

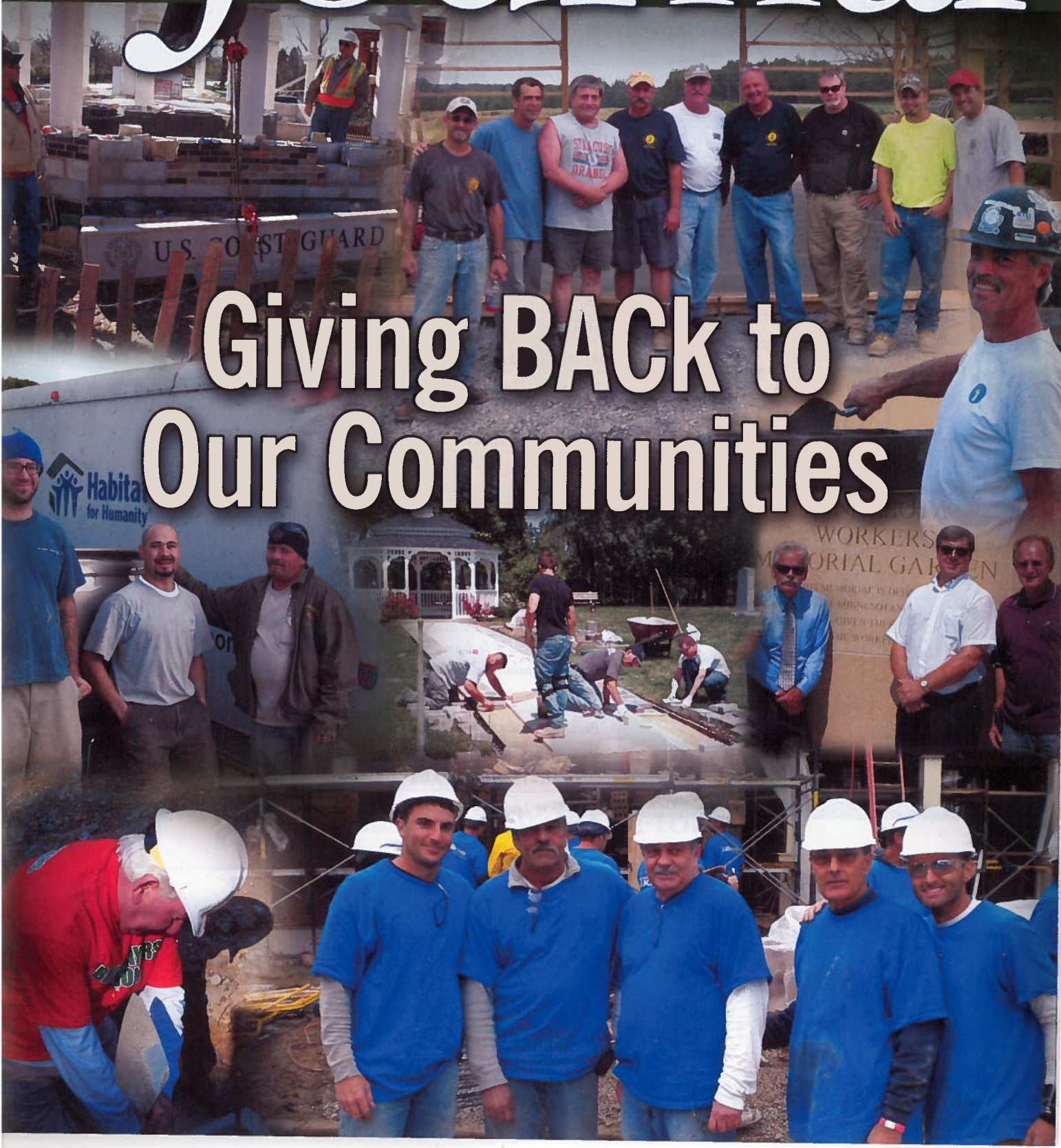
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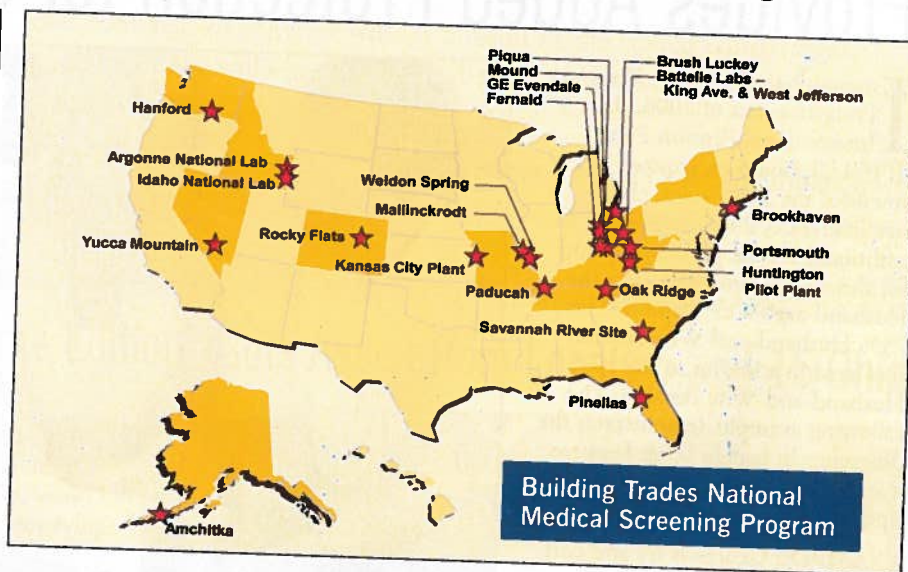
# Journal

