

OLYMPICS KICK OFF

U.S women's soccer team opens with victory against France **SPORTS B1**



PARENTS TO DECIDE FATE OF ADELANTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

LOCAL A3

sbsun.com | THE SUN **A5**

PHOENIX SQUARE



LaFonzo Carter Staff Photographer

Diane Sapp, the new property manager at Phoenix Square in San Bernardino, talks with City Attorney James F. Penman inside her new apartment on Wednesday. Sapp has overcome homelessness and drug addiction.



LaFonzo Carter Staff Photographer

These new Phoenix Square apartments are reserved for women and children who were homeless. City officials, Phoenix Square residents and representatives of Time for Change Foundation celebrated the apartments' opening on Wednesday.

New start for families

By Michel Nolan Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — Phoenix Square, which Mayor Pat Morris called a prototype for affordable housing, opened its doors Wednesday to people who need second chances.

The Time for Change Foundation spearheaded the \$1.5 million renovation of apartments on North F Street between Sixth and Seventh streets for homeless women and children in San Bernardino.

It's the foundation's first public housing project. As the name implies, Phoenix Square rose up from the rubble of a deteriorated eyesore.

The seven renovated units were opened for a tour Wednesday morning.

HOUSING A5

At a glance

San Bernardino's Phoenix Square

Jobs created: 10

Jobs retained: 219

Suppliers: 12

Local suppliers: 92 percent

Cost: \$1.5 million

General contractors: Absolute Contractors, Yucaipa

Construction manager: Solomon Ujamaa Inc., San Bernardino

Project manager: Juan Dial

Owner/developer: Time for Change Foundation, San Bernardino

Architects: WLC Inc., Rancho Cucamonga

Units: Seven units — for single women and women with one or two children

Qualifications Units are open to families and individuals who make less than half of the area's median income of just less than \$64,000, which is less than \$32,000 per year.

Funded by: Weingart Foundation; Affordable Housing Solutions; San Bernardino Economic Development Agency

Furniture provided by: Ashley Furniture

Source: Time for Change Foundation

HOUSING

From A1

Dianne Sapp has already moved in.

For most of her life, Sapp was in and out of prison, homeless and battling addiction.

Now, at 51, she is clean and sober and has been appointed property manager of Phoenix Square.

"I'm 51, and this is the first apartment in my whole life," she said to an audience of about 100 community members who applauded her accomplishments.

"Kim Carter (Time for Change's founder and executive director) was like a guardian angel to me," Sapp said. "I was given more than help. I was given a sense of hope and dignity."

"This is a gorgeous restoration, a model for low-cost housing projects," Morris said. "Time for Change Foundation

not only restored residents' lives and the lives of their families, but they helped restore the life of the community as well."

"This is a major investment — federal and local resources to help people help themselves and help all of us," the mayor said.

The project was funded by donations, grants and loans, according to Carter.

"We contracted with local business in order to ensure our taxpayer dollars stayed within our community," Carter said.

About 75 percent of the subcontractors were from San Bernardino County, she said.

This was the first phase of the affordable housing project for very low-income families and individuals who make less than half of the area's median income.

Phoenix Square, which took two years, still has two phases coming.

Next is a combination of

housing and community space with a garden.

The third phase, a solar-paneled parking structure, will generate all the electricity it needs.

"Phoenix Square really sets the standard for low-income housing in Southern California and is a prime example of what it looks like to transform a neighborhood into a sustainable community," said John Kunkel, a spokesman for the foundation.

Since 2002, Time for Change has been helping homeless women and their children break the cycles of poverty, abuse and neglect by providing tools, resources and services.

Carter, who was once homeless herself, said, "We can be the change that we want to see. Who would have thought we'd go from being homeless to the developer of affordable housing. Only God knew, right?"

michel.nolan@inlandnewspapers.com
909-386-3859, @MichelNolan