

Time for Change Awards Gala

Time for Change

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By Dianne Anderson
Staff Writer

Nicole Wolfe is busier these days than she has been in 18 and a half years, and loving it.

She and several others are getting ready for their biggest day of the year, a huge impressive red carpet event to raise funds for the kinds of programs that saved her.

In the past two years, she attributes much of her personal growth to Kim Carter and the Time for Change Foundation. She was given that vital second chance.

"I had to start over. I'm one of those people who had to put in 100 applications each week, 70 job interviews and it all looked fantastic. I disclosed the felony, and no job. No job. No job," said Ms. Wolfe, J.D., communications coordinator for Time for Change Foundation.

After putting herself through law school to become an attorney at age 26, a tailspin of events turned her life upside down stemming from years of domestic violence that spun out of control. She ended up in prison for nearly two decades.

When inside with impeccable skills – she helped train corrections staff, started a college program, a cognitive behavioral studies program, a prison rape elimination act peer education program, and sat on a survival council. But, it didn't amount to much outside.

With no family to turn to when she got out, she connected with Time for Change Foundation, familiar with the group's frequent visits with CIW prisoners.

Today, Ms. Wolfe is happily married and works a full time position with the organization. She said that she appreciates the opportunity, and life is good.

Like herself, she said there are many smart women that get out of jail, and without help, are soon swept back into the cycle. Many were victimized young from a torn childhood, and molested, similar to her own experiences.

As if serving time wasn't hard enough, when she got out even the simplest things seemed impossible, the locks and handles on car doors, or Walmart. A whole generation slipped by.

It was too colorful, too bright.

"It was just crazy, I was on sensory overload," she said. "You go from ten choices a day to 10,000 choices. Going through this program, I figured out how to get back on track."

As a low income housing developer, Time for Change Foundation has Phoenix Square, and hopes to expand affordable living with more tran-

sitional units for women and mothers re-entering society.

Now in their 13th year of the gala, hundreds of dignitaries, local officials, supportive non-profits, are set to dazzle annual red carpet fundraiser this year, "Celebrating Life's Precious Jewels."

On April 17, the community will check out live entertainment, socially network, and tap major goodies at the silent auction. Held at the National Orange Show, Valencia Room, with the awards dinner program running from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$125 per person.

Dinner will be delicious, Wolfe said, and the silent auction is sure to wow the crowd, including Disneyland and the hotel,

two round-trip tickets anywhere Southwest flies. They are working on a Hawaii package. There is also a Tony Hawk package with signed autograph, skateboard and hats.

"We're working on electronics. I want a big screen TV and some stereo systems. There are raffles, we have a lot of raffle prizes, nice stuff," she said.

This year's honorees are San Bernardino Community College District Chancellor Bruce Baron as community education champion. The humanitarian award goes to The Race, Gender and Human Rights Giving Circle of the Women's Foundation of California. Santa Clause, Inc. is honored for community service, and Mi Cocina Restaurant in Highland will take home the Ramos Family Spirit of Compassion award. June Collison is community health champion, and Dora Barilla will be honored as community health advocate. Angela and Victor Myles will receive the Dynamic Duo Award, and the National CORE is the community development champion. Premier Medical Transportation is community business leader of the year.

Proceeds will help support the shelter and services for single women, and for mothers and their children. She said they expect a full house.

She said said that even in the best of times, people fall. Time for Change has helped women from all walks of life, those who went from household security, to prison, to homelessness. It can happen to anyone.

"Our women are now working at premier medical, and transportation, at Loma Linda Community Hospital. They are getting good jobs," she said.

To donate or attend event, see www.timeforchangefoundation.org/

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