



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC

Press Information

October 30, 2020

Mercedes-Benz Vans supports Charleston Promise Neighborhood's Virtual Family Science Night

- Virtual meeting from Mercedes production floor to elementary school students' homes
- Learning STEM principles by building their own balloon-powered car

Since 2017, Mercedes-Benz Vans (MBV) has supported Charleston Promise Neighborhood (CPN) with its Family Science Night, an evening program for students and families highlighting the principles of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) through hands-on learning with local industry partners. With each Family Science Night, MBV shows participants how to design and build their very own balloon-powered car, highlighting basic scientific principles and related STEM career paths in students' "back yard" here in Charleston.

"Our partnership with Charleston Promise Neighborhood underlines a very important pillar in our community outreach strategy: supporting local education, especially in STEM," said Arnhelm Mittelbach, MBV President & CEO. "We are committed and invested in the future of our Charleston community."

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Mercedes-Benz Vans Family Science Night event was moved to a completely virtual format. Elementary-aged students and their families from select Charleston County schools built balloon-powered cars with guidance from MBV volunteers, while also getting a glimpse of

how Mercedes-Benz Vans are produced in the facility in a real-world application of STEM education principles.

Students and families from the following partner schools participated:

- **Chicora Elementary**
- **Sanders-Clyde Elementary**
- **Mary Ford Early Learning and Family Engagement Center**

The program is one of many that supports the organization's mission of providing and facilitating comprehensive programs and services that support children, strengthen families, and mobilize residents to action. CPN's vision is that every child is on track to succeed in life.

“As we celebrate our 10th anniversary of impactful, relevant programming, there is no better partner with which to celebrate than Mercedes-Benz Vans! And there's no more relevant content to bring to our students than STEM! Last night's Family Engagement Night event was awesome, and I'm sure the hands-on lessons learned will linger with our students and their families for months/years to come and hopefully created the spark for lifelong STEM-focused curiosity in our students,” said Sherrie Snipes-Williams.

Mercedes-Benz Vans looks forward to its continued partnership with Charleston Promise Neighborhood to support the success of the community's next generation. Photos from the Family Science Night can be seen below.



Mercedes-Benz Vans team members Alyssa Bean and Sherrice Edwards guide the participants through the balloon-car assembly process live from the MBV Assembly floor



Mercedes-Benz Vans team members Sherrice Edwards, Corey Cameron and Katherine Gore race their balloon cars along with the online participants at home

About Charleston Promise Neighborhood

Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2020, Charleston Promise Neighborhood (CPN) was founded by Charleston County, the cities of Charleston and North Charleston, and the Charleston County School District (CCSD), and was created to ensure that every child and family, in its Neighborhood, has the supports needed to thrive. CPN's mission is to provide and facilitate comprehensive programs and services that support children, strengthen families, and mobilize residents to action.

To combat the challenges of its under-resourced area, CPN implements evidence-based initiatives in Title I CCSD schools—Chicora, James Simons, and Sanders-

Clyde Elementary schools, and the Mary Ford Early Learning and Family Engagement Center. CPN's focus areas include Health & Wellness, Family & Parent Engagement, and Community Engagement.

For more information, visit www.charlestonpromise.org

About MBV

Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC ("MBV") is a plant in Ladson, South Carolina that assembles Sprinter vans for the U.S. and Canadian market under the brands Mercedes-Benz and Freightliner. The midsize Mercedes-Benz Metris vans are also reassembled at this location. MBV proudly joins colleagues and customers around the world in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Sprinter van in 2020.

Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC invested more than 500 million U.S. dollars in the new Sprinter plant, which officially opened in 2018. Today, the MBV facility provides more than 1,700 jobs and supports at least 600 additional jobs in the region through its suppliers. More than 185,000 Sprinter and Metris vans have been assembled in North Charleston and delivered to destinations across the U.S. since 2006. The U.S. is the second largest market for Sprinter vans, after Germany.

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Press Contact

Alyssa Bean, Communications, Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC

alyssa.bean@daimler.com

+1 843 695 5061