

# PRESS RELEASE



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Girl Scouts and Vehicles for Change Team Up to Make a Difference in Families' Lives**

Baltimore--The Girl Scouts of Central Maryland (GSCM) and Vehicles for Change (VFC) are teaming up to raise funds to enrich the programs and experiences that Girl Scouts offer young women while simultaneously helping low-income families obtain reliable transportation. Every time a friend of GSCM donates a car to VFC, the organization receives 40% of the net proceeds. GSCM Vice President of Advancement, Maria T. Johnson, introduced VFC to the council when she was looking for a prudent way to discard her old and failing vehicle.

"There are a lot of organizations that you can donate your old or unwanted car to but VFC has a great mission," Johnson noted. "VFC will either repair the car so that others can use the vehicle or turn it over for cash that gets donated back to their organization to help it carry out its mission. The piece that really resonates with me," Johnson added, "is that single-mothers and children benefit from the cars donated." Vehicles for Change is a nonprofit organization that refurbishes and provides donated vehicles to low-wage families for employment purposes. VFC exists so worthy families can achieve financial and personal independence that comes from owning a vehicle. In many cases, single-mothers are the beneficiaries of the program.

### **CHANGING LIVES**

VFC changes lives in Maryland, Washington DC, and Virginia. Over 3,200 cars have been awarded and more than 9,600 lives have changed since 1999; 35-45 more cars are awarded each month. At least 70% of the individuals who received a car have obtained better jobs and can take their children to after-school care, recreational and athletic activities never before possible. VFC is the largest program of its type in the country and was classified a "Best Practice" by the National Economic Development and Law Center.

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Girl Scouts of Central Maryland provides programs, activities and events that are designed to empower girls by helping them develop the courage, confidence and character needed to make a difference in their lives and the world. Together Girl Scouts and VFC can do great things and have a tremendous impact on the lives of girls, women and families throughout the central Maryland region.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Donate a car! The IRS allows a donor to deduct Fair Market Value of a car if the car is sold to a low-income family at significantly below market value.

Spread the Word! This exception to the law may be one of the IRS's best kept secrets. Tell your family, friends, employees, etc to mention The Girl Scouts of Central Maryland and not only will they be helping a low-income family, but they will also be helping a young woman to discover her hopes, dreams and most importantly, her self confidence. For more information about this partnership contact Maria Johnson, Vice President, Advancement at [mjohnson@gscm.org](mailto:mjohnson@gscm.org).

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