



CHANGING GEARS

2014

VEHICLES FOR
change
Annual Report



Dear Friends,

During the last 15 years, Vehicles for Change continued to evolve to meet the needs of families struggling with transportation issues. We continue to shift gears, growing our organization.

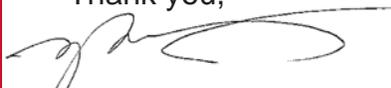
- VFC celebrated its 15th anniversary and awarded cars to an additional 15 families.
- Fundraising reached new levels through our 20 for 20 event.
- Developing partnerships with financial institutions allowed our recipients to transition to car ownership with ease.
- The launch of Center for Automotive Careers created another lane for VFC to help people achieve independence by learning marketable job skills.

Changing gears at VFC allowed us to impact more people through donated vehicles. In the past, we provided hope in the form of car ownership. Now, we can offer more than hope. VFC can provide the skills necessary to build careers in the automotive industry, further combating poverty. We have increased our development efforts, increasing our reach. As car donations slowly dwindle, VFC continues to diversify to ensure that transportation needs are met.

In fiscal 2015, we will launch our reentry program for returning citizens to help them earn an automotive certification during a paid apprenticeship. VFC will also be hosting the Economic Mobility Forum, a transportation summit building awareness around the lack of reliable transportation chains in the Baltimore metro area.

Our team is working towards making Vehicles for Change the premiere transportation expert of the Baltimore metropolitan area. Join us in our journey!

Thank you,



Marty

Core Values

Integrity

Being ethically unyielding, honest, inspiring trust by saying what we mean, matching our behaviors to our words and taking responsibility for our actions.

Mission Driven

There is no better job in the world than one that provides a valuable service for our fellow man. Everything we do, each and every day is driven by the mission of VFC.

Family

VFC has been and will continue to be incredibly successful because we work together, meeting the needs of our colleagues. VFC will strive to continue to meet the needs of the team, as the team strives to meet the needs of each other. As a family, we look out for each other, have each other's back, never criticize in a negative way and push each other to be the best! We are compassionate towards everyone we encounter, inside and outside of the office.

Pride

It is our goal to have the best and brightest to be a part of the VFC team. A group that believes that what we do is not only having an impact on our families but also on our communities. When we leave each day, when we speak of our work, when we mention VFC our chests should be big and head held high!

P.O.S.

[Positively Outrageous Service] There are a number of groups we serve on any given day: recipients, donors, volunteers, funders, sponsoring agencies and each other. Every group deserves the very best service! Treat each as they are the most important person in the world - YOURSELF! Every team member is empowered to "make it better" for one of our constituents.

Innovation

Change is a good thing! It is vital that we continue to evolve the organization to grow stronger and more efficient. Each team member is empowered to "make it better" for one of our constituents.

The "Me"

For a team to have any chance of success, individuals must take the first step. Each staff member must commit to the team and to themselves. What is your responsibility? Bring your best to work, every day. Hold yourself and other accountable for bringing your best and being a team player. Develop personally and professionally, and have fun doing it.

Mission Statement

The 2013-2014 year brought many exciting changes to Vehicles for Change. Cars have always been the foundation of our work. In 2013, the Center for Automotive Careers doors opened and the program continues to flourish by helping people learn marketable skills and become “job-ready” in the automotive industry. These individuals will hone their crafts by detailing cars donated to VFC.

Vehicles for Change Inc. (VFC) empowers families with financial challenges to achieve economic and personal independence through car ownership and technical training.

Cars are always kept at our core and we continue to identify opportunities to reduce poverty in our communities.

330

**Cars Awarded
in FY2014**

4,635

**Cars Awarded
Since 1999**

Celebrating Anniversaries

Vehicles for Change celebrated [15 years](#) of fulfilling our mission to empower families with financial challenges to achieve economic and personal independence through car ownership and technical training. VFC kicked off its 15th year celebration by hosting an Anniversary Luncheon on April 1st.

