

# the Y-12 times

A newsletter for employees and friends  
of the Y-12 National Security Complex

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Volume 9, No. 9

September 2009

[www.y12.doe.gov/news/times.php](http://www.y12.doe.gov/news/times.php)

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B&W Technical Services Y-12, LLC, a partnership between  
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and Bechtel National Inc., operates the  
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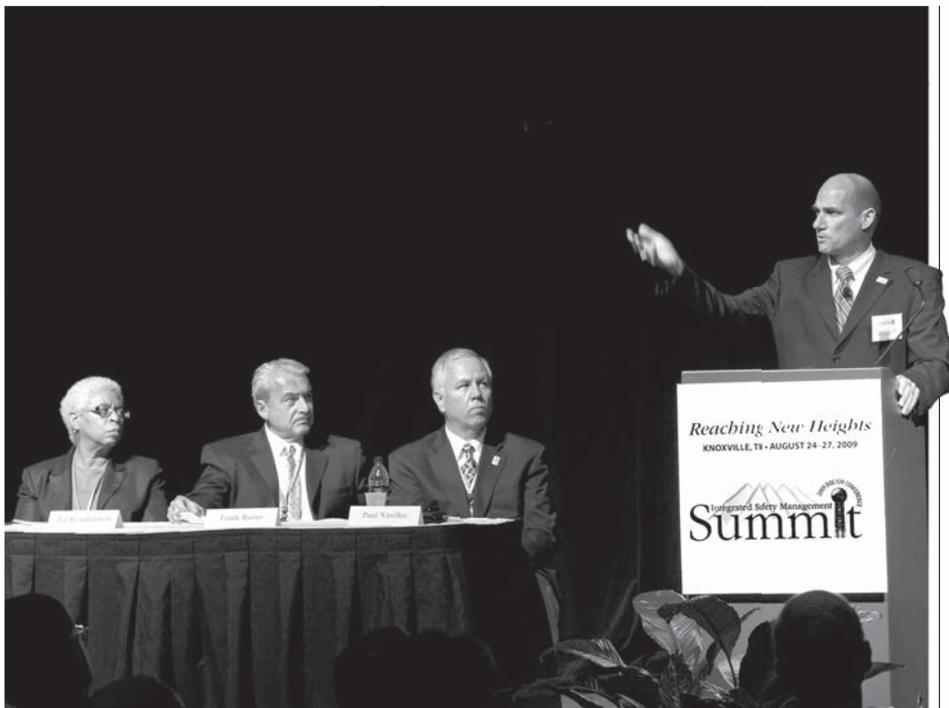
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## Reaching new heights

"I applaud the efforts of the ISM community," said National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Administrator Thomas D'Agostino to the more than 950 attendees at the 2009 Integrated Safety Management (ISM) Summit held in Knoxville, Aug. 24-27.

Y-12 President and General Manager Darrel Kohlhorst said, "ISM is one of the best programs I've ever come across" to help employees have an injury-free career.

Attendees chose from 10 tracks to attend and received information from 97 technical papers. Track topics included safety culture, employee health and wellness, integrating safety into design, and the safety of work created under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. More than 65 vendor displays showcased the latest in environment, safety and health (ES&H) products and services.

Patricia Worthington, U.S. Department of Energy ISM co-champion, and Frank Russo, NNSA ISM co-champion, were the event hosts. The Summit was hosted by the DOE Oak Ridge Office, NNSA Y-12 Site Office, B&W Y-12 (principal sponsor), Bechtel Jacobs Company, UT-Battelle, Battelle, EnergX, Isotek Systems, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, URS and WSI Oak Ridge. Y-12 ISM manager Paul Wasilko was the conference program manager.

Wasilko added, "It was great to see so many ES&H professionals working toward the common goal of creating a safer work environment for employees."

University of Tennessee Lady Vols Coach Pat Summitt gave the keynote address.

Joseph Bader, a member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, reiterated to attendees what they all need to continue to do: don't get complacent, strive for excellence and provide consistent leadership.

Attendee Gary Grant from CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company, Richland, Wash., said, "I have attended several of these workshops dating back to 2001 and this one was by far the best."

