Below: The Phoenix Square building includes environmentally friendly features making it 'green.'



By Cynthia Mendoza

fter 10 years of providing service, support and mentorship to thousands of women and children, the Time for Change Foundation has finally found a permanent home in San Bernardino.

Scheduled to open in July of 2012, Phase I of the Phoenix Square Project is TFCF's permanent housing project where clients who have completed the transitional housing service may move into to living independent, productive lives.

The remodeling started last October and will be finished sometime in July.

The project has been several years in the making and occurred in phases, the first one being the purchase of the seven-unit apartment building on the corner of F and Victoria in San Bernardino.

The project's first phase began with the purchase of the apartment structure in October. One of TFCF's three main goals is enabling clients to find permanent housing that will allow families the opportunity to thrive and engage in entrepreneurial business.

"The Phoenix Square Project was the realization of that permanent housing goal," said TFCF Spokesperson John Kunkel. "The planning for the Phoenix Square goes back a couple of years and we plan to do more of these types of permanent housing projects in the future."

The remodeling of the building included providing as many energy efficient features as possible in order to be a "green," environmentally friendly housing unit.

The second phase included the creation of several community gardens that allow residents to grow organic fruits and vegetables to sell at local farmers markets.

The community gardens will also be available to elementary school children and seniors from time to time for special projects, such as



Above: TFCF Executive Director Kim Carter and Phoenix Square Construction Project Manager Chris Haugen take a look at the work in progress during the early days of Phoenix Square construction in the fall of 2011. The seven-unit apartment complex will serve as a permanent housing facility for TFCF clients who are ready for independent living.

or Earth Day. The final pha provides women independent

The final phase includes creating a community center adjacent to the apartment building and garden in order to provide a place for classes and meetings for the community as a whole and for TFC clients to conduct their own business.

Future plans include installing a solar powered parking structure.

Phase II and III are still in the

Phase II and III are still in the works and may be complete next year.

At the time of publication however, finishing touches on Phase I are under way, including painting

are under way, including painting and a few other small details.

"At Time for Change Foundation we believe that every woman and child is deserving of a nurturing and safe environment that is conducive towards self-sufficiency," said TFCF Executive Director Kim Carter. "This project is the culmination of that mission and dream. Our vision is to develop more projects of this caliber that will be a major asset, not only to the families and individuals that it plater."

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Time for Change Foundation Executive Director Kim Carter dreams big as she views a rendering of what is now the completed Phoenix Square project, a seven unit apartment building that will allow the women that TFC serves an opportunity live productive, independent lives. The complex opened in May of 2012.

rounding community."