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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vehicles for Change to Award Cars Reconditioned by Baltimore City High School Students

Baltimore, Md. (May, 12, 2017) – Vehicles for Change (VFC), a Baltimore area nonprofit organization which awards donated cars to qualifying working families, in conjunction with Baltimore City's Mergenthaler Vocational Technical High School (Mervo) will award two reconditioned cars to two Baltimore families on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. In a special ceremony taking place at the high school and celebrating the students' work in its automotive and auto body programs, Mervo students will present the keys to the cars that were first donated to Vehicles for Change and then shuttled to Mervo for repair.

"Working with Vehicles for Change gives our students the opportunity to put the skills they are learning daily into a real world application," said Mervo Assistant Principal, Laura Schulz. "Being a part of the car awarding ceremony will demonstrate the importance of their chosen pathway (auto) and how the skills they learn and practice daily, can be life changing for someone else. The gift of transportation opens up opportunities for a family whose impacts are immeasurable," said Schulz.

VFC President Martin Schwartz will also attend Tuesday's award ceremony. Speaking about the importance of working with the school, he said, "This is a great opportunity for both the students at Mervo and the Vehicles for Change program. The students get to show just how talented they are, all while preparing a life changing car for a Baltimore resident. This is just the beginning of a much greater and rewarding partnership."

The students were not only responsible for the repair of the car, there was also other collision and body work done. Mervo Auto Body shop instructor, Roger Bhagwat confirmed that the students replaced the driver side fender and headlight, front bumper and removed rust on the driver side door of one of the vehicles. The other vehicle was sanded for rust spots, then buffed and the panels, hood, grille, bumper and front fender were all painted.

The project took several weeks to accomplish ending with a MD inspection from Vehicles for Change. Schulz said, "This is something our students will remember being a part of forever."

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About VFC

Vehicles for Change accepts and repairs donated cars and awards them to prequalified families for as little as \$850, enabling low-income families to become self-sufficient. Since 1999, VFC has awarded nearly 6,000 cars to low-income families, changing the lives of more than 17,000 people. Eligible families are referred to VFC through partnering social service agencies. VFC car donors gain a substantial tax advantage that's not available with most other charities. VFC is one of the few organizations in the country that makes it possible for donors to deduct the full fair market values of their car, because their donation is awarded to a low-income family.

For additional information about Vehicles for Change, or to donate a vehicle, visit www.vehiclesforchange.org or call 855-820-7990. Follow the organization on [Facebook](#) and Twitter @vehicles4change, and explore their official hashtag "#VFCjourney."