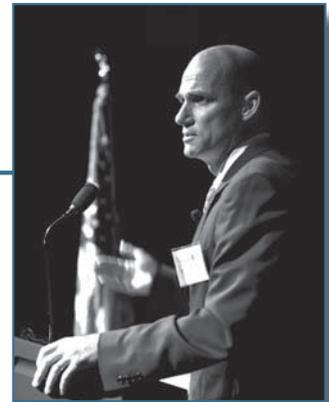
"Reaching new heights"—the theme of this year's conference—left attendees motivated to reach for the summit when they returned to their workplace. (For more photos, see page 2.)



Pat Summitt, UT Lady Vols Coach



From left, Wayne Jobe, Charlie King and Ashley Souther



NNSA Administrator Thomas D'Agostino



Ray Smith, Y-12 Historian

When “Rocky Top” is playing in the background and University of Tennessee (UT) Lady Vols Coach Pat Summitt is at the podium, you would expect the audience to be UT students, fans or alumni—not an audience of more than 950 environment, safety and health professionals attending the 2009 Integrated Safety Management Summit. B&W Y-12 was the principal sponsor for the event, for which Summitt was the keynote speaker.

“Every year we’re trying to do what you’re trying to do—improve and get better at what we do,” Summitt told the crowd as she described the connection between being one of the 50 greatest American coaches of all time and providing a safe work environment.

# Integrated Safety Management Summit



From left, a Mayo Clinic representative with Debbie Reed and Sue Arnold



At a vendor booth are, from left, Carron Webb and Kathy Morgan

# MAKING IT HAPPEN

Are you an hourly worker who needs help with a safety issue? Remember these names: George Potprocky and Mike Watkins. They've been the health and safety officers for the Atomic Trades and Labor Council (ATLC) for almost 2 years now. They can make things happen.

No one ever means for problems to "fall between the cracks," but sometimes it happens. For example, a laundry truck that was difficult to climb into was in need of a ladder. And not just any ladder would do; this ladder needed to be fabricated. After trying to get the ladder for 2 years, the laundry truck owner contacted Potprocky and Watkins.

"It turned out that the ladder was fabricated but needed welding," said Potprocky. "They had to have approval for the welding, and the guy who did those approvals was out sick. We found out how to get it bumped up for the planner, and then the job was finished in about a week and a half."

In their assignment to Environment, Safety and Health (ES&H), Watkins and Potprocky work with a wide range of ES&H teams. If you have a problem, tackle it first with your supervisor, then with ES&H, then, if needed, with Watkins and Potprocky. "Our job scope also includes investigations, surveillance and audits," said Potprocky.

They admit they can't fix everything, but most of the problems brought to their attention are quickly resolved. "Sometimes it's just a misunderstanding, or how things are perceived. We just need to get with the managers," said Potprocky.

Both believe in providing individual service. "Nine times out of 10 we'll visit somebody in person," said Potprocky. "We come see you so we can understand the problem. It helps people to know we're paying attention, too; often we'll hear 'you got down here already?'"

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has greatly expanded the number of projects going on simultaneously at Y-12, and Watkins and Potprocky say it's pushing them hard. "We have 1,300

people we represent now—not just Y-12, but six other companies with ATLC contracts. And it's growing every day. In fact, they may add a third person to our positions," said Potprocky.

"We generally work as a team, depending on the need," said Potprocky.

Then their pagers go off and with smiles, they disappear. More problems need to be solved.

You can contact Potprocky at 576-8899, pager 417-6965; Watkins at 574-3080, pager 417-5397.



George Potprocky (left) and Mike Watkins represent almost 1,300 Atomic Trades and Labor Council members when they have health or safety issues.

## Ready, set . . .

Welcoming more than 100 participants to the ninth annual Readiness Workshop, Y-12 Site Office Manager Ted Sherry and B&W Y-12 President and General Manager Darrel Kohlhorst presented readiness as a challenging "continuous learning process."

Anticipating the startup of the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility (HEUMF) in 2010, Kohlhorst noted that "planning is the key to successful startup. When you start, you have to be ready." Planning is important even on small-scale projects, he said. He shared that his family creates a staging area where essentials are gathered before a trip or project so that "we know where we are going and how we will get there."

