

For more information:  
The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation  
Sherri Stewart  
(205) 767-6676

For more information:  
State Farm  
Lindsay Southard  
(512) 918-5352

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 16, 2015

## State Farm Funds Educational Message to Texas Students

**BIRMINGHAM, AL** – A grant from State Farm to The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation means thousands of students all over Texas will learn the life-saving impact of staying in school. State Farm provided a 2015 Good Neighbor Citizenship grant to The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation to roll out tools such as **The Choice Bus**, **Learn2Earn** and the [InsideOut](#) Toolkit.

Students will have the opportunity to experience **The Choice Bus**, a half-prison cell, half-classroom converted school bus, along with the **Learn2Earn** Booklet, a financial literacy curriculum and the [InsideOut](#) Toolkit, which consists of a Teacher's Guide, a Stay in School Pledge Card and the **InsideOut** documentary – a 26-minute DVD that exposes the true life story of prison inmates and the long-term consequences that dropping out of schools has caused.

“State Farm feels that education is the key to success for the young people of Texas,” said Lindsay Southard, State Farm Insurance public affairs specialist. “These tools in The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation’s program speak directly to the hearts of students. Even at young ages, key choices are made. We want them to hear about the right choices.”

The grant funds The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation’s Good Neighbor Citizenship-sponsored programming in the focus areas of education, financial literacy and safety. The foundation has collaborated for more than five years with State Farm in efforts to inspire students to remain in school and help reduce high school dropout rates not only in Texas, but nationwide.

“We are truly honored and grateful for this opportunity to continue our mission in spreading the positive message of receiving an education,” said Sherri Stewart, executive director of The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation. “State Farm is committed to education in Texas, and this grant is one more powerful proof of that.”

To learn more about The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation, visit [www.mattiestewart.org](http://www.mattiestewart.org).

#### **About State Farm®:**

State Farm and its affiliates are the largest provider of [car insurance](#) in the U.S. In addition to providing [auto insurance quotes](#), their 18,000 agents and more than 65,000 employees serve over 82 million policies and accounts – nearly 80 million auto, home, life, health and commercial policies, and nearly 2 million bank accounts. [Commercial auto insurance](#), along with coverage for renters, business owners, boats and motorcycles, is available. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company is the parent of the State Farm family of companies. State Farm is ranked No. 41 on the 2014 Fortune 500 list of largest companies. For more information, please visit <http://www.statefarm.com>.

#### **About The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation**

The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing the dropout rate. The foundation was established in honor of Dr. Shelley Stewart’s late mother, Mattie C. Stewart, in the summer of 2007 and is headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama. Its primary corporate partner is o2ideas, Inc., an advertising and public relations company also based in Birmingham. The mission of the foundation is to create tools and resources to help educators, community leaders and parents effectively address the dropout rate and increase the graduation rate. The foundation also

partners with America's Promise Alliance, Communities In Schools, Jobs for Alabama's Graduates, the National Dropout Prevention Center, PepsiCo, Shelby County, State Farm and Verizon. For more information, visit [www.mattiestewart.org](http://www.mattiestewart.org).

###