

PROGRAM TO SELL DONATED CARS TO POOR FOR \$1 EACH

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HUNTINGTON - Welfare recipients who need cars to get jobs may be able to buy one for \$1 through a program organized by the West Virginia Council of Churches.

The council is collecting donated used vehicles in good condition. They will be repaired by certified mechanics and sold for \$1 to welfare recipients approved by the state Department of Health and Human Resources in Lincoln and Kanawha counties.

"If you didn't have a car in West Virginia, you'd have a very hard time to hold a job," said Barbara Bayes, the program director. "I think it's a wonderful opportunity for people to help their neighbors, recycling cars that still have life in them for people that would need them."

She said the program won't sell vehicles that are too expensive to maintain or guzzle gas. Those will be sold at auctions or to the public, and the revenue would be used to operate the garage.

Donating a used vehicle may be a tax deduction.

Bayes said she hopes the program will expand statewide.

The project is funded through the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. The Good News program was started in May and is modeled after the Vermont Good News Garage program that began in 1996.

For information, call the Good News Mountaineer Garage at (866) GIVECAR or (866) 448-3227.