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For Immediate Release

Two St. Charles County residents received early Christmas presents this year when the owners and staff of White Auto Body presented each of them with "new" cars. On December 9, Martha Runyon and Marquita Rivers received keys to their "new" cars; Martha received a 2002 Chevrolet Cavalier Z-24 and Marquita received a 1994 Toyota Camry LE.

The presentations took place at each of White Auto Body's locations. The car giveaway is part of White Auto Body's Benevolence Program. Each year at Christmastime, owners Steve and Valerie White present a refurbished vehicle to someone in the community who is in need of reliable transportation. The objective of the program is to give someone a hand up, not a handout. The Whites received 65 applications for this year's car giveaway. This Christmas season marks the 10th year that White Auto Body has given away a "new" car bringing the total number of donated vehicles to 23!

Ms. Runyon learned about the program from her pastor at Liberty Christian Church. In her application, she described how having a reliable car would help her continue to work at her job. The car she was driving required more and more repairs which exceeded its value.

Ms. Rivers was referred through the St. Charles MERS Goodwill office and Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service. She had a vehicle that also required more extensive repairs than the car was worth. Having dependable transportation would allow Marquita to get to and from work. She had been relying on the kindness of her coworkers and supervisor for rides.

Employees and vendors of White Auto Body filled Martha and Marquita's cars with Christmas presents for them and their families. In addition to each vehicle, White Auto Body paid for the inspections, six months of liability insurance, and all taxes and titling fees. When Martha and Marquita received their cars, they had no initial out-of-pocket expenses.

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