recovery facility, and through Sue's work in a small health clinic, I was able to help the needier. It was not surprising to go to the door in the morning and find a basket with a baby inside."

In the years since Peace Corps, Warren acquired interests in the environment and public health. It was public health that drew him to the issue of food insecurity, and recently to the Collaboration to End Hunger.

"The Food for Kids backpack program is great, but cannot run through the summer because there just isn't enough funding. The program can only go for six to eight weeks," says Warren. "That is very unfortunate. The Collaboration knows from survey data that the food the child takes home helps feed two to three people."

"As a great country, it seems we could make it possible for all our citizens to have the basic necessities of life."

For more information about the Food for Kids and Intergenerational Summer Food Program, and volunteering opportunities, contact Warren at [wbcoc@sandia.gov](mailto:wbcoc@sandia.gov).



A YOUNG SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM participant is prepared to grow her own food.

## BY THE NUMBERS

A few of the ways Sandians help their communities . . .

### COMMUNITY GIVING

- Lockheed Martin has donated \$19 million in the community since 1993
- Sandians pledged more than \$4 million to United Way of Central New Mexico in 2009
- Shoes for Kids — Employees donated \$15,000; 450 students received new shoes
- Roadrunner Food Drive — 34,300 lbs. of food donated

### EDUCATION

- Family Science Nights — 60 evenings, 6,000 students
- CrossLinks science volunteers — 50 volunteers
- Fun in the Sun summer science — 400 students attend
- School to World career exploration — 2,000 students, 500 career presenters
- Mission Engineering — Serves 300 middle school students with six inquiry-based activities
- Science bowls — Coordinate 75 teams to compete
- Fuel cell competition — 180 students compete in essay, race, orals
- STAR intern program — High school juniors work eight weeks at the Labs
- Pi teaching awards — Recognizes outstanding math teachers
- Teacher professional development — ACTS and POWER

### VOLUNTEERS

- 995 volunteers registered more than 114,000 hours in 2007
- Make a Difference Day — 200 employees, 16 projects
- Community Service Awards — Seventy-one employees received awards for 100, 250, and 500 volunteer hours

# Community

Stories by Iris Aboytes

### Giving back is the best reward

There are many ways that Sandians stand out from the crowd: technical excellence, top-secret work, exceptional service to the nation — it's a long list. A list that can make a person proud. As good as these are, though, the one that stands out for me is our involvement in the community.

There is hardly an event, not-for-profit organization, club, school, or youth-based organization that doesn't benefit from the presence of a Sandia. We are there as worker bees or board members, supportive parents, volunteers, or cash contributors. Whether it's in the nature of a person who would work for a national lab or some other esoteric reason, Sandians make themselves felt in the community.



BRUCE MCCLURE

This part of who we are runs deep. Talk to a longtime retiree and the story has always been the same: We don't just go to work and come home again; we spend our time, our energy, our money, and our passions in the community. For the most part, we do it with very little fanfare, with very little attention paid to getting recognition. The reward comes from knowing you are doing your part and then some to make the Albuquerque or Livermore community a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

For quite a while, Sandia has recognized this behavior and has even created a structure that supports that effort. This ethic is well enough established to result in a policy system that reflects that value. But beyond the bureaucratic side, there exists a willingness on the part of managers and coworkers to be flexible enough to let folks get the job done and help out in the community.

Sandia is an enviable place to work where our technical prowess is matched by our good-hearted generosity. It is a defining characteristic of our culture.

Community Involvement Dept. 3652 has been known by many names and numbers over the past decade or so of its existence but its core trait, service to the community, has been unchanging.

The staff has come from all across the Labs with a diverse range of experience. They've come from budgeting, accounting, the Atomic Museum, training, education, banking, secretarial work, and more. They are engaged at many levels from the professional to the personal, all bound by a passion for affecting the quality of life in our community through our programs in education, philanthropy, and volunteering.

