



September nonprofits support veterans, kids, animals, and more!

ORNL Gives once again received lab-wide participation in September while raising awareness and funds for 12 deserving nonprofits. “Seeing the amount of support and compassion our employees generate each month has been incredible, but not surprising,” said Jeremy Busby, ORNL Gives co-chair. “The stories we’ve heard have opened up hearts and minds to the benefits of community outreach and connected employees to nonprofits they hadn’t even heard of before. Thanks to all the directorates and staff members who participated. Your time, talents, and tenacity supported many grateful organizations in our community.”



ORNL Gives directorates from August hosted a wrap-up fundraiser on the Quad, featuring two food trucks, CJ's Tacos and Backwoods BBQ, and lunch options from Olivers.



Stephen Macklin, Protective Force group leader, participates in the Protective Force stair-climbing event to commemorate first responders entry into the twin towers on 9/11. Exercise Physiologist and Training Specialist Scott Schmidt keeps track of the floors he completed.

“The unity walk was one of the most powerful yet simple events organized as part of ORNL Gives, raising hundreds for two nonprofit organizations focused on serving veterans, law enforcement, and firefighters.” In addition, Team UT-Battelle and [Protective Force](#) honored 9/11’s first responders with a 24-hour stair climber activity, which started at midnight on 9/10. A big salute to all ORNL staff members who donated, volunteered, or participated in these commemorative events.

On campus events honor 9/11

To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the attacks on September 11, 2001, the Environmental, Safety, Health, and Quality Directorate organized a unity walk from the Quad to the Graphite Reactor and back, to show support for our first responders and veterans and to commemorate those who lost their lives that day. For a \$25 donation, split between [Smoky Mountain Service Dogs](#) and [Knoxville Public Safety Foundation](#), ORNL staff received a shirt, a patriotic mask, and the opportunity to hear moving stories on a beautiful September day. “Fundraising doesn’t have to be complicated to be effective,” said Wade Creswell, ORNL’s community engagement manager.



Smoky Mountain Service Dog Sadie attentively looks up to her veteran companion. Smoky Mountain Service Dog Board Chair Mike Kitchens (left) and ORNL’s Health Services Division Director Dr. Bart Iddins (right) joined the duo just before the start of the unity walk.

Volunteering is a 24/7 need

ORNL Gives directorate competitions concluded on September 30, but you still can help worthy nonprofits in East Tennessee. Of course, you can make a one-time or reoccurring donation via [payroll deduction](#), but you can also [sign up to volunteer](#). Fall is a perfect time to enjoy the great outdoors and help many local charities. The [ORNL Gives portal to Volunteer East Tennessee](#) helps you find a need and participate. If you don't have an account, [sign up](#)! And if your favorite nonprofit is not listed and is looking for volunteers, reach out to the [Community Engagement Team](#). We'll share it with other lab employees on Volunteer East Tennessee.

ORNL/UT-Battelle awards grants

ORNL/UT-Battelle awarded grants to 25 nonprofits last month as part of its biannual corporate giving initiative. Check out the [recipients on SharePoint](#) and remember to tell your favorite charity to [apply](#) in January 2022. Note: If a nonprofit received a grant from the July 2021 cycle, it is not eligible again until July 2022.



These two students studied biodiversity in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park under the supervision of Discover Life in America, a UT-Battelle 501(c)(3) grant recipient.

UT-Battelle helps thousands of East Tennessee students

[Junior Achievement's \(JA\) BizTown](#) helps students make educational connections between what they learn in school and the real world, with a day-long visit to a simulated town to learn what it takes to run a small business, or even a science laboratory. But with on-site restrictions limited because of the pandemic, JA staff had to think of creative ways to serve thousands of students in East Tennessee with virtual connections and digital simulations. Thanks to a grant from ORNL/UT-Battelle, JA engaged more than 13,000 students across the region with the [JA Inspire Virtual Experience](#). The grant allowed JA to pivot and innovate, helping 9,000+ students locally and 4,000+ regionally with the knowledge and skills needed to propel them into a successful future.

Disaster Relief Grant helps those close to home and abroad

ORNL is made up of thousands of employees representing hundreds of locations across the globe, with personal connections to family, hometowns, and favorite travel destinations. When disasters happen, employees want to act fast to help those affected. To that end, UT-Battelle launched a disaster relief fund, administered by the [East Tennessee Foundation](#). Employees can recommend which relief efforts to support, and ORNL/UT-Battelle will match staff member donations. Within the last 60 days, two organizations have benefited from the generosity of lab employees — [COVID-19 Relief/UNICEF India](#) and [Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee](#) — each receiving at least \$5,000. Visit the [UT-Battelle Disaster Relief Fund](#) for more information.

STEM events pick up in October

This month, ORNL will take part in two STEM outreach events.

- [ORNL's Traveling Science Fair](#) will participate in SciFest All Access, a free virtual STEM expo for K–12 students, educators, and families. The expo will be live October 18–24 and will feature interactive exhibits, stage shows, and even a STEM scavenger hunt. Learn more about [SciFest All Access](#) and register to attend [here](#).
- Nuclear science professionals from ORNL will virtually visit area high schools in celebration of Nuclear Science Week October 18–22. Volunteers will speak to students about ORNL and what it is like to work in the field. If you would like to participate, sign up [here](#). Teachers interested in virtual visits can register [here](#). Registration closes October 8.

SciFest All Access

Nuclear Science Week

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