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Baltimore City Auto Shop Owner Donates His Business to Nonprofit Organization Vehicles for Change

(January 4, 2017) - After 40 years in the automotive service business, Baltimore City auto shop owner Jerry Greeff has graciously and charitably donated his garage, One Stop Auto Repair, to the nonprofit organization Vehicles for Change (VFC). When Mr. Greeff decided to begin planning for his retirement, his lawyer presented the idea of donating the business to Vehicles for Change, a progressive nonprofit organization that repurposes donated cars and awards them to working low-income families and trains ex-offenders to be mechanics in the process.

After doing his own research and meeting VFC President Martin Schwartz, he knew it would be a good fit. VFC not only serves low-income families but also operates the Center for Automotive Careers, which trains returning citizens as paid interns at its auto repair shop, Full Circle Service Center. Interns receive hands-on instruction as well as Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification training. Utilizing a social enterprise model, the funds from the auto repair shop benefit the mission of VFC. One Stop's 17-bay garage will give Vehicles for Change a financial boon as well as allowing it to expand automotive training opportunities within Baltimore City.

"It's an incredibly generous gift," said Vehicles for Change President Marty Schwartz. "One Stop Auto is already a profitable business and has an established clientele. We look forward to building on this solid foundation in order to further support VFC's mission to empower families with financial challenges to achieve economic and personal independence through car ownership and automotive training."

One Stop Auto Repair, a 2.5 million dollar business, located at 3419 Greenmount Avenue in Baltimore's Waverly neighborhood, has been a staple since 1991. The shop's profitability is notable because it sits in an economically-challenged neighborhood. The official transfer of the business and all of its equipment happened on December 31, 2016. VFC is now in the process of identifying a general manager to run the day-to-day operations. In the meantime, the organization will benefit from Mr. Greeff's 40-plus years of experience as he remains in place for three months to help with the transition. Afterward, Mr. Greeff and his wife, Irene, who jointly ran the business arm of One Stop Auto Repair, will concentrate on their commercial real estate business.

VFC is a nonprofit organization, which was founded in 1999. Headquartered in Halethorpe, MD it has expanded to include other locations in Ashland, Virginia and Detroit, Michigan.

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