

[Skip to main content](#)

Offering hope to St. Stephen - Bailey's BASH has resources for jobs, business, education

April 1, 2010 | Post and Courier, The (Charleston, SC)

Author: ALMAR FLOTILDES | Page: ZF1 | Section: YOUR LOWCOUNTRY

724 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1180, grade level(s): 10 11-12

Joseph Bailey said he knows how to do three things well: play basketball, sell cars and be a humanitarian. The rest, he said, he has to learn.

In the process of establishing his nonprofit foundation, Bailey's BASH, the 34-year-old car salesman and former Morris College basketball star has done much more than haggling car prices and shooting hoops to get his organization where it is today.

Bailey's nonprofit BASH, Belief With Action Serves Humanity, recently celebrated the opening of its first Hope Center.

Located in St. Stephen, where Bailey was raised, the center will be a one-stop shop for job-, business- and education-related resources and services, according to Bailey.

The center has been a long time coming for Bailey, who has spent seven years overcoming hurdles and failures before opening up the foundation's first physical center.

"For seven years, Bailey's BASH has been a resource center without walls," he said.

According to Bailey, the foundation's function is to work as a liaison and develop partnerships with people of influence to help the underprivileged get the resources they need, whether it be transitional housing, employment or a way to earn a GED.

Before BASH acquired a building, most of the networking was done through Bailey's cell phone because he lives and mainly works out of Charleston.

With a physical center in St. Stephen, resources are brought into the community that weren't there before, and people can come to the center and use those resources, Bailey said.

"If more people were afforded an opportunity to change, most people would change for that opportunity," Bailey said.

The community then would change right along with the people, Bailey added.

"Once that happens, crime goes down, education increases and unemployment decreases," Bailey said.

The vision for the foundation, however, started years before him, Bailey said. The idea actually began with his mother, Elizabeth.

Bailey said that for more than three decades, he watched his mother fulfill her life's calling, which was to serve others.

According to Bailey, his mother took people from the community who had just gotten out of jail and gave them housing and transportation. She helped rehabilitate people who had been addicted to drugs and alcohol and fixed them up with jobs, Bailey said.

"My mother took in what the world regarded as the scum of the earth," Bailey said. "My mom would grab those people and give them opportunities."

Bailey said during that time, he didn't know what his mother was doing would eventually become part of what Bailey's BASH would seek to do.

It wasn't until years later after leaving St. Stephen and working in Charleston as a salesman for car dealerships that Bailey realized the torch had been passed to him to begin serving people.

In November 2002, when Bailey acquired his dream home in West Ashley, he held a house-warming party, inviting several people of influence along with the same type of people Bailey's mother welcomed into her home.

"The house was split with two different worlds," Bailey said. "But hope was high with opportunity."

Bailey said that by the end of the party, 10 people left with new careers and that it was from that moment on the vision of Bailey's BASH began developing.

"If we can bring people of influence together to commit to a system that's beneficial to all parties, we can make a major difference in the state of South Carolina," Bailey said.

One of the biggest challenges, however, for the organization was acquiring a building, Bailey said.

BASH initially wanted to transform the old St. Stephen High School building into its first Hope Center, adding recreational areas such as a gym and theater, but after months of negotiations with Town Council, which owns the building, the foundation was turned down, Bailey said.

He said he still hopes to one day acquire the building. But for now, the foundation is in the process of acquiring the entire property where the existing center stands: beside a coin laundry and gas station on Byrnes Drive.

He plans to renovate the property and open a restaurant and convenience store for the community next to the center.

Bailey said the Hope Center is the manifestation of his vision but that the ultimate dream is to have a center in every state.

The St. Stephen Hope Center is at 4043 Byrnes Drive. For information about Bailey's BASH or the center, call 567-7193.

Reach Almar Flotildes at 937-5719 or aflotildes@postandcourier.com.