Kohlhorst shared another timely reminder about project planning: "Have money up front and spend economically," he said, an error "of \$1 up front can create a \$1 million loss later." Conscientious planning and economic awareness demand a dedicated work crew to maintain "continuity of purpose," he emphasized. He recognized Ray Patterson, HEUMF Project Manager as an outstanding example of a key HEUMF team member who has served the project since early construction.

Hosted by Y-12's Joe Crociata and John Raulston, the workshop stressed the importance of "sharing across the enterprise." Raulston, Readiness Assurance manager, commented, "Y-12 is a leader in readiness among the NNSA sites in the Nuclear Security Enterprise; we set the bar high."

The workshop was held July 28–30 in Knoxville. Attendees included readiness experts from across the Nuclear Security Enterprise.

# The pressure is on



Stacey Lyell of Occupational Health Services checks her blood pressure on one of the three machines at Y-12.

Monitoring employee wellness just got a little easier thanks to efforts by an employee team. Pamela Deathridge and Steve Lambson (both of Engineering) are members of the team responsible for getting the new blood pressure monitoring machines located in New Hope Center and the 9113 Canteen.

At a recent employee team meeting, Mary Benton (Environment, Safety and Health) and Dewayne Headrick (Fire Protection Operations) spoke about employee wellness; they discussed heart attack prevention, risk factors and ways to keep healthy, such as monitoring blood pressure.

Deathridge said, “The words ‘monitor your blood pressure’ resonated in our minds.” Benton pointed out, “Monitoring blood pressure is something every employee can do. You may not have symptoms, but all the time it is high it can be damaging the heart, blood vessels, kidneys and other body parts.”

The team knew that to monitor blood pressure regularly, employees would need accessible equipment. The site’s one blood pressure machine at Jack Case Center was central for many employees, but that location made its use impractical or impossible for many others. The team made a request to their management sponsor, Bill Reis, to purchase two additional machines. Reis then coordinated securing funding.

Lambson was enthusiastic about the team’s success. He pointed out that the team’s broad cross-section of population “enables, almost forces, the teams to think more broadly about safety, health, and wellness, because significantly different backgrounds and life experiences come together on a regular basis.”

## Telling the Y-12 story through the lens



The Photography group takes and processes an average of 20,000 images a year. “Some people have the impression that we just shoot retirement parties and portraits,” noted digital imaging specialist Carol Trentham (above). “That’s only one very small part of what we do.”

Y-12 photographers took their 500,000th photo in August. From the early days of the Manhattan Project to transformation projects such as the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility, photographers have documented the story of Y-12.

“A lot of important work goes on at Y-12, and each photo tells a story,” said Linda Cantrell, a digital imaging specialist in the Photography department. “That’s what we do—we document everything.”

“We’re taking more photos now than we used to,” said Cantrell. She noted that the increased documentation is due, in part, to covering American Recovery and Reinvestment Act work.

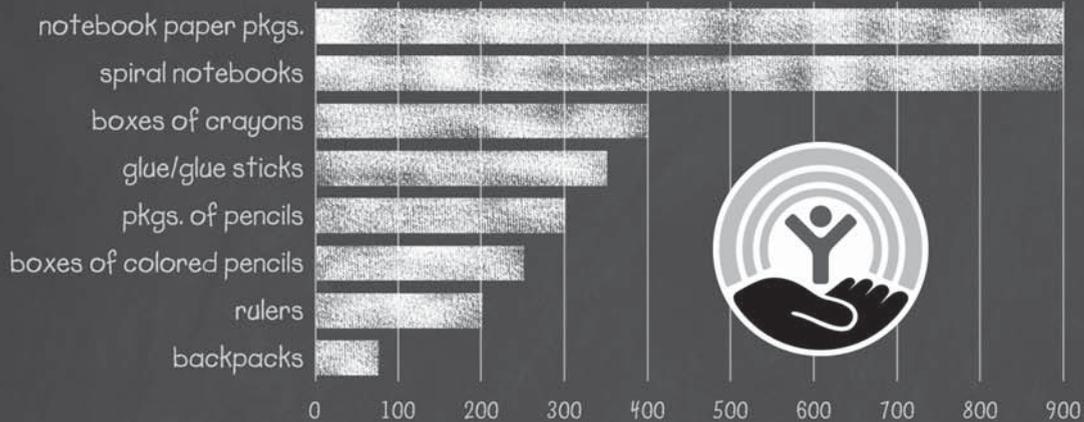
Y-12’s six photographers document core business activities, including production and project activities as well as accidents and emergency response exercises. They also shoot time-lapse photos, 360-degree photos and forensic photos for investigations and take to the sky in a helicopter to get aerial shots of Y-12’s changing footprint.

