



## Kim Carter

Executive Director, Time for Change Foundation, San Bernardino

Kim Carter says it's not often that someone goes from being "a lawbreaker to a lawmaker." Founder and executive director of San Bernardino's Time for Change Foundation, which helps homeless women and children, she's frank about her past. "Homeless, addicted to drugs and incarcerated," she says. While in prison, "I got the therapy I needed to deal with the childhood abuse I suffered."

When she got out of prison, she rebuilt her life but kept hearing a message she couldn't ignore. "I would wake up at 2 in the morning and the Lord was telling me to help other women," she says. She quit her job and started Time for Change. "I didn't know then we wouldn't be just changing lives but changing laws," she says.

There was a law that said parents had only 18 months to meet requirements to regain custody of their children after the children were taken away by child protective agencies. "You can't imagine the pain of going to prison and once you get out your kids are permanently adopted." Carter helped get the law changed so the clock starts ticking once parents are released from prison. Carter helps women fulfill requirements to regain custody of their children.

During the 11 years she has run Time for Change, Carter says 650 women have used its services, and most have improved their lives. She operates two shelters and Phoenix Square affordable housing.

"Everybody on earth has a purpose. Ph.D.?" she asks with a chuckle. "I got my Ph.DO."

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