Over the next few pages of this special section of the *Lab News*, we're happy to introduce you to just a few of the many ways we are active in the community. We know it's not a comprehensive picture — that would fill a book — but we hope it's representative of who we are, what we do and how we have taken president Harry Truman's initial charge to us as a laboratory and brought it closer to home by providing exceptional service in the community's interest.

— Bruce McClure, manager, Community Involvement Dept. 3652



BROTHER AND SISTER Rosie and Freddy, clients of ARCA, admire the tapestry they have nurtured.

(Photo by Randy Montoya)

## GIVING

### Sandia employees/retirees donate record-breaking \$4,047,360 to the United Way of Central New Mexico

It began in early summer. Sandia planning committee members and United Way of Central New Mexico representatives began planning Sandia's annual Employee Caring Program (ECP) campaign.

More than six months later the results are in. Sandia Labs employees and retirees pledged more than \$4 million. Sandia is again announced as the No. 1 giver to the United Way of Central New Mexico.

"I'm extraordinarily proud of the Laboratories' contributions to the United Way campaign this year," said Tom Hunter, Sandia President and Laboratories Director. "The depth of caring by our employees and retirees is a real reflection of the character of the Laboratories and the significance we place on giving back to our community."

"When I first started working with Sandia and their ECP campaign in 1997, I recall hearing a former Laboratories director say, 'People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care,'" said Randy Woodcock, vice president and chief operating officer for the United Way of Central New Mexico. "Well, our community knows how much Sandians care by the generosity they demonstrated in raising more than \$4 million through the United Way/ECP campaign this past fall."

The \$4 million includes \$70,000 from Lockheed Martin Corp. and \$518,000 from Sandia retirees.

#### How did it all happen?

Once the 20-member committee planned the campaign, 76 representatives from throughout the Labs set out to make a difference. United Way surveys have revealed that some people

don't give because they are not asked. So, the goal of the representatives was to afford each employee the opportunity to participate. The 77 percent participation rate indicates they were very successful.

"In the relatively short time I have been at Sandia, I have come to learn that this is a very caring and generous community," says ECP campaign chairman Brian Bielecki (4200). "Given the challenging economic times that rapidly expanded the needs throughout many parts of New Mexico, all of us involved in this year's United Way campaign were uncertain how the level of giving would be impacted. The results speak for themselves, and clearly indicate that the greater the need, the greater the spirit of giving rises within Sandia. Thank you for your ongoing generosity. It is a privilege to be part of such a committed and caring community."

Retirees were sent letters directly from United Way. Referred to as "Sandia's secret weapon" by a former Sandia vice president, retirees' generosity proves once again their continuing desire to make a difference.

#### Sandians sit on various United Way committees

Al Romig, chairman of the board for 2010 John Slipke, member of finance committee Jodi Maheras, Community Impact Council Pam Catanach, Community Impact Council Terri Lovato, Women in Philanthropy 66 Sandians serve on allocation panels. Many volunteers serve on various committees.

\$4M

## ENCOMPASSING

### Sandia/California community efforts span education, philanthropy, civic engagement

Sandia/California's community outreach efforts promote science education in K-12 schools and colleges, foster relationships with local government and civic organizations, and support the community through philanthropic projects.

#### Family Science Night and other education endeavors

Family Science Night (FSN) continues to be the cornerstone of Sandia/California's outreach efforts to K-12 schools. Sandia/California piloted FSN in the spring of 2005 at two Livermore schools; the program is now in approximately 25 schools each year in several nearby cities.

FSN has always served as an important way to connect Sandia to the community and engage families in hands-on, fun, science activities. The program is even more important as schools face budget cuts, which have all but eliminated enrichment programs.

Athletes compete in sporting events, and students who excel at performing arts can showcase their work in theatrical productions, music concerts, art shows, and competitions. But what about kids who stand out in science? Fortunately, the Department of Energy Science Bowl for middle and high school students provides an exciting, competitive venue for budding scientists and engineers.

