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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vehicles for Change - Detroit receives grant from the Margaret Dunning Foundation

\$150,000 to support Full Circle Auto Repair & Training Center

Detroit, MI | September, 25, 2018: Vehicles for Change - Detroit has received a grant of \$150,000 from the Margaret Dunning Foundation to support its Full Circle Auto Repair & Training Center.

Vehicles for Change (VFC) repairs and provides donated cars to low income families for employment purposes. The cars are repaired at the VFC training facility where individuals with multiple barriers to employment, many of whom were previously incarcerated, are trained to be automotive technicians.

The 3-5 month program is an employer-driven, paid internship, social enterprise designed to provide Michigan certification preparation and hands-on automotive mechanic training. Trainees are paid a weekly stipend of \$9.00/hour.

The VFC-Detroit training program is a replication of the successful program that was established in Baltimore in 2015. In the past 17 months the Detroit program has also seen great success in placement, retention and recidivism rates as well as starting salary.

The funding generated through this investment will be used to provide funding for the stipends for 12 (6 positions per cohort) trainees and the portion of the salary for one instructor. Stipends are key to this highly successful program. Weekly stipends allow our trainees to focus on their 8-hour-a-day training program and not feel the need to find additional employment. Obviously the quality of our instructors have a direct impact on our graduates and their employability.

"It means a lot to us that the Dunning Family Foundation Board found VFC-Detroit a worthy investment for a second year. That says they believe in the program and the impact we are having on the individuals we serve. We are honored to be a Dunning Family Foundation grantee."

Martin Schwartz

President, Vehicles for Change

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About Vehicles for Change - Detroit

The mission of Vehicles for Change (VFC) is to empower families with financial challenges to achieve economic and personal independence through car ownership and technical training. On April 1, 1999, VFC was incorporated outside of Baltimore, Maryland as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that repairs and provides donated cars to low-income families. After building sustainable car award and automotive training programs in the Maryland-Virginia-Washington D.C. region, VFC began work to replicate those programs nationally, aiming to bring independent transportation and training in the automotive field to as many people as possible. VFC took its first step toward national expansion by opening up its second location in Detroit, Michigan in 2015.

Since its opening, Vehicles for Change - Detroit (VFC-D) has awarded over ninety (96) reliable, affordable vehicles to qualified low-income families. VFC-D currently awards 2-5 cars per month, and is striving to expand the number of cars awarded in Detroit and beyond. A critical component of VFC-D's program services, the Full Circle Auto Repair & Training Center trains returning citizens and other underemployed members of the community as paid interns at its public auto repair shop. Interns receive hands-on instruction as well as Michigan certification training. Utilizing a social enterprise model, the funds from the auto repair shop benefit the mission of VFC-D.

For additional information about VFC - D, or to donate a vehicle, visit www.vehiclesforchange.org/michigan/ or call 855-820-7990. Follow the organization on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

About the Margaret Dunning Foundation

The Margaret Dunning Foundation was founded by Ms. Dunning in 1997. She was born in 1910 in Redford Township, Michigan, and moved with her mother to Plymouth, Michigan in the 1920s. During her lifetime, Ms. Dunning was a successful business woman, philanthropist and civic booster. She was a major supporter of many Plymouth nonprofits, including the Plymouth District Library and the Plymouth Historical Society. In addition to her personal philanthropy, Ms. Dunning was a classic car enthusiast and was a regular participant in the Woodward Dream Cruise with her 1930 Packard 740 Roadster.

Ms. Dunning died in 2013 at the age of 104. Her estate provided additional funding for the Margaret Dunning Foundation, which continues to support her charitable interests and legacy. For more information: www.margaretdunningfdn.org.

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