## Giving BACK to Our Communities



# Building Trades National Medical Screening Program Helps Sick Nuclear Weapons Construction Workers

Hundreds of thousands of construction workers unwittingly put themselves at risk while working on Department of Energy (DOE) or Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) nuclear sites involved in nuclear weapons research or production. Although safety and health precautions are greatly improved since the Cold War, today's workers can still encounter hazardous materials in dust and residue and during demolition and remediation work. Workers on these sites were (and are) exposed to hazards such as radiation, asbestos, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, lead, silica, and solvents that can cause cancers and other serious health problems, even those which are fatal.



**"This program saved my life. If it hadn't been in place and I hadn't taken the initiative to participate, I wouldn't be here today. My advice to any worker is: Don't wait."**

—BTMED PARTICIPANT

Those who performed work on DOE or AEC nuclear sites are eligible to receive free medical screenings through the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program (BTMed). The screening program helps identify workers' job-related health problems that may have gone untreated or undiagnosed in the years since the hazardous exposures occurred. Since DOE began funding the program in 1996, more than 20,000 workers have received screenings. A network of BTMed outreach offices across the country covers screenings for 23 DOE/AEC sites (see the list at left).

## How Free Screening Program Works

The BTMed Program consists of three steps: participation agreement, a work history interview and a medical exam. In step one, you will need to complete an initial contact form and consent forms for steps two and three. These forms are available on the website listed below, or by calling 1-800-866-9663 and requesting that the forms be mailed

to you. In step two, a specially-trained worker conducts a work history interview to determine what exposures to hazardous material(s) the worker may have had. In step three, the worker receives a free medical screening examination to test for illnesses that may have resulted from exposure risks, as well as other health problems. Following the exam, the worker receives a letter indicating any medical findings and which of those findings could be work related. If a compensable illness is discovered, the worker may file a claim with the Department of Labor under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act. More information on the EEOICPA can be found at: <http://www.dol.gov/owcp/energy/>.

If you have worked at one of the covered DOE/AEC sites listed, please contact:

**Building Trades National  
Medical Screening Program**  
1-800-866-9663  
[www.btmed.org](http://www.btmed.org)

*The BTMed Program is coordinated by CPWR—The Center for Construction Research and Training— and supported by the Building & Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO.*

**BUILDING TRADES  
NATIONAL MEDICAL  
SCREENING PROGRAM**  
1-800-866-9663  
[WWW.BTMED.ORG](http://WWW.BTMED.ORG)

**FREE MEDICAL EXAM**

**DID YOU WORK AT  
A DOE/AEC SITE?**  
If so, you may be eligible  
for a **FREE** medical exam.

**DOE/AEC SITES**  
AMCHITKA  
ARGONNE WEST  
BATTELLE LABS  
(KING AVE & WEST JEFF)  
BROOKHAVEN  
BRUSH LUCKEY  
FERNALD  
GE EVENDALE  
HANFORD  
HUNTINGTON PILOT PLANT  
IDARGO NATIONAL LAB  
KANSAS CITY PLANT  
MALLINCKRODT  
MOUND  
OAK RIDGE  
PADUCAH  
PINELLAS  
PIQUA  
PORTSMOUTH  
ROCKY FLATS  
SAVANNAH RIVER SITE  
WELDON SPRING  
YUCCA MOUNTAIN

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