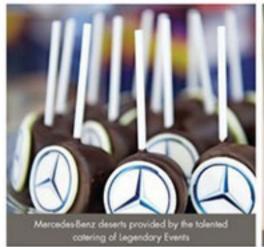


ABOUTTOWN













ATLANTA CLASSIC CARS

The Atlantan and Atlanta Classic Cars celebrated the newest Mercedes-Benz

SALON SHOW October 16th 2014









A HIGHER CALLING

THE MAYS FAMILY AND LOCAL LUMINARIES SANDRA BALDWIN AND TONY CONWAY ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH THE NSORO FOUNDATION, ONE CHILD AT A TIME.

By Patti Dickey | Portrait by Donna Permell



Darrell Mays was on a business trip to Puerto Rico, his mind racing with various ways to give back to those less fortunate, now that he was in a position to do so. "It was a spiritual quest I was seeking. something I wanted and needed to do," Mays noted, "I saw a documentary on the plane featuring a kid who was kicked out of his foster-care home because he turned 18. He aged out in February and lived on the porch of another foster kid just to graduate high school. Instantly, I found my calling."

The nsoro Foundation took its name from the Ghanaian word nsorommathe belief in a higher being. The Mays family donated the seed money for the nsoro Foundation Christmas 2005. The mission is to provide academic and practical support for those kids emerging from the foster system to enable them to have a chance at an education. "We don't focus on GPAs; if you can get into college, we're there to help," says Mays. "Face it, these kids don't have the support system to work for high GPAs."

The 10th annual Starfish Ball is being held at The St. Regis Atlanta. What's behind the name? Mays explained that the name came from the story of a young man who saw thousands of starfish washed up on the beach. He started throwing one after another back past the wave line, figuring each one saved made a difference in that life.

Sandra Baldwin and Tony Conway are the queen and king of the 2015 Starfish Ball. Both are extremely involved in the mission. Baldwin notes, "So many people don't realize that when the child turns 18 and ages out of the foster system, they're literally on their own. These kids are kicked out of their foster homes and don't have a safety net. I'm very happy to be a part of this; we're making a difference, one child at a time." Conway nodded in agreement and added, "It is simply amazing what they are doing for these young adults coming out of foster care—without education, there is nothing. With help, these young people become stronger and brighter."

Over 500,000 kids are in foster care in the United States on a daily basis, and merely 3 percent graduate college. The collective mission of the nsoro Foundation," Mays said with a warm smile, "is to change the life opportunity of these kids-one degree at a time." The 10th annual Starfish Ball, Jan. 24 at 7PM. Tickets from \$500. The St. Regis Atlanta, thenf.org

[ON THE SCENE]



TURNING THE PAGE

GLAAD, the leading LGBT media advocacy organization, chose the elegant 3109 Piedmont Estate & Gardens for the launch of GLAAD Southern Stories, which celebrates national and local LGBT leaders in media advocating for equality. Locally based advocate Paul Horning was given the organization's Championship Award that evening. Guests were surrounded by breathtaking decor from Legendary Events while mingling with a bevy of high-profile attendees, including GLAAD CEO Sarah Kate Ellis, actress Kat Graham, The Voice star Frenchie Davis, football player Michael Sam and more. —CC