The DOE National Science Bowl was conceived in 1991 as a way to encourage high school students to excel in mathematics and science and pursue careers in those fields. Today, Sandia/California is involved in three DOE High School Science Bowl regional competitions and two middle school events.

Each year, the Sandia/California's Women's Committee hosts the Math & Science Awards, which recognize 20 outstanding young women from the region. Teachers from each represented high school nominate two students: one in math and one in science.

Each awardee is paired with a Sandia host who works in the field of math or science. The hope is that the Sandia women can mentor the high school students as they continue in their academic and professional careers.

Sandia is also a sponsor of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's Science Odyssey and the Tri-Valley Science and Engineering Fair (TVSEF). At both events Sandia sponsors cash prizes and scientists help evaluate project applications and serve as judges.

#### Philanthropy and giving programs

Sandia/California's corporate giving program is called Sandia Helps and Reaches Everyone (SHARE) to emphasize that these gifts touch everyone in our community. SHARE is designed to make it easy for Sandians to contribute to charitable agencies that serve communities in the greater Bay Area and the San Joaquin Valley.

SHARE typically raises more than \$250,000 with more than 70 percent participation. These funds are distributed to approximately 150 agencies directly supporting individuals in the communities in which Sandia employees live.

Each winter, Sandia/California celebrates the holiday season with the Holiday Spirit Campaign. Members of the workforce distribute over 2,000 pounds of food to local food banks and some 60 turkeys to the Tri Valley Basket Brigade. Through the

Holiday Spirit Gift Campaign, members of the workforce send gifts into local communities for nearly 500 needy families.

Sandians have also participated in recent years with Habitat for Humanity and in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

#### Other civic endeavors

Sandia/California is active in the local community and aims to be a good corporate citizen. Sandia is a corporate platinum sponsor of the Livermore Chamber of Commerce, and Bob Carling, director of the Transportation Energy Center, sits on the Chamber's board of directors. Sandia is also a business member of the Tri-Valley Business Council.

Sandia/California also enjoys an active partnership with Las Positas College, a community college located in Livermore. — Patti Koning



SANDIA/CALIFORNIA sponsors Family Science Night activities at some 25 area schools each year, just one of the many ways Sandians in the Livermore area support their community. (Photo by Randy Wong)

## INSPIRING

### Family Science Night

It is about 6 p.m. on a Thursday evening. It is cold and windy, but inside Apache Elementary School excitement is in the air as students and parents fill the school cafeteria to participate in Family Science Night. Sponsored by Sandia and administered by Community Involvement Dept. 3652, Family Science Night is an educational outreach program designed to introduce young students to math and science.

Tables with various experiments invite students to become scientists. The students' dilemma seems to be where to go first. One table has spaghetti and miniature marshmallows. Students attempt to create a structure that will support a ping pong ball. Eight-year-old Jason goes right for the marshmallows. He takes the spaghetti in his hands and in an instant the spaghetti breaks. He takes another piece. This time he does it gently, and using the marshmallows as connectors begins his creativity. As his structure takes shape students gather at the table, and each begins to build.

The experiment was designed to illustrate that engineers use a variety of materials and designs to build buildings. Materials

and design depend on the purpose of the buildings, required stability, foundation, outward appearance, and many other factors. Excitement surrounds a table that has an experiment called Harry Potter Potion. Students fill a baggie with water, squeeze

the air out of the baggie and reseal it leaving only a small slot. They insert an effervescent tablet into the baggie and reseal it. They shake the bag and lay it flat on the table. They look in amazement as gas fills the baggie.

"I love science just for this reason," announces 8-year-old Eric. "You never know what is going to happen."

Parents and students perform the experiments and together try to understand what happened and why. In the Harry Potter Potion a chemical reaction is produced. A chemical reaction is when two molecules come together and undergo chemical

change to form a new substance with new properties. When a chemical reaction takes place, you might see a color change or bubbles form. Chemical reactions occur all around us.

