



Melissa Pinion-Whitt, Staff Writer
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Foundation for homeless burglarized on Easter

SAN BERNARDINO – Burglars broke into a foundation office for homeless women and children Sunday, taking an estimated \$15,000 in property and leaving the already-strained organization to figure out how it will stay afloat.

The economic downturn was already stretching thin the Time for Change Foundation, a group that operates two homeless shelters in the city. The number of clients seeking shelter has jumped about 36 percent this year and the amount of community support has declined, said director Kim Carter.

“My clients are here today and they’re just devastated,” Carter said. “They’re really afraid that I may not be able to recover from this.”

The thieves smashed the front window of the office in the 2100 block of North Arrowhead Avenue sometime late Saturday or early Sunday. Carter said the burglars ran off with a computer, hard drive, printer, video camera, laptop, a 13-inch television, telephone, scanner, toner cartridges and even her office chair.

And while those items can eventually be replaced, Carter said the burglars took other more personal items, including a DVD case containing television footage regarding Time for Change, training videos, and footage of past foundation events.

“They came in here and literally wiped me out,” she said. She discovered her insurance company would not cover the loss.

San Bernardino police said the crime appears to be a random burglary. Detectives were seeking any information that would lead them to identifying suspects. “There are no investigative leads at this time,” said San Bernardino police Lt. Dan Keil.

The Time For Change Foundation has operated shelters for women and children since 2002. Its clients include women recovering from mental, physical and substance abuse, as well as incarceration.

This past year, Carter says, women who were simply laid off from their jobs and evicted from their homes have been seeking the foundation’s help.

“We have a new face on homelessness now,” she said.

Donations may be made to the Time for Change Recovery Fund, P.O. Box 5753, San Bernardino, 92412. Carter said gift cards for office-supply stores are welcome. Information: (909) 886-2994 or at www.timeforchange.us.

Anyone with information on the burglary may call San Bernardino police, (909) 384-5615.