Photographer Brett Pate said his job requires hours of training to get access to areas across the site. “I take respirator, beryllium, HAZWOPER [Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response] and other training to be able to document processes and projects,” he said.

Once photos are taken, Cantrell and Trentham size and color correct the photos for printing. All images become permanent Y-12 records, so they’re given tracking numbers and stored for future retrieval.

Y-12’s Photography department also includes Don Abell, Kathy Fahey, Jamie Loveday, Terry Marlar, Tommy Maxwell and Jim Richmond.

# United Way: back to school



*"That is awesome! Please thank everyone for the generosity! I spoke with an engineer recently who has been laid off and didn't have enough school supplies for his 14-year-old son. He had no idea where to ask for help. You all have answered his call!"*

—Rick Morrow, Executive Director, United Way of Anderson County, upon hearing the total supplies and money Y-12 employees donated to Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties

Y-12 employees contributed more than 4,000 school supplies for Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties, a United Way agency. The two-day collection event in August also brought in cash contributions totaling \$1,745.



United Way volunteers sort school supplies. Front row (left to right): Jim Anderson, Becky Williams and Jack Huffaker; back row: Sharon Dabney and Stacy Miller.



## Around Y-12 ...

- During Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel B. Poneman's visit to Oak Ridge Aug. 13, he toured Y-12 facilities, including the Building 9212 complex and the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility.
- Y-12 employees and programs are proving "it's easy being green," with more than 100 employees recognized at the 2009 Y-12 Sustainability and Stewardship Pollution Solutions Award Ceremony held Aug. 19.
- In mid-August, the National Safety Council honored Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Y-12 with a 2009 Industry Leader Award for safety performance within its industry. The award benchmarks outstanding safety achievements among member companies based on self-reported data.
- On Aug. 29, the Y-12's 20-member team participated in the 2009 Five-County Memory Walk, in support of the East Tennessee Alzheimer's Association, at the Oak Ridge Civic Center. Team donation totals will not be tallied until Sept. 29; before the walk began, the Y-12 team had raised \$2,975.
- More than 95 employees and family members visited New York City Sept. 2-6 with the Y-12 Employees' Society. This annual trip has become the most popular destination for YES travel.
- President Barack Obama announced Sept. 3 Thomas D'Agostino, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security of the U.S. Department of Energy and Administrator for Nuclear Security of the National Nuclear Security Administration, will continue serving in his current role.
- In an effort to help curb the spread of the H1N1 (and other flu) virus, a memorandum of agreement was signed recently between Y-12 and the Atomic Trades and Labor Council (ATLC), which allows ATLC members to receive pay during the first 20 hours of absence if they have a doctor's diagnosis of the flu. This agreement is to encourage employees who are sick to stay home and not pass the virus to others. Employees should contact their supervisors, stewards or Labor Relations with any questions.

## A yarn of a tale

When Vicky Marrow shared her story (YSource and August *The Y-12 Times*) about her passion for knitting toboggans for the homeless at the Volunteer Ministry Center (VMC), she never dreamed her need for yarn would be answered by employees. Now, her office is overflowing with donated yarn.

"I am absolutely overwhelmed by the warmth and generosity of the Y-12 family. I have received 155 skeins of yarn, 134 balls of yarn, 42 newborn hats and a generous cash contribution," said Marrow.