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[Skip to main content](#)

YOUR LOWCOUNTRY

April 1, 2010 | Post and Courier, The (Charleston, SC)

Page: ZF1 | Section: YOUR LOWCOUNTRY

41 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1300, grade level(s): 11-12

Joseph Bailey, founder of Bailey's BASH, recently opened the foundation's first Hope Center in St. Stephen. Some of the services and resources the center will provide for the community are after-school learning programs, job coaching and mentoring, and rehabilitation counseling.

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[Skip to main content](#)

Local man works toward big dream - Celebrities back center aimed at bringing community together

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Page: B8 | Section: LOCAL & STATE

341 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1070, grade level(s): 7 8 9

Local community activist Joseph Bailey envisions building a new center for the tri-county area that he hopes will help counter disparities seen statewide in education, unemployment, crime and health.

Bailey set out seven years ago to make his dream a reality. Now he has help from celebrities who have pledged their support for his cause, called Bailey's B.A.S.H. (Belief with Action Serves Humanity.)

On Saturday, three entertainers - Actress Vivica A. Fox; artist, poet and TV personality Amanda Diva; and actor Omar Benson Miller - announced at a press conference the details of the inaugural Bailey's B.A.S.H. National Humanitarian Awards, which will be held July 5 at the North Charleston Coliseum.

Organizers hope the awards will help shine a light on the problems Lowcountry communities face.

The celebrities also attended the inaugural Black Tie Fundraiser Banquet Saturday night to raise money for Bailey's planned community Hope Center in Charleston.

Bailey, of West Ashley, said one of the main objectives for the community center would be to bridge gaps between the community, kids, parents and school system.

The center carries a \$31 million price tag. It will be in either West Ashley or North Charleston; will offer continuing education classes, and business and career advancement opportunities; and will feature a convention center, gym, pool, theater and more.

"It would be loaded with so many different resources, trying to give kids alternatives to crimes and different things for the community," Bailey said.

Fox said young people especially need positive outlets where they can be reassured that they don't have to "resort to gang violence and teen pregnancy and other things that are plaguing the community."

Diva echoed Fox's comments. "We are here to bring that Hope Center to life," she said. "It's a great cause and a great chance for everybody in Charleston to come to together, and not only have a good time, but also make a good future for some children."

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HAVE A B.A.S.H.

For more information about Bailey's B.A.S.H. (Belief with Action Serves Humanity), visit www.baileysbash.org. Or call Kim Tumey at 214-783-9453.

Caption: TENISHA WALDO

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[Skip to main content](#)

Fantasia - 'American Idol' winner to perform, host dinner for local nonprofit

December 11, 2008 | Post and Courier, The (Charleston, SC)

Author: ROB YOUNG | Page: F6 | Section: PREVIEW

340 Words | Readability: Lexile: 970, grade level(s): 6 7

R&B soulstress Fantasia is coming to town for a two day-engagement: a VIP meet-and-greet at the Francis Marion Hotel and a concert at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center.

Fantasia won fame by claiming the "American Idol" title during the program's third season in 2004. A High Point, N.C., native, she's at work on her third album, out in 2009.

Fantasia, 24, also will play Celie in the film adaptation of "The Color Purple" musical, set to begin production following her third album's release. She played Celie in the Broadway musical as well.

Tickets cost \$39.50, available at www.coliseum.org or Ticketmaster. Saturday's performance will include a fashion show from LaKarZan Fashions ATL.

On Friday, Fantasia will host a dinner, the proceeds from both evenings to benefit the nonprofit organization, Bailey's BASH, according to founder Joseph Bailey.

Bailey, raised in St. Stephen, is a passionate guy with big dreams. Just check the BASH title: It stands for Belief with Action Serves Humanity.

He wants to start a national humanitarian awards show in Charleston, reopen St. Stephen High School as a community center and build a Hope Center in Charleston County. The aim is to rebuild and strengthen communities, one family at a time.

"The vision," he says, "behind Bailey's BASH is this: If more people had an opportunity to change, they would probably change. Then the communities would change with them.

