

Department of Energy Oak Ridge Office women's groups make significant impacts

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Office would like to highlight and reflect upon the positive impacts of two women's groups within the Oak Ridge Office. Those two groups are the Federal Women's Program (FWP) and the Oak Ridge Chapter of Federally Employed Women (FEW). Both FWP and FEW have made significant impacts within the

DOE organization, as well as within the local Eastern Tennessee communities.

These two organizations share a common goal of promoting achievement and diversity in the federal workplace, but have expanded their reach to support and cultivate growth and success to all women.

"Recently, we held voter's registration drives, provided professional training opportunities, and held a gift drive for seniors at a local nursing home," said Bethany Belice, FEW President, Oak Ridge Chapter. "We are committed to provide encouragement and empow-

erment to women in our community through networking and professional development opportunities."

Every March, FWP and FEW hosts the Annual Oak Ridge Women's Workshop for federal employees, contractors, small businesses, and the public. This year's workshop

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theme is "Resilience: The Difference is YOU!" and will provide a panel discussion and working sessions to develop this characteristic in attendees. Additionally throughout the year, they invite professionals in the community to address the workforce on a variety of topics during "Lunch and Learn" Sessions and they promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education to young girls in the area.

"Our primary mission is to provide advice and assistance to management in developing and implementing women's activities, as well as being an advocate for the employ-

ee; however, that includes providing an opportunity for women to come together, make connections, promote career development and learn about resources we can all use to reach our fullest potential," said Dationa C. Mitchell, FWP Manager at the Oak Ridge Office.

The Federal Women's Program (FWP) is a government mandated federal diversity program established in

1967 when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed an executive order which added sex to other prohibited forms of discrimination in the federal government. The goal of FWP is to positively impact the employment, professional development, and advancement of women within the federal government. FWP's core values and mission statement strongly embrace the goal of fair and equitable treatment of all federal employees. The Federally Employed Women (FEW) Oak Ridge Chapter is a private, non-profit organization formed in 1968 working in support of the FWP. FEW works at a lo-



We recently held a 2013 Holiday Gift Drive for seniors at a local nursing home.

cal and national level to end sex and gender discrimination, to encourage diversity for inclusion and equity in the workplace, and for the advancement and professional growth

of women in federal service by encouraging diversity and equity in the workplace. FEW's program areas include compliance, diversity, legislation and training.

To learn more about FEW and FWP and how you can get involved, please contact Bethany Belice at (865) 576-0867 or Dationa Mitchell at (865) 576-1221.