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Vehicles for Change Can Increase Workforce Participation

HALETHORPE, Md. (July 10, 2009) A recent study conducted by master's students at the University of Virginia concluded that Vehicles for Change, a nonprofit organization committed to changing lives with donated cars, can increase workforce participation in Virginia by as much as 14 percent because it provides a means of transportation for people in need.

The study indicates that a lack of transportation is one of the most common problems faced by clients of a state program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). Because many of these people live in rural areas where public transportation is not easily accessible, their options for commuting to and from work are limited. Some companies reported that they are using cab services to transport their employees to and from work, which is too costly to maintain for an extended period of time.

Vehicles for Change is an ideal solution for this problem because it sells refurbished cars to low income families at reduced prices. The cars sold to clients will give them the opportunity to find jobs, as well as making their commutes easier. Additionally, clients and the companies that hire them can avoid expensive alternatives, such as cab services. Not only does a car benefit a working parent by making his or her commute stress-free, but in general, a car makes life easier for the whole family. Families can go grocery shopping, and parents can shuttle children to and from school. A car can give a child the opportunity to participate in after school activities like sports or dance lessons.

“We are honored to be recognized as a potential solution to increase accessibility to jobs for those in need,” said Marty Schwartz, president of Vehicles for Change. “We strive to make a change in the communities that we serve and are excited that students at UVA see us as part of the solution to increase workforce participation.”

Over the past 10 years, Vehicles for Change has positively impacted the lives of more than 9,000 parents and children by awarding nearly 3,000 cars to families in need over the past ten years. After purchasing a car from Vehicles for Change, 73 percent of recipients obtain a better job and increase their income by an average of \$4,800. By partnering with social welfare programs in Virginia and Maryland, Vehicles for Change reaches the families who are in the most need of a car.

If you have a car that you would like to donate to Vehicles for Change, visit www.vehiclesforchange.org and click on the “Donate Your Car Today” tab or call 1-800-835-3821. A Vehicles for Change tow truck will promptly pick up your vehicle, free of charge, and issue a receipt.

About Vehicles for Change: Vehicles for Change, a nonprofit organization committed to selling refurbished cars to low-income families at minimal cost, was founded in 1999 and awarded its first car to a family in Carroll County, Md. To date, Vehicles for Change has impacted the lives of more than 8,400 individuals by awarding nearly 3,000 cars to people in need throughout the state of Virginia and in nine counties in Maryland. For more information about Vehicles for Change, please visit www.vehiclesforchange.org or call Marty Schwartz at (410) 242-9674.

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