

A model program for helping the homeless

Kim Carter, founder of Time for Change Foundation, is passionate about changing lives

Community “activator” and “CNN Hero” Kim Carter knows a thing or two about successful organizations that end the cycle of homelessness.

She is founder and executive director of Time for Change Foundation in San Bernardino, a nonprofit assisting homeless women and children in finding permanent housing and achieving self-sufficiency.

She's in the business of changing lives.

She has a passion for it, and people are noticing.

In 2015, she was thrust into the international spotlight when CNN announced Kim as a “CNN Hero” for her efforts to help others.

Her Time for Change Foundation, founded in 2002, offers shelter services to homeless women and their children in home-style environments.

The nonprofit addresses issues of homelessness, drug addiction and incarceration to heal women, families and communities.

Since its inception, Time for Change has helped more than 800 women.

The rate of recidivism is 0 percent.

Last week, a CNN crew was back to take a deeper look at Time for Change Foundation and the people who make it work.

“We were blessed with CNN when they came out again to look at what we do and it warranted them coming back a second time,” Kim said.

“It’s another opportunity to let people know we need help — it’s always a delight to share our story.”

CNN selected three honorees from past CNN Heroes to tell their stories in another format — most likely a documentary on what makes the homeless program so unique; how it is so innovative; and what it does that other shelters don’t do, said Kim, who is a motivational speaker and a certified public accountant.

Phyllis Scott, Time for Change case manager and supervisor, said CNN was interested in their clients’ stories and in the case managers and supervisors.



Michel Nolan
Columnist

“Our foundation has sent us to Alabama, Florida, Maryland, Washington, D.C., to get the best training to get the best outcomes. We use evidence-based programs — we’re using what works, not sampling,” Phyllis said.

Kim added they want to help even more homeless families and individuals have a safe place to heal, recover and develop necessary skills for self-sufficiency.

Kim understands the process; she’s been there.

She was a crack cocaine addict, in and out of prison and homeless, but after years of work freeing herself from the past, she founded the Time for Change Foundation.

Her journey has been long, but one she had to experience to fuel her passion to help others succeed.

These days, Kim is frustrated.

The San Bernardino City Council last week refused to reconsider voting against a comprehensive homeless center for men, after initially approving the project on the city’s west side.

“This program is just one of many that’s tried to bring outside money into the community. It shows that you can’t even invest in this community. That’s more brick and mortar, fewer people sleeping in your parks, pushing your baskets,” she said.

The center would house people who will become taxpaying citizens, according to Kim.

NOLAN » PAGE 8

Nolan

FROM PAGE 3

Known as Mary’s Village, the project was planned on Walnut Street between Pico Avenue and San Marcus Street, about 1.5 miles from the two other centers run by Mary’s Mercy Center.

Advocates of the project reported that Mary’s Village would not be a soup kitchen, but would be similar to the successful Veronica’s House of

Mercy program, which is for homeless women.

Kim is also responsible for an affordable housing complex for women — Phoenix Square Housing, built at Victoria and F streets in 2012.

Time for Change Foundation spearheaded the \$1.5 million renovation of apartments on North F Street between Sixth and Seventh streets for homeless women and children in San Bernardino.

“It is a crime-free model — zero police calls in four years,” she added.

The project was funded

by donations, grants and loans.

“We can end homelessness — this is not temporary relief,” Kim said.

Fueled by her passion, there’s no way she’ll stop pushing for more affordable housing, more opportunities for low-income people, and her dream to “thrive the community.”

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