In March, he brought Rose Rock, the mother of actor/comedian Chris Rock, MTV2 VJ Amanda Diva, actress Vivica A. Fox and others to the area for a banquet.

Friday night at the reception, Bailey hopes to unite business leaders, city officials and others, and explain his

organization's goals. Fantasia, he says, will discuss the project, her commitment and vision.

To get an invitation to Friday's reception, visit www.baileysbash.org or call Bailey at 354-0918.

Reach Rob Young at 937-5518 and ryoung@postandcourier.com.

If you go

Friday

What: Invitation-only benefit dinner.

When: 8 p.m., Francis Marion Hotel.

Info: To get an invitation, visit www.baileybash.org or call Joseph Bailey at 364-0918.

Saturday

What: Concert.

When: 7 p.m., North Charleston Performing Arts Center.

Tickets: www.coliseum-pac.com or ticketmaster.com.

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[Skip to main content](#)

One-on-One with Katrina McClain

August 10, 2008 | Post and Courier, The (Charleston, SC)

Author: CHARLES BENNETT | Page: C2 | Section: SPORTS

789 Words | Readability: Lexile: 750, grade level(s): 4 5

Charleston native Katrina McClain was one of the best women's basketball players ever. A two-time All-American at Georgia and the national player of the year in 1987, McClain played on 11 U.S. National teams and three Olympic teams that won two gold medals and a bronze. She played professionally for nine years, and was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 2006. Now back in Charleston, she has started the Katrina McClain Foundation, a non-profit organization which she hopes will fund programs that can make a difference in

the lives of disadvantaged youth. She spoke recently with Charlie Bennett:

Basketball was a big part of your life for many years - what keeps you busy these days?

"Well, let's see. I've got three kids. That keeps me pretty busy, right there. But no, actually what I'm doing is establishing the Katrina McClain Foundation to help youths at risk because of illiteracy, teen pregnancy, drug abuse, just overall unhealthy lifestyles. We want to design programs to build self esteem, and promote education."

How long have you had the foundation?

"It has been awhile since I established it, but it was only recently that I received non-profit status. But I've actually been doing it pretty much on my own for the last couple years. I've also been working along with Joseph Bailey with Bailey's B.A.S.H (Belief with Action Serves Humanity). He and I both are going to speak to the high schools, and this is based on the crime that's going on in North Charleston. We're like, 'What's going on?' We're going to start visiting schools and start hearing the students and what they have to say about the crime that's going on in their community. Hopefully, we can go from there and do something about it."

What's it like being back in Charleston?

"Well, it's funny. A lot of people don't know. I've been back for about two years, but I'll run into people and they'll say, 'Oh, you're back.' But I'm now doing more visible things in the community."

What brought you back after all these years?

"I've been doing things elsewhere, but I wanted to come back home. There is so much that needs to be done right here in Charleston. It's like, 'Wow, there's a real need here.' Now I'm glad I got my non-profit so I can try to at least deal with some of those needs. I just want to be able to help out and make an impact wherever I can."

Do you miss basketball now that your playing career is over?

"No, I can't say that I do. And I'm being serious when I say that. Maybe it's because of the kids, and maybe because my focus is re-directed. I've just got so much going on right now. It's time for something else that is greater than basketball. I don't really miss it. I don't even watch it as much."

You had a very full and what I would assume to be very satisfying career. What stands out most to you about your basketball career?

"The relationships with the other players, the fan support. That's really the thing that stands out. When you go overseas representing your country, it's all about the relationships. We go as a team. We go over there as one. We were together as a team. That's what sticks out in my mind. Teresa Edwards (former Georgia and Olympic teammate) is my best friend to this day."

You played professionally in Europe. Looking at the WNBA in this country, which is less successful, what do they have to do to catch up with women's pro basketball over there?

"We've got to have a normal season. Right now they have it during the summer months. People have too many other things to do in the summer. I still think it can catch on. The other thing is the money. If you play in the WNBA, you're going to have to go work somewhere after that to make a decent living. I do think it's great, especially right after college."