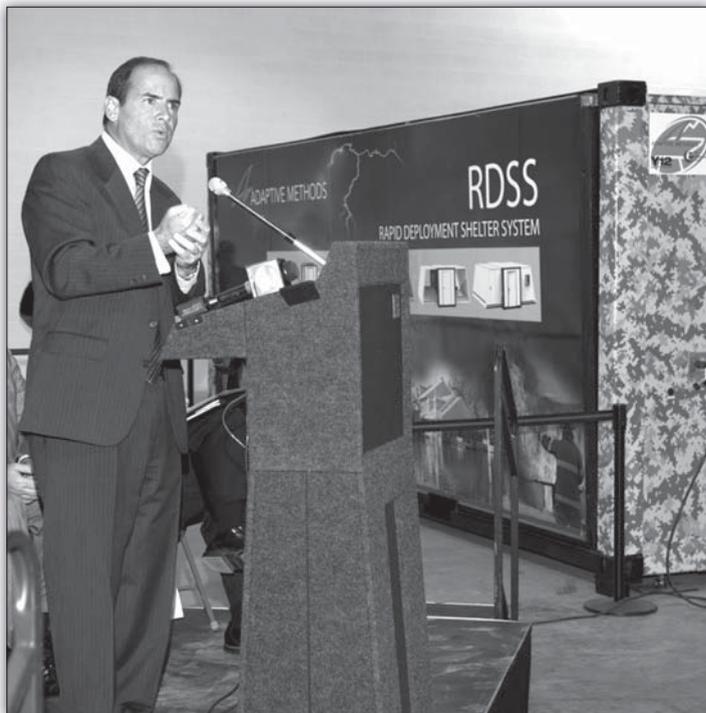
Marrow's goal is to make 50 toboggans by the annual United Way Coat Drive in October.

Not only will the VMC benefit from the yarn donations, but also the East Tennessee Chapter of Newborns in Need will receive part of a large donation from Debbie Thomas (Safeguards, Security, and Emergency Services) and her sister, Juanita.

"When I saw the story about the need for the yarn, I knew that we had found the answer to our need," Thomas said. "My sister, Juanita, has been disabled for about 8 years and her ability to crochet is very limited. She loved to make baby hats the best. She is soon going to be moving and will not have room for the yarn, and we knew the yarn needed a home."

"The next time you have an idea to help someone, by all means go for it!" said Elaine Warren, a Y-12 VMC volunteer. "You will never know until you try just how big it could become and how many other people are just waiting to help you achieve your goal."

Shown in the photo (from left) are Teri Ball, Tammy Hubbard, Charlie Barton, Anita Greenlee, Doug Greenlee, Kay Bradley and Vicky Marrow (front). Not pictured is Debbie Thomas.



U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp joined Y-12 and Adaptive Methods Sept. 1 for the unveiling of the Rapid Deployment Shelter System at Adaptive Method's new manufacturing facility in Chattanooga. The shelter was created at Y-12, then licensed to Adaptive Methods last year. The mobile units can be easily reconfigured into a surgical or medical unit, pharmacy, barracks or as a command and control communications center during times of disaster.

## Y-12 helps prepare Scout leaders

Many employees at Y-12 help with area Boy and Girl Scout troops. While the Scouts engage in activities such as camping, clearing trails and helping with food drives, the leaders focus on their safety and well-being.

Yvonne Bishop's (Programs and Quality) Girl Scout troop has participated in activities such as Y-12's Pollution Prevention program. "Since most of my assistant leaders also work at National Nuclear Security Administration/U.S. Department of Energy sites, many of our activities focus on science and engineering," she said.

Jason Hatfield (Production) said, "I have found the Boy Scout motto of 'Be Prepared' has served me well in my daily life. I feel if I can be prepared for any situation that may arise at work, then I am a better and more productive employee for doing so."

Steve Kyle (Safeguards, Security and Emergency Services) pointed out, "Safety is required at all levels of Scouting. Prevent briefings are a key component to each project's scope. Making sure we have trained and qualified leaders for each activity is a must. Supervision of the activity is key to ensuring nobody gets hurt."

Sound familiar? Planning and safety become a way of life for Y-12 employees who accept the challenge of training young people. The area's Scout troops benefit from Y-12's strong leadership, and the Scout leaders are quick to acknowledge that it's rewarding to share their knowledge and prepare their troops to live as good citizens.

