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The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation Grants \$500,000 to Vehicles for Change

HALETHROPE, Md. (March 5, 2013) – The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation has awarded a \$500,000 capital grant to Baltimore-based nonprofit Vehicles for Change (VFC). The funding will be used towards the purchase and renovations of VFC’s new headquarters in Halethorpe, MD. Vehicles for Change accepts donated cars from the public and provides these vehicles to low-income families in Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C. for employment purposes.

“Vehicles for Change is so proud to receive such a wonderful investment from The Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation,” said Martin Schwartz, president of Vehicles for Change, “It is inspiring to have such a powerful endorsement of the work that we are doing at Vehicles for Change.”

In July 2012, Vehicles for Change purchased a 33,000-square foot warehouse on 2.4 acres in Halethorpe, MD. The space is needed to expand the nonprofit’s services to low-income families and will be used to launch an automotive training center in 2013. The training center will train both detailers and mechanics from a variety of low-income backgrounds, including veterans, ex-offenders, foster care and unemployed. VFC anticipates training approximately 60- 75 individuals each year at the center.

As part of the building renovation, Vehicles for Change recently added a six-bay garage to the building, so that it could repair donated cars on-site rather than at third-party garages. This has substantially boosted VFC’s efficiency and reduced costs.

“It is no exaggeration to say that Vehicles for Change literally provides hundreds of low-income households every year with a ‘key’ to opportunity and greater earnings potential,” said Barry I. Schloss, Weinberg Foundation Trustee. “The Weinberg Foundation supports this program not only because VFC serves those in critical need in one of our hometowns, but also because the Foundation sees this as a potentially great model to share nationally.”

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's 2011 study found that 73 percent of Vehicles for Change car buyers were able to obtain a better paying job and/or increase their income by an average of \$7,000. There are more than 81,000 low-income households without a car in the Baltimore metro area.

About Vehicles for Change, Inc.

Vehicles for Change, a Baltimore County 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.

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.

About The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

With total assets of approximately \$2 billion, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation is one of the largest private charitable foundations in the United States. The Weinberg Foundation provides approximately \$100 million in annual grants to nonprofits that provide direct services to low-income and vulnerable individuals and families, primarily in the U.S. and Israel. Grants (program, operating, and capital) are focused on meeting basic needs such as shelter, nutrition, health, socialization, and enhancing an individual's ability to meet those needs. Within that focus, an emphasis is placed on older adults, the Jewish community, and our hometown communities of Maryland, northeastern Pennsylvania, and Hawaii.

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