

Homeless become their own advocates

Time for Change Foundation — a San Bernardino-based nonprofit that serves homeless women and their children — hosted its Homeless Empowerment Leadership Project on Thursday at Perris Hill Park.

The project is based on the idea that people who experience homelessness are best-suited to advocate for themselves, organizers said.

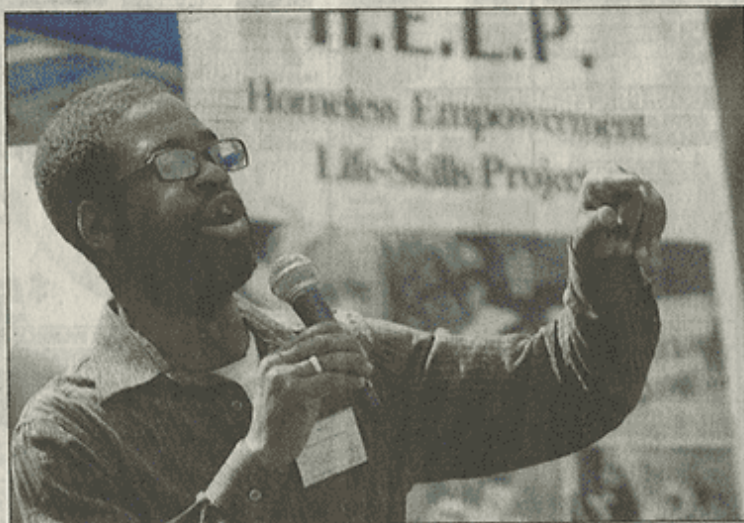
That's particularly true when it comes to housing for the poor, said Kim Carter, the founder and executive director of Time for Change.

"They have the right to be an advocate for themselves," she said, adding that because of past evictions, the poor often cannot get access to affordable housing, even when they have incomes.

People should be able to appeal to the government for rights to fair and affordable housing, Carter said.

"Our goal is to be able to get them to use their own voice to speak for themselves," she said. "They are not asking for a handout."

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Johnny Owens, 44, of San Bernardino, speaks to other homeless people during the Homeless Empowerment Project on Thursday at Perris Hill Park in San Bernardino. The event aimed to empower the homeless to advocate for their own needs in health care, housing and employment.

LaFonzo Carter
Staff Photographer

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