The Time for Change Foundation is in the midst of its annual fundraiser as it prepares for the “Celebrating Life’s Precious Jewels” awards dinner. Nicole Wolfe visited the Highland Rotary Club’s Monday meeting to share about the foundation and its programs with the club.

Club President Leticia Ruben opened the meeting by sharing that this year the At. Aquinas Academy Shamrock Club, sponsored by the Highland Rotary Club, delivered 48 gift baskets to 100 Linda University Children’s Hospital patients. The baskets are an annual tradition, given near St. Patrick’s Day, in memory of past At. Aquinas student Sean O’Connor, and they represent the largest gift to date.

Wolfe, TFC communications coordinator, visited the club to share about the foundation’s programs and services as well as extend an invitation to its “Celebrating Life’s Precious Jewels” Awards Dinner.

The awards dinner honors people and organizations for their community service in the city of San Bernardino and surrounding communities.

The 2018 awardees are: San Bernardino Community College District Chancellor Bruce Baron, Community Education Champion; The Race, Gender and Human Rights Giving Circle of the Women’s Foundation of California, Humanitarian Award; Santa Claus, Inc., Community Service Award; Mi Cocina Restaurant (where Rotary Club meets), Ramos Family Spirit of Compassion Award; June Collison, Community Health Champion; Dora Bartilla, Community Health Advocate; Angela and Victor Mycles, Dynamic Duo Award; National CORE, Community Development Champion; and Premier Medical Transportation, Community Business Leader of the Year.

The awards will be presented April 17 at the National Orange Show and tickets are now available at Timeforchangefoundation.org or (909) 866-2994.

The fundraiser will help the foundation to continue to provide shelter and other services to help women and their children transition out of homelessness. With several crime-free, drug-free shelters throughout the San Bernardino area, the organization houses women coming from homelessness while helping them gain the skills needed to become and remain self-sufficient.

“We are trying to revitalize this area. We believe homelessness is not a crime and those people shouldn’t get the worst,” Wolfe said referring to the nicely furnished apartments made available to the women. “Our goal for these women is self-sufficiency with an exit plan and to give them the life skills they need to support themselves and their children.”

Wolfe shared that the foundation helps the women get and keep jobs, teaches them to teach their children, cook, budget, build a grocery list and more.

Currently Time For Change is working for the creation of a second Phoenix Square. Phoenix Square is the foundation’s newest shelter designed with a strong emphasis on providing crime-free, drug-free low-income housing that helps revitalize the community where it was built.

Previously the foundation had located a property neighboring the existing Phoenix Square, but once the foundation gathered the funds a sale agreement couldn’t be made with the owner, Wolfe said. The foundation is now looking into other locations and property options.

Longtime Rotarian Al Newman announced that due to personal reasons making it difficult for him to participate in club meetings and projects he will be stepping down as a full member, but will continue on as an associate member.

“I’m very sorry. I love this club and would like to continue as an associate member and attend as well as I can,” Newman said.