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Vintage Affair in Dunwoody marks Sandy Springs nonprofit's 25 years

by Noreen Lewis Cochran
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The silver anniversary party for the Sandy Springs-based nonprofit Community Assistance Center will be the least sedate of the organization's soirées.

"It will be a high-impact event with dancing," Vintage Affair chair Shelly Dozier-McKee said about the fundraiser at the Retreat at Perimeter Summit in Dunwoody.

Pasofino Dance Studio performers will demonstrate Latin ballroom routines as sassy and sophisticated as the event's cocktail-attire dress code, the Sandy Springs resident said.

"This being the 25th anniversary, it's a great time for everyone that has been impacted by CAC to come together," Dozier-McKee said.

The former owner of the Scarlet Tassel home décor shop in Sandy Springs said red hues will dot the ballroom, mirroring the nonprofit's logo color and accenting the evening's theme.

"We were looking for a handle on it and came up with Silver Celebration," Dozier-McKee said about the element traditionally associated with quarter-century milestones. "We're having a silver drive to get items for the auction."

Other attractions in the quest to raise \$100,000 include the event's inaugural beer tasting, the addition of seven new restaurants to its appetizer lineup and signature cocktails invented for the nonprofit by Brooklyn Café in Sandy Springs — the CAC Cooler, the Silver Heart and the Tango-tini.

"That's a lot of local businesses coming together to help," nonprofit spokeswoman Kristen Ristino said. "That's not even counting auction donors and the biggest host committee we ever had."

Also supporting the nonprofit are board members like Dozier-McKee and the Rev. Ronald J. Gilreath of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church in Sandy Springs, the nonprofit's home from 1987 to 2005.

"The congregation was sad to see them go because CAC was part of what made our campus lively, although it needed to move to fulfill its mission," he said about its current building at 1130 Hightower Trail.

However, like 27 other member congregations, his churchgoers kept helping the nonprofit's clientele of Sandy Springs and Dunwoody residents who need temporary but urgent assistance.

"CAC can do what we can't do," said Gilreath. "They have time to sit down with people and help them plan not only for the short term, but also the long term."

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The nonprofit served 5,000 individuals and families in 2011, continuing to make positive changes like those the Roswell resident observed over the years. "We have seen staff members there who started as clients," Gilreath said. "There are a number of success stories."

If you go

What: Vintage Affair

When: Sept. 29 from 7 to 11 p.m.

Where: The Retreat at Perimeter Summit, 1001 Summit Blvd., Dunwoody

Cost: \$95 per person, \$175 per couple; \$10 Cabo San Lucas raffle tickets

Benefits: Community Assistance Center

Information: www.vintageaffair.org

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