Time For Change hosts awards dinner

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The Time for Change Foundation (TFC) held its ninth annual "Celebrating Life's Precious Jewels" Awards Ceremony on Friday evening, April 17, at the National Orange Show where the foundation honored several community leaders and organizations for their commitment and collaborative efforts in community service.

Usually held as a luncheon, this year's sold out event was made special as the awards were presented at an elegant fundraising dinner.

Time For Change founder Kim Carter presented the awards with assistance from masters of ceremony John Kunkel and mistress of ceremony and Fontana Mayor Aquanetta Warren.

"This is a wonderful event. I'm really pleased to see she and the foundation are doing so well," San Bernardino City Councilman Jim Mulvihill said of Carter. "She's a real generator for good things for the city and this event, all about getting people together for the community, is a great example."

This year's awards and honorees were: Community Education Champion Award to San Bernardino Community College District Chancellor Bruce Baron; Humanitarian Award to The Race, Gender and Human Rights Giving Circle of the Women's Foundation of California; Community Service Award to Santa Claus, Inc.; Ramos Family Spirit of Compassion Award to Mi Cocina Restaurant in Highland; Community Health Champion Award to June Collison; Community Health Advocate Award to Dr. Dora Barilla; Dynamic Duo Award to Angela and Victor Myles; Community Development Champion Award to National CORE; and the Community Business Leader of the Year Award to Premier Medical Transportation.

The awards were an especially emotional time for the Lopez-Arroyo family, owners of Mi Cocina, as they had planned to attend with their mother Margaret Lopez who passed away just a few weeks ago. The family business was started 27 years ago by Carlos and Margaret Lopez and is now run with their children Armondo Lopez and Norma Arroyo. Norma and her daughters Charlene and Jordan accepted the award thanks to her brother Gabriel working the restaurant that evening.

Mi Cocina

Norma Arroyo (center) of Mi Cocina Restaurant and her daughters Charlene (left) and Jordan accept the Ramos Family Spirit of Compassion Award in memory of their mother and grandmother Margaret Lopez, April 17.
"We're humble people and this is overwhelming. We're here for my mom, the family and the restaurant," Norma said. "My mom taught us to always be giving. She was always out to help others with her visits to Mexico, helping children and inviting people to the family Thanksgiving dinner. My mother instilled giving in us and our employees are awesome about pitching in for whatever we're doing. I love that. My mom instilled that kindness in us and it overflows with our business and our employees."

Bruce Baron said he was surprised, honored and flattered when he first learned he would be receiving an award.

"TFC is a great organization that does wonderful things for the community so it's doubly exciting to be honored by such a wonderful organization," Baron said.

"I think he is very deserving and a fantastic chancellor," said SBVC Associate Professor about Baron. "My experience with Bruce Baron is that if you go to him with something that's going to make it better for a student in the classroom he's going to listen and be receptive."

While his award was for his leadership in the SBCCD and overall service of the area's students, Baron said one of the District's programs which he is most proud of is The Left Lane Project at Crafton Hills College which allows first-year students a lot of extra services, counseling and tutoring to help them to greater success.

"The data shows that students on the project are more successful so we're trying to extend that to all students," Baron said.