

Pardon

FROM PAGE 1

pardoned showed “exemplary behavior and have lived productive and law-abiding lives following their conviction,” the governor’s news release said.

The relief, Carter explained, was because while she believes God has forgiven her, something was missing.

“I know my work the past 25 years was a great sign of redemption from a society I took so much from. But I still felt and endured a level of discrimination based on my background,” she said.

During the 1980s and through 1993, Carter was convicted of crimes including possession of a controlled substance for sale and grand theft.

In 2002, Carter founded Time for Change to help homeless women and children achieve self-sufficiency through services in a drug-free environment that include assistance with housing and family reunification, and classes in independent living skills, financial education and parenting.

Time for Change focuses on providing a hand up instead of a handout, Carter said.

After a series of approvals of her pardon that included the California Board of Parole and the California Supreme Court, Brown made it official Saturday.

Carter would feel anxious trying to rent an apartment. She wondered whether she would ever be able to move forward from her convictions.

“It’s almost as if it took

man saying that I was forgiven. ... It takes the government saying it for society to be comfortable that I have been transformed and paid my debt to society,” she said.

A pardon doesn’t wipe away a conviction or allow a person to say on an employment application that he or she has no record of conviction. It does allow a felon to serve on a jury and restores

some firearms rights.

Carter said she wants to do “a test run” on her new rights. “Let me see if I can be a juror,” she said.

Carter also wants to run for elected office and wants to expand Time for Change to the Bay Area.

“I feel like I can be a great mayor,” she said. “I bring about excitement, I bring about possibility, I bring about hope.”

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SAN BERNARDINO

A CNN Top 10 Hero receives pardon from Gov. Jerry Brown

By Brian Rokos

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A woman who rehabilitated herself and then thousand of others also trapped in a cycle of drug abuse and other struggles has been given the ultimate validation of her efforts.

Gov. Jerry Brown on Dec. 23, pardoned San Bernardino resident Kim Carter, 54, who founded the Time for Change Foundation in San Bernardino and who was once honored as one of CNN’s Top 10 Heroes.



Kim Carter

“I was jumping up and down because I was excited, I was laughing, I was crying, I was numb,” Carter said in an interview on Tuesday. “It was surreal. It was a relief.”

Brown granted 132 pardons and 19 commutations, or sentence reductions. Those who were

PARDON » PAGE 6