When 8-year-old Andrew is asked what a molecule is, he waits for a while then responds. "I don't exactly know, but I know it is science that we are studying now. It is important."

As all the tables fill up, the atmosphere is like that of a school carnival, each student wanting to try a different experiment. Their eyes open wide as another balloon bites the dust and the Harry Potter Potion takes a life of its own.

As each student completes each experiment they begin to leave. The tables are littered with broken spaghetti, popped balloons, and marshmallows. Salt glitter on the cafeteria floor.

Viscosity, atoms, and molecules return to the science books feeling rather proud that they have once again intermingled with a young and sponge-like audience. Will they become permanent friends? Only time will tell.



FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT — Will his creation hold a ping-pong ball? (Photo by Randy Montoya)

## TEACHING

### Everything's coming up roses, actually poinsettias, for ARCA with the help of Marlene Brown

When Marlene Brown (5737) went on an ECP tour to La Paloma Greenhouse and ARCA Organics in Corrales, she did not realize that a year later she would be installing solar electric panels — photovoltaics — at their site.

ARCA is a nonprofit organization founded in 1957 by Albuquerque families who had children with developmental disabilities. Located in Corrales, the site grows more than 28,000 plants and flowers annually, including world-class holiday poinsettias.

To hear Marlene tell it, she just happened to go to La Paloma and the tour host, Jim Douglas, told her group that La Paloma would like to have solar panels installed to save on energy costs for the greenhouse.

"As a nonprofit working with people with developmental disabilities, we are constantly looking for ways to reduce our energy costs and be good stewards of the resources we have," says Douglas, ARCA division director. "To that end, we entered into many conversations with local solar companies and solar end-users to get familiar with the technology and what advantages/disadvantages solar power provided.

"When I was explaining to the ECP tour representatives about our long-range plans for the program, including adding solar power to greenhouse, Ms. Brown spoke up and said, 'I'm your gal.'"

"I told them that if they got all the hardware needed for the installation and got it on site, I would hold a class through New Mexico Solar Energy Association (NMSEA). We would design and install a system for them," says Marlene. "It took about a year for ARCA to raise the funds, but they pulled it off."

"When everything was in place, I taught a class over two weekends," she says. "The first weekend, the class is held in a classroom. All aspects of the photovoltaic system are covered, including design, siting, and safety. The system was installed over the second weekend. This part of the class was all hands-on. We had about 30 people here to install the system. It was great."

The classes are run through NMSEA and are open to the public. At the time, Marlene was president of NMSEA, a position she held for four years.

The installation is a 3.8 kilowatt PV system mounted on two dual-axis trackers. Half the class worked on installing the modules while the other half worked on installing the inverter and the balance of the system.

"Thirty people were a lot of people to work on system installation," Marlene says, adding that it was also the biggest system an NMSEA class has ever installed. We got everything up and running within an hour of sunset the second day. Everything went smoothly and the system was up and running before we left the second day of the installation."

"The end result is that we are able to defer some of our operational costs by having our organic greenhouses powered by the sun," says Douglas. "Through the help of many hands, hearts, and minds of the greater Albuquerque community, anything is possible."



A 3.8 KILOWATT PV SYSTEM was installed by Marlene Brown and NMSEA students at La Paloma Greenhouse and ARCA Organics. (Photo by Randy Montoya)

"I am glad Marlene came on the tour. She is one of those personalities that makes a direct impact wherever she goes. She is down to earth, knowledgeable, and cares deeply for the projects and people that she immerses herself in."

Marlene has also been instrumental installing systems at the Rio Grande Zoo, Bandelier National Monument, and several other nonprofit agencies.

"What I won't do," says Marlene, "is install a system at someone's home. I will not take a job away from installers."

