Foundation creator Kim Carter says too many women suffer too many hardships

By Michel Nolan
Staff Writer

Kim Carter knows the fear and gnawing hunger of homelessness. She’s been there.

But she also lived the experience of a hand-up rather than a hand-out. When Carter founded the Time for Change Foundation in 2002, she did so with a passion to help women in need by providing essential resources when they are ready to change the course of their lives.

Since then, she has dedicated her life to providing women the tools necessary to recover from the effects of homelessness, drug addiction, abuse and incarceration.

“Yesterday, the foundation was in the garage of my home,” she said. “I know how it feels to be homeless, but I’ve been steadfast and stayed the path. I’ve had to fight to stay in existence, but God doesn’t put any more on you than you can bear.”

Her husband Mark and his business partners helped her establish the foundation.

Over the years, the foundation has helped more than 500 families get back on their feet. The foundation now has two homes and a seven-unit apartment building that serves as an emergency shelter and transitional housing for needy families.

“It is a permanent solution to a long-term problem,” said Carter, 48. “San Bernardino is second in the nation in poverty and if we don’t have a housing stock, we will have even more homelessness.”

Carter, who lives in San Bernardino, believes in a home-style problem to the solution, not an institutional one.

In the program, families live in comfortable, neat and homey environments, sharing chores, attending workshops, taking turns cooking meals that meet nutritional guidelines.

No junk food. No bad TV. Children don’t watch MTV but wholesome family shows instead.

“We give these women and children a safe place to heal, recover and grow,” said Carter.