With VFC board members, program partners and vehicle recipient families in attendance, the 15th Anniversary Luncheon honored the impact VFC has made on the lives of more than 16,000 people in Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia through our car award program and the Center for Automotive Careers (launched in September 2013). In honor of our 15 year anniversary, VFC awarded 15 vehicles to families at the luncheon. These 15 families are referred by their various partnering agencies, including the Center for Urban Families/STRIVE and the Maryland Department of Human Resources.



Home, Sweet Home

It's hard to believe but, VFC has already celebrated one year in our new home! We have had a lot of changes within the past year - we've moved nearly all of our car repairs in-house and we've grown our staff to include some awesome, energetic new people.

There's still work to be done on our building - a front porch is being built and our retail lot will be paved soon after. We've also turned our upstairs storage space into a classroom, which will be used by our new training center, the Center for Automotive Careers.

The Center will train individuals from a variety of backgrounds (such as veterans and ex-offenders) in detailing and will assist graduates in securing employment. As part of their training, the class will be detailing vehicles that are awarded to families and sold on VFC's retail lot.

Driving Success

Meet the Shaws

This lovely family of six that lives in Frederick, MD, Kyle and Casey Shaw are proud parents to Ashley (15), Destiny (14), Donovan (6) and Trinity (5). Like so many of our families, the Shaws struggled to travel to work, the grocery store and school without a vehicle.

While at VFC for their car award ceremony, Casey recalled a time when one of her daughters broke her leg and had to walk to school on crutches for two months.

"It made me feel worthless as a mother," she said with a car, Kyle was promoted to manger.

The Shaws received a gold 1998 Mercury Villager and made their first family trip to an Orioles game with Vehicles for Change! Not only was it the Shaw's first family trip in their car, it's also the first baseball game they have ever attended.



Division 1 Dmeza



Dayaneris Dmeza received a car from VFC year ago in June 2010. At the time, Dayaneris' son Shamdu was ecstatic that his family was receiving a car, because it meant that he could play high school football that fall.

Nearly four years later, Shamdu, now a senior at St. Frances Academy in Baltimore, has been offered full athletic scholarships to four colleges. Shamdu's coach, Messay Hailemariam spoke to the opportunities

Shamdu now has: "He has been a great young man to be able to mentor and teach. Had the vehicle not been readily available to him, I don't think he could come every day to St. Frances and take advantage of the scholarships that are awaiting him, at either a Division 1 or 2 level."

Added Dayaneris: "I was able to go to work, go to practice, go to his games and support him. It gave them the opportunity to be involved in any activity. And that just builds their self-esteem, it's great. I'm a proud parent."

Building Momentum



In November, VFC hosted "20 for 20," our first-ever fundraising event, at BMW of Towson. More than 100 guests attended.

At the event, we raised funding to cover the cost of 20 cars.

Ayanna Leonard, a single mother of two, received a 1999 Toyota Camry at the event. Her youngest son, Josiah, was born with frontonasalencephalocele, which means that his frontal lobe was sitting outside his skull directly between his eyes; he also had a tumor in a separate sac beside the brain. Ayanna had to give up her car a few years ago, in order to pay for her son's medical bills, and became a tireless advocate for her son's health. We are happy to report that 4 years later, Josiah is a very healthy, fully functioning little boy!

At the event, Ayanna gave a powerful testimonial on her struggles and the impact a car will have on her life.

[Watch Ayanna tell her story.](#)

Lending Partnerships

Recently Vehicles for Change announced new lending partnerships with Sandy Spring Bank and Hamilton Bank. Sandy Spring Bank issued its first VFC recipient loan in November, while Hamilton Bank loans begin in December. Through these partnerships, we are now able to offer our recipients an interest rate lower than 10 percent! Thank you Sandy Spring Bank and Hamilton Bank for your support!

Center for Automotive Careers

The CAC has had a very productive nine months! The Center is currently training its third cohort of detailing students. The fourth cohort of students is scheduled to start training. To date, we are thrilled to report that several trainees have gained employment!

“ I have sacrificed a lot to get my son to where he is today, which is a healthy and happy child who has defied the odds. ”



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