Marlene's volunteering is not confined to ECP; she does other volunteer activities. Currently she is a visiting scientist at Explora. On April 10 she will unveil her newest project — a solar fountain. Kids get to put it together and of course get wet while doing it.

## COMFORTING

### Material Girls create treasured masterpieces for sick, homeless, and abused children

One by one the Material Girls (seamstresses) arrive at the Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center. Instead of carrying notebooks, each carries a sewing machine. The Material Girls are Sandia Labs Project Linus volunteers who get together on the second Saturday of every month to make blankets.

Project Linus was born in the 1990s when housewife and mother Karen Loucks read about children finding comfort in security blankets. She began making blankets to donate to children's hospitals.

Named after the security blanket-toting character from the *Peanuts* comic strip, Project Linus is a 100 percent volunteer national nonprofit organization, with more than 100 chapters in the United States.

"Through the gift of a handmade blanket, Project Linus provides love, a sense of security, and warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill or traumatized," says Sandia Labs Project Linus program manager Darline Polonis.

About 15 Material Girls volunteer monthly. "You can come even if you don't know how to sew," says Darline. "We have all learned from each other. The fabric is donated and Sandia buys the batting. Each quilt takes approximately five hours to complete. About 150 quilts are donated by the Sandia Labs chapter each year.

Blankets go to the local hospitals for sick, homeless, and abused children. Each blanket has its own

label identifying it as a Project Linus blanket.

"I work at Presbyterian Hospital in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit in Albuquerque," says Neva Coffee. "Project Linus blankets are given out to our babies in the unit. The nurses ooh and aah over these precious blankets. Perhaps because the baby looks like a 'baby' the nurses forget for a while that the baby is a patient. We are not a bunch of mean old nurses, but your blankets are such visual

Material Girls already have sewing in common. It is a great way to build good friendships. We usually sew from 9 a.m. to noon, when we all go for lunch before going home."

"Babies are too small to know that someone with a kind heart and talented hand made them a present," adds Coffee. "However, they can smell and



COLISTA REYNOLDS (5925) smiles as she works on a special quilt.



"THE BEST KIND OF SLEEP under heaven is under a blanket handmade with love," says Darline Polonis.

know this blanket doesn't smell like a hospital. When they are taken home and begin to grow, the patterns and colors give them something to focus on. They explore with their hands, feet, and mouths, and because it is with them so much, the familiarity gives security and a little peace in a very stressful environment.

"Babies are little, but not stupid. I can see their heart rate slow down and steady out. I can see the blood pressure come down, their respirations change. So believe me when I tell you the babies need and benefit from your gifts."

## MENTORING

### The National Science Bowl competition is a pipeline for future scientists

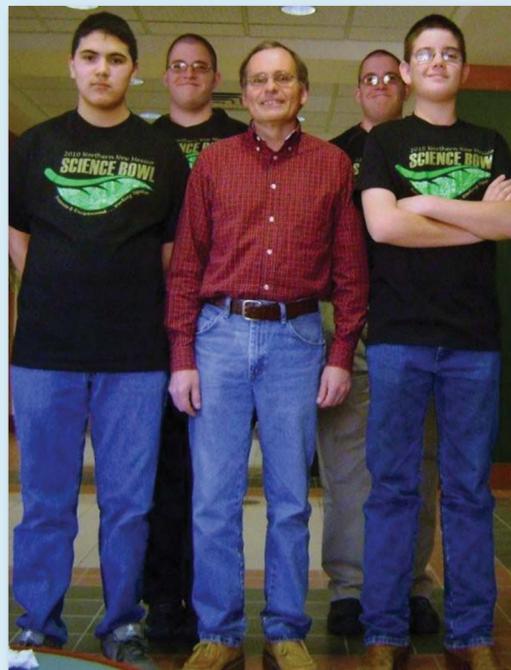
Twins Barton and Benjamin Bone from San Jon, N.M., proudly describe themselves as science geeks. They along with their team members Antonio Martinez and Mathew Evan, recently competed in the National Science Bowl. The competition, held in Albuquerque, attracted 36 teams from high schools throughout New Mexico.

