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## **Vehicles for Change Awards First Eco-Friendly Car**

**HALETHORPE, Md. (June 8, 2009)** – Helen Seide, a single mother of three daughters, was the first recipient of an environmentally friendly car from Vehicles for Change. Along with Taja’ne, her 11-year-old daughter, Seide received a 2003 Toyota Prius at a ceremony held at the Housing Opportunities Commission in Kensington, Md. on June 4.

“In my pursuit of happiness, I have learned that I’m setting an example for my children in what I do,” said Seide. “Having this hybrid is just one more step in doing right thing. I hope one day to be on the other side of this to help out someone else.”

Seide has overcome many challenges in her lifetime, including eviction and a broken marriage. She found the resources she needed to give her daughters and herself a better life right in her own neighborhood. By utilizing the resources in her community, such as the Housing Opportunities Commission and Vehicles for Change, Seide has become a successful nursing assistant and a proud owner of a home and, now, a Toyota Prius.

This Prius, donated by Carol Morin, a Faulkner, Va. resident, was the first hybrid car donated to Vehicles for Change. Hybrid cars offer a significant advantage to the organization. Families that purchase these cars will not spend as much money on normal car expenses. The costs for gas and maintenance are much lower for hybrid vehicles because they are more fuel efficient and environmentally friendly.

“There’s nothing worse than giving a family a car and putting them into a bigger hole than when they started.” said Marty Schwartz, president of Vehicles for Change. “The hybrid is the next step in cutting costs for these families. We are proud to hand our first hybrid the keys to Helen and excited to watch her continue to make such positive changes in her life.”

For the past 10 years, Vehicles for Change, a nonprofit organization, has sold refurbished cars to low income families at reduced prices. Vehicles for Change has positively impacted the lives of more than 8,400 parents and children by awarding nearly 3,000 cars to families in need over the past ten years. After purchasing a car from Vehicles for Change, 73 percent of recipients obtain a better job and increase their income by an average of \$4,800. By partnering with social welfare programs in Virginia and Maryland, Vehicles for Change reaches the families who are in the most need of a car.

If you have a car, hybrid or traditional, that you would like to donate to Vehicles for Change, visit [www.vehiclesforchange.org](http://www.vehiclesforchange.org) and click on the “Donate Your Car Today” tab or call 1-800-835-3821. A Vehicles for Change tow truck will promptly pick up your vehicle, free of charge, and issue a receipt.

***About Vehicles for Change:*** *Vehicles for Change, a nonprofit organization committed to selling refurbished cars to low-income families at minimal cost, was founded in 1999 and awarded its first car to a family in Carroll County, Md. To date, Vehicles for Change has impacted the lives of more than 8,400 individuals by awarding nearly 3,000 cars to people in need throughout the state of Virginia and in nine counties in Maryland. For more information about Vehicles for Change, please visit [www.vehiclesforchange.org](http://www.vehiclesforchange.org) or call Marty Schwartz at (410) 242-9674.*

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