

Vehicles for Change Collaborates with Local Businesses to Award Vehicle to Family

HALETHORPE, Md. (December 20, 2012) – Nonprofit Vehicles for Change, Telemedia Broadcasting and Melendez Motors have joined forces to award a vehicle to a deserving Fredericksburg family. The vehicle will be awarded during a ceremony at Melendez Motors on December 20, 2012.

“We’re excited to partner with Telemedia and Melendez Motors to provide a car to a family who otherwise would not be able to obtain a vehicle,” said Martin Schwartz, president of Vehicles for Change, “When local businesses and nonprofits combine their efforts, the impact is magnified exponentially. This vehicle will help the winning family travel to work and take their children to sports and extracurricular activities.”

Early in October, Alvin Melendez, owner of Melendez Motors, contacted Telemedia Broadcasting and Vehicles for Change, suggesting that the organizations work together to provide a car to a family in need during the holiday season.

Melendez Motors donated the car, a 2000 Ford Windstar Van, to Vehicles for Change. Nominations for deserving families were solicited from the community through Thunder 104.5, a station associated with Telemedia Broadcasting. Vehicles for Change then reviewed the entries to ensure they matched the program’s qualifications. As a final part of the contest, Thunder 104.5 listeners voted on one of two finalists to pick the winning family.

Like all Vehicles for Change car recipients, nominees for the vehicle needed to be working at least 30 hours a week or have a verifiable job offer before they are eligible to receive a vehicle. Typically, VFC recipients pay an average of \$750 for their vehicle. Thanks to Melendez Motors, the Fredericksburg family will receive the vehicle free of charge. The dealership is also covering the cost of the vehicle’s title and tags.

Telemedia and Melendez Motors were familiar with Vehicles for Change due to the nonprofit’s work with area families. Vehicles for Change assists families throughout Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C., and awards approximately 175 vehicles each year to families in southern Virginia.

“Giving back to the community is important to us,” said Tom Cooper, General Manager of Telemedia Broadcasting, “And an opportunity to partner with an established business like Melendez Motors made it even better.”

“As president-elect for the Virginia Independent Auto Dealers Association, I wanted to do something for the community,” said Melendez, “If we all work together, we can make a difference in people’s lives.”

Since its formation in 1999, Vehicles for Change has impacted the lives of more than 14,000 individuals by awarding more than 4,000 cars to low-income families in Maryland, Washington and Virginia. The organization relies on donated cars from the public to provide vehicles to worthy families.

About Vehicles For Change, Inc

Vehicles For Change, a nonprofit organization committed to selling refurbished cars to low-income families at minimal cost, was founded in 1999. Vehicles For Change awards cars to worthy families throughout Maryland, Washington and Virginia.

For more information about Vehicles For Change, or to donate a vehicle, visit www.vehiclesforchange.org or call (410) 242-9674.

Follow the organization on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vehiclesforchange and Twitter @vehicles4change.

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