Launched in 1991 to encourage high school students to excel in science and math, the Department of Energy National Science Bowl is the only science competition in the United States sponsored by a federal agency. The national competition now involves more than 13,000 students. In 1972, DOE introduced the National Science Bowl's competition for middle school, and it now involves more than 5,000 students. The New Mexico program is administered by Sandia's Community Involvement Dept. 3652.

The competition tests students' knowledge in all areas of science. Students are quizzed in a fast-paced question-and-answer format similar to *Jeopardy*. Competing teams from diverse backgrounds are made up of four students, one alternate, and a teacher who serves as an advisor and coach. As the contest begins, here are some of the quiz questions:

1. Name all of the following three groups of organisms that generate ATP by chemosynthesis (chem-ee-oz-MOE-sis):  
**Answer:** Cyanobacteria; plant cells; animal cells.
2. Multiply the following complex numbers, giving your answer in standard a + bi form:  
**Answer:** (6 + 3i)(4 + i).

Keith Hilber, coach for the San Jon High School science bowl team says, "I enjoy working and practicing with the team during and after school and then traveling to the big city to participate in the science bowl," says Hilber. "San Jon has a little more than 130 students from kindergarten to high school. Through the science bowl, my students meet other students who enjoy math and science and experience being with a diverse group of students. Coming from a small community, I do not want them to suffer from culture shock."



SAN JON HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE BOWL TEAM included Barton and Benjamin Bone, both seniors, and freshmen Antonio Martinez and Mathew Evans. Their coach, center, is Keith Hilber.

"While we were waiting to compete recently, a student on a participating team began to play his guitar and the rest of his team began to sing. I was impressed with their talent. It was an excellent way for students to handle their precompetition jitters. Our team is mostly composed of Future Farmers of America (FFA) members. They live on farms or ranches and have many chores, but are committed to being on a science bowl team."

Barton and Benjamin raise goats and enter them in the different competitions. Selling them at year-end gives them their Christmas money, but perhaps not for long. Barton and Benjamin will be attending New Mexico Tech in Socorro in the fall.

Throughout the country, DOE regional science bowls are held in January and February, followed by the national competition held in Washington, D.C., in May.

"It marks the end of a long academic journey that begins in November when students form teams and begin preparing for regional competitions," says Sandia program manager Cheryl Garcia (6252). "This program is a great pipeline for the Labs' future scientists and engineers."

## HELPING

### Connie Vanderburg walked in with a smile and left with an 'Oh, my God!'

When Connie Vanderburg (4800) became an Employee Caring Program (ECP) representative, she did not know what to expect. She had always been an ECP participant, but being a representative was different.

"I was determined to make a difference," says Connie. "When the opportunity came to become our center representative, I volunteered. I didn't like the idea of someone being selected who wasn't dedicated to helping. Being a representative has made me discover a different world out there so different from my own."

"I like to tell the story about the first time I went on a Sandia-sponsored tour to Peanut Butter and Jelly, a United Way agency that helps at-risk children to grow and develop to their full potential in nurturing families."

In an effort to explain what the agency was all about and where the children came from, their host told them a story of a father who had been in jail. Upon his release, he found a very different wife than he remembered. PB&J was working with her to help her change, but he didn't like the change, so he killed her. What would happen to his children?

During the past 12 years, Connie has gone on many tours. Most of the agencies she had never heard of. "Going on the tours definitely opened my eyes," says Connie. "Some agencies I entered with a smile but left with an 'Oh, my God.'"

Each year Connie tailors her campaign to reflect what she and members of her ECP team have seen. She wants her coworkers to see through her eyes what she has seen. It is only then, she believes, that people can open themselves up to make a difference.

