

LOCAL NEWS

Kim Carter, of San Bernardino, chosen as top 10 CNN Hero



Kim Carter celebrates with friend Kim Cole over Carter being chosen a CNN Hero.

By **RYAN HAGEN** | rhagen@scng.com | The Sun
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SAN BERNARDINO >> She was a drug addict, imprisoned, homeless, but after years of work freeing herself and hundreds of others from that cycle, Kim Carter was recognized Thursday as something else — a Top 10 Hero.

A month after [CNN chose](#) the founder and executive director of San Bernardino's Time for Change Foundation as one of 25 CNN Heroes for 2015, voters have put her in the top 10.

That means \$10,000 that can go toward furthering Carter's work, it means Carter will be honored on the globally broadcast "CNN Heroes: An-All Star Tribute" that airs Dec. 6, and it means anyone with an Internet connection can now begin voting for her as the Hero of the Year on the CNN Heroes' [website](#).

What's more, Carter said Thursday morning, it means validation.

"Coming from where I came from, homeless, to represent who we are as an area – this is all wonderful and fantastic," Carter said. "Our organization and our region are getting recognized by an international news network for changing lives. It recognizes we have a huge impact and we have a potential to go worldwide."

Since 2007, the CNN initiative has honored more than 200 people in 80 countries, but Carter said she is the first to make the top 25 from San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego or Orange counties.

Time for Change Foundation has helped close to 800 women since 2002, with a mission to empower disenfranchised low-income women and families by building leadership through evidence-based programs and housing to create self-sufficiency and thriving communities.

It includes case-management services in a drug-free environment, an emergency shelter, transitional housing, financial education and money management classes, independent living skills, family reunification, leadership development and parenting education.

She's also responsible for the [Phoenix Square](#) Housing, built at Victoria and F streets in 2012.

More than 75 supporters gathered at Feldheim Library on Thursday with Time for Change, celebrating – and challenging.

"An admonition: As important as this celebration is, it's a temporary moment," former mayor Pat Morris said in a speech, but he pointed to her as an example. "Lives saved, lives renewed, are full of marvelous potential, as Kim testifies."

Although she succeeded, Morris said she was held back from jobs because employees saw her incarceration record and never interviewed her — before “ban the box,” which Carter and Morris unsuccessfully campaigned for in San Bernardino, took effect in California last year.

There’s no way she’ll stop pushing for more affordable housing and more opportunities, Carter said.

“I turn N-O into O-N, and that’s not going to stop,” she said.

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Ryan Hagen covers San Bernardino County and politics for the Southern California News Group. Since he began covering Inland Empire governments in 2010, he's written about a city entering bankruptcy and exiting bankruptcy; politicians being elected, recalled and arrested; crime; a terrorist attack; fires; ICE; fights to end homelessness; fights over the location of speed bumps; and people's best and worst moments. A graduate of Pepperdine University, he teaches journalism classes at Cal State San Bernardino. His greatest accomplishment is breaking a coffee addiction. His greatest regret is any moment without coffee.

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