



## Community Steps in to Help Tide Point Center Serve More Low-Income Families

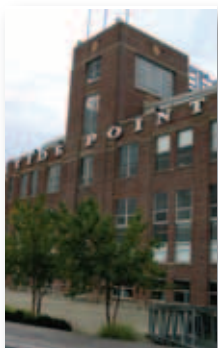
Last winter, the Board of Child Care's Board of Directors made the difficult decision to close the Tide Point Day Care and Early Education Center when it realized the center wasn't meeting its mission to serve low-income children in Baltimore, and was also operating under a deficit. The community has since stepped in to offer support to keep Tide Point open.

Developer Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse will continue to provide financial support to Tide Point to offset tuition costs. The Safe and Sound Campaign, a community-based collaborative, will partner with Tide Point on recruitment, retention and raising additional funds. A number of businesses have also committed support to the Tide Point program and Mayor Sheila Dixon's office has pledged to serve as a partner.

Currently, a little more than a dozen of the center's families are low-income. By September, the goal is to raise that number to 50.

"The chance for some of the neediest children in Baltimore to be in this marvelous setting in Tide Point with children from other backgrounds is a truly amazing

and wondrous opportunity for young children," the *Baltimore Sun* quoted C. William Struever, chief executive officer of Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse. ■



Tyra Williams is the first Baltimore recipient of a Ways to Work car loan through BCC.

## Ways to Work Awards First Car Loan

When Tyra Williams recently received the keys and title to her new used 1997 Subaru Outback, the single mother of three drove off in the direction of what she hopes will be a brighter future for herself and her family.

Williams is the first Baltimore recipient of a loan from Ways to Work, a national car loan program run by the Alliance for Children and Families and operated locally by the Board of Child Care. The program is providing up to 40 low-interest car loans this year to qualified Baltimore City families, with plans to provide up to 100 loans annually by 2010. The program aims to help working families buy the reliable transportation they need to remain employed, take their children to day care and access goods and services.

For Williams, Ways to Work

has given her a "second chance." When Williams lost her job a few years ago, she also lost her car. Now she is employed again as a full-time office assistant downtown, while also attending Baltimore City Community College part-time. To get her youngest child to the babysitter, work a full-day and attend school in the evenings, Williams' days often begin at 5:30 a.m. and end late into the evening.

"Having a car will make my life easier in getting the children where they need to be and me getting back and forth to school and work," she says.

Williams adds that with the low interest rate car loan from Ways to Work, she plans to pay off her car's \$3,700 price tag within two years and improve her credit in the process. ■