A recent tour of Alta Mira, a United Way agency that supports individuals with developmental risks, delays, or



"Those who give when they are asked to, have waited too long."  
 — Kobi Yamada

severe disabilities and their families, really affected her.

"I became literally sick," she said. "I knew people who needed this type of help existed, but never really thought about how they were helped. What an eye-opener it was for me."

"Kobi Yamada's words rang through my mind 'Those who give when they are asked to, have waited too long,'" says Connie.

"Many people have lost their jobs during the changes in our economy, and need someone to care and reach out," says Connie. "Today lots of people do not live close to their family members. They need someone to help and encourage them."

Connie will be retiring at the end of year, but she says that as soon as she is settled United Way will become part of her life in one way or another.

"I know I can't help everyone, but I can help some," she says. "They need someone who cares. I care."

## ENGAGING

### 'A valued and responsible corporate citizen'

Although Sandia last year marked its 60th anniversary, it was just 17 years ago that the Labs established a formalized program to proactively support the Labs' increasingly diversified efforts in community involvement. Individual Sandians had been engaged from the very beginning, but nothing was in place to tie their efforts together. And nothing was in place to manage what is sometimes called "reputation risk," the perceptions people have of an institution.

Mike DeWitte, deputy director of Communications and Public Relations Center 3600, was present at the creation of that formal program, which is now largely managed by Community Involvement Dept. 3652. Mike, an Air Force veteran, joined Sandia's technical staff in 1976.

Here's how it began: When it was awarded the contract by DOE to manage the Labs, Lockheed Martin made a commitment to be involved in the community. Then-Labs Director Al Narath, aware of the positive impression Mike was making during public hearings about WIPP — the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant — and UMTRA — the Uranium Mill Tailings Remediation Action program — asked him to set up a Sandia community outreach effort. Al thought Mike was the right choice because of his ability to "translate" complex technical issues into everyday language.

Mike, along with a select group of like-minded staff (Steve Baca, Lynn Schluter, Bill Mairson, and Pam Catanach) immersed themselves in the effort. One of the first things they did was to conduct community surveys and focus groups, done in conjunction with the University of New Mexico Institute for Public Policy. The survey surfaced some good news and some not so good.

Respondents reported that they considered Sandia an institution to be arrogant, secretive, and to pose a potential environmental threat. Those negatives were balanced by findings that the community appreciated Sandia's well-educated workforce and the Labs' economic



MIKE DEWITTE

impact on the community. Respondents also said that they knew and liked and respected individual Sandians as friends and neighbors.

The results suggested to Mike and his group that they had some work to do. To that end, they developed a mission statement, which has been its guiding light ever since: "Be a valued and responsible corporate citizen and community partner."

Lockheed Martin, Mike notes, got behind the community outreach effort with enthusiasm — and something more.

"They gave us fee money," Mike says, "to join civic and business organizations throughout the community, and we really got involved." (Fee money is money that comes directly out of the management fee Lockheed Martin is paid by DOE.)

Starting from those roots, periodic surveys confirm that Sandia is now seen as a fully engaged, community-minded organization. Sandians serve in key roles in organizations as diverse as the Economic Forum (Mike is the immediate past chairman of that group), Albuquerque Economic Development, the Albuquerque Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (Div. 10000 VP Matt O'Brien sits on the board), the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce (Div. 3000 VP John Slipke serves on the board), the Albuquerque Business Education Compact (Dept. 3652 Manager Bruce McClure chairs the board), and many others. Mike says the Labs has worked its way into the leadership of these organizations from the ground up and today has an ongoing strategic effort to keep Sandia leaders active in the community.

The Labs sends scores of volunteers in the community's schools and its charitable organizations. And since it assumed management of Sandia in 1993, Lockheed Martin has contributed some \$19 million to support the arts, human services, civic development, and, especially, education.

—Bill Murphy

*Periodic surveys confirm that Sandia is now seen as a fully engaged, community-minded organization.*