Other Scout leaders include Kathryn King of Business Services; Mike Bath and Chris Rogers of Safeguards, Security and Emergency Services; Dennis Miller of Science, Technology and Partnerships; and Jerry Hanna of Production.

## SERVICE



## ANNIVERSARIES

### SEPTEMBER

44 years

Quality Assurance: **Homer L. Tucker**

43 years

Engineering: **Kerry A. Maulden**

42 years

Maintenance Support: **Douglas H. Kitchen**

41 years

Engineering: **Luther E. Galyon Jr.** and **James D. May**

40 years

Depleted Uranium Production:

**Pete D. Psihogios**

Quality Assurance: **Robert M. Jones**

Safeguards, Security and Emergency Services:

**Steven W. Combs**

Utilities Management: **Argil R. Burress**

35 years

Budgets: **Robert S. Resseguie**

Excess Facilities: **Richard E. Stamps**

Facilities, Infrastructure and Services:

**John A. Cox, Ferland Elliott, Thomas E.**

**Hensley and Calvin B. McMillan**

Human Resources: **Paul G. Maples**

Information Technology: **Kenneth M. Dale**

Legal: **Conard L. Stair**

Production: **Thurmon E. Johnston Jr.** and

**Andy L. Moore**

Quality Assurance: **Jimmy E. Madison**

Safeguards, Security and Emergency Services:

**David L. McMurray**

30 years

Applied Technologies: **William D. Brosey**

Engineering: **William H. Moon Jr.**

Program Planning: **Rebecca L. Montgomery**

Quality Assurance: **Derrick S. Zingg**

Resource Management: **David W. Oran** and

**Lonnie R. Overbay**

Safeguards, Security and Emergency Services:

**Betsy K. Crawford** and **Stephen A. McGuire**

25 years

Benefits, Tax and Payroll Accounting:

**Thomas J. Lewis**

Engineering: **Gail D. Hackett**

Maintenance Support: **Michael D. Wheeler**

Production: **Katherine J. Martin**

Safety: **Jennifer Emch** and **Robert W. James**

20 years

Engineering: **Kimberly A. Fee, Roy J. Hunt,**

**Leonard R. Johnson, Russell G. Perkins,**

**Danny W. Wilson** and **Christopher W.**

**Woodrow**

Maintenance Support: **Gary R. Lynn**

Production Facilities: **Sonja M. Lomax**

Quality Assurance: **Catherine L. Burdette** and

**William E. Ready**

Radiological Control: **David A. Milo**

Waste Operations and IFDP: **Eva F. Irwin**

## Y-12 Stompers

Oct. 17

Join the fight against diabetes  
The Cove, Concord Park

Contact Donna Bennett, 574-5839

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## Light the Night

Oct. 29

Walk in support of the Leukemia  
and Lymphoma Society  
6 p.m., University of Tennessee,  
Knoxville

Contact Pam Summers, 574-4007

P.O. Box 2009  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8245

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# Recovery Act at work



Thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Sonny Leach is finally a part of Y-12.

The former auto parts worker first applied at Y-12 in the summer of 2008. He was one of 2,600 people vying for 50 positions in a skilled craftsmen apprenticeship program. He didn't get an apprenticeship, but Human Resources called months afterward.

"They said they might have a position if the stimulus money came through," Leach said. "They called back later with an offer, and in April I hired on."

Now he's helping ready Alpha 5, a building where nuclear weapon secondaries were once produced, to be emptied and eventually demolished. As radiological control — "radcon" — workers check the desks and other equipment stored there for radiation, Leach assists by moving objects so they can be examined. The 600,000-square-foot building is the largest one at Y-12. "Cleaning out this building is going to make a big difference in the site," he said.

As for the future, Leach is still interested in a Y-12 apprenticeship. He's also attending college part time, working toward a degree in business administration. No matter which direction his career goes, Y-12 is a good home for him. And ARRA made it possible.

"ARRA is very good for the economy," he said. "It's an opportunity for people who are having a rough time to find work."

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Sonny Leach, one of 2,600 people who applied for the skilled craftsmen apprenticeship program in 2008, is part of the Y-12 family thanks in part to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.