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City Honors Time for Change Foundation Leader

Compassion, vision, commitment to improving the lives of Perris residents.

Those are the words Kim Carter uses to describe the elected leaders and administrators for working with non-profit agencies to bring programs that uplift the lives of women and children struggling to return to the mainstream of American life.

The City is hosting a series of seminars to enable non-profit agencies to form, expand and thrive to assist their target clientele. One of the City's partners is Carter's Time for Change Foundation, which has provided assistance to more than 4,000 people in the last 13 years.

Perris officials honored Carter for her work on behalf of non-profits with a Certificate of Recognition at the Sept. 8 City Council meeting.

"I love the City of Perris," Carter said. "The City of Perris is part of something that is making a difference. The City leadership had the vision and wherewithal to put together something in place that will benefit the community. To have a healthy City, you need healthy non-profits."



Kim Carter (second from left) at the Perris City Council meeting of Sept. 8, where she was honored for her work on behalf of homeless women and children.

Carter's life exemplifies triumph over tragedy.

The victim of molestation and sexual assault, Carter said she became addicted to crack cocaine as a teenager and, by her own admission, "lost the next 12 years of my life." While imprisoned for drug-related offenses, she was diagnosed with advanced cancer and told she had 90 days to live. She beat the disease, got sober and, after her release from prison, went to work as a corporate accountant and using her own savings, donations, grants and some public financing, pursued her dream of "helping women today, so they can help themselves tomorrow."

The Time for Change Foundation was born.



Kim Carter at the Time For Change Foundation in San Bernardino, where she serves as executive director.

Today the agency is housed in a suite of offices in San Bernardino, employs 12 paid staff members and provides counseling, drug and alcohol abuse programs, advocacy and transitional housing as well as working with non-profit agencies throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

The foundation recently organized a workshop to provide clients ways of taking advantage of Prop. 47, a recent state law that allows some drug offenses to be reduced from felonies to misdemeanors. The agency also owns and operates "Phoenix Square," a seven-unit apartment complex in San Bernardino for women and children who are making the transition to independence.

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch, who presented Carter with the Certificate of Recognition, called her "an inspiration for everyone in Southern California, not only in Perris."

"She has done a fantastic job," Busch said. "We want to see her succeed in her good work and honor her for what she has already accomplished."

Carter's work has earned her local, state and national recognition and has taken her through the U.S. and overseas. CNN recently recognized her as one of the nation's "hometown heroes" for "helping invisible people break out of homelessness."



Kim Carter, executive director of Time for Change Foundation, developed the seven-unit Phoenix Square apartment complex to provide decent housing for women and children to escape poverty.

Carter appreciates the kudos. None more so than like those presented to her by Perris, which she called "exhilarating, phenomenal and filled with a spirit of happiness." After receiving accolades from the City, Carter invited elected officials and managers, along with community representatives and members of the Time for Change Foundation to receive the applause of the audience in attendance.

"I am humbled by the recognition the City gave myself and our organization," she said.

The City of Perris will host free non-profit workshops by Time for Change Foundation on Sept. 24, Oct. 22 and Nov. 19. To register, call (909) 886-2994 or email nwolfo@timeforchangefoundation.org.

To learn more about the Time for Change Foundation, visit the website at www.Timeforchangefoundation.org.

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