Why do you think Europeans seem to appreciate women's basketball more than we do in this country?

"I think they see the sport more for what it is, instead of gender. Men, women, it doesn't matter. They love the sport of it. They embrace it whole-heartedly. It's big over there."

What's your fondest memory of growing up in Charleston?

"Playing sports with all the guys growing up. Football, basketball, you name it. Playing against the guys. I had fun doing it. I was the first one picked when we were drawing up teams, and I just loved it."

What's the nicest thing about being back?

"The nicest thing about being back is knowing that I can make a difference. It feels good to know that."

For more information

on the Katrina McClain Foundation, call (843) 724-9220 or go to <http://>

katrinamcclain.com.

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[Skip to main content](#)

Celebrities step up for jailed teens

March 28, 2008 | Post and Courier, The: Web Edition Articles (Charleston, SC)

Author: Andy Paras | Section: News

641 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1050, grade level(s): 6 7 8 9

The teens shuffled into the rec room at Charleston County's juvenile detention center Friday night wearing flip-flops, green and blue corrections uniforms and scowls as hardened as the cinderblock walls.

Twenty-five boys and five girls, ages 13 through 18. Each inmate already labeled as a runaway or murderer, or something in between.

A small group of entertainers making a rare visit to the facility Friday shook off the menacing looks and immediately challenged the kids not to accept the labels.

"In life, you have a choice," said Rose Rock, mother of comedian Chris Rock and nine other successful children. "You choose to be here in your little getups with your little flip-flops."

Rock joined Amanda Diva, a former MTV2 DJ who appears on VH1's "Best Week Ever" and just released a new hip-hop album, who was in town for a special benefit today, and others at the detention center to inspire and entertain the youths. Rock shared stories about growing up poor and her own boys' brief troubles with the law while Diva used her experiences as a radio host and writer to explain that there's still hope for them.

They were initially met with cold stares, but the women chipped away with jokes, music and no-nonsense talk.

"A lot of people think you are dumb; that you don't give a damn; that you don't have anything to say," Amanda Diva said. "We're not those people."

At one point Diva shared her microphone with a kid whose street name was synonymous with someone who's up to no good.

"You need to change that name," Diva said, "because (being up to no good) is what got you in here."

Diva welcomed the willing but nervous kid up to the front with a word of warning: "I get to leave," Diva said. "You have to stay here and they're going to clown you if you're not on point."

The boy stepped up and by the end of his song, his peers were cheering. A correctional officer congratulated him and gave him some encouraging words.

Rock, who's promoting a book that's coming out next month, told the teens that they can accomplish anything they want, but they have to quit being ashamed of what they want to do. Take that job at McDonald's and put the money toward what you want to do, she said. Pursue that career as an auto mechanic or a hair dresser and don't let life's circumstances dictate who you are, she said.

She said a barber from New York travels all across the country to cut her son's hair.

"Where you are now: Let it be a stepping stone," she said.

Rock told stories about her own sons. One was arrested years back for driving with a suspended license. Rock said she went to the scene and picked up her car but left her son in the back of the police cruiser. She let him stay in jail for the weekend.

"He said, 'Mom, you didn't see me in the back of the car?' " Rock said. "Didn't you see me wave?"

Joseph Bailey helped bring Rock, Diva, Vivica A. Fox and others to the area this weekend for a banquet sponsored by his nonprofit organization, Bailey's B.A.S.H. (Belief With Action Serves Humanity). He told the teens that so many successful people have been where they are now but strived for success.

When it was over, one boy who is an aspiring writer thanked the entertainers. "I want to thank all y'all for coming and telling us what's right and giving us a chance."

Fox will be in town tonight with Diva and actor Omar Benson Miller for the 1st Black Tie Fundraiser Banquet at the Sheraton Hotel. Money raised will go toward a state-of-the-art "Hope Center" the organization wants to build in Charleston to benefit the tri-county area. Diva will perform, and attendees can bid on a date with Fox.

Reach Andy Paras at 745-5891 or aparas@postandcourier.com.

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