



VOLUME 17 | ISSUE 2 | SUMMER 2019 | *SPECIAL EDITION*

Change is Possible

We call it Home, others call it Hope.

In this issue

- Justice Prevailed
- Congrats Grads
- Family Reunification
- Elisabeth's Story
- Lapria's Story
- Thanks Bank of America
- Advocacy
- A Meeting with Governor Newsom
- Thank you San Manuel
- Positive Futures II
- Brighter Futures
- Briana's Story
- Sweet Dreams Beautification
- TFCF Success
- Partner with us

Mission

To empower disenfranchised low income individuals and families by building leadership through evidence-based programs and housing to create self-sufficiency and thriving communities.

JUSTICE PREVAILED!

After being released from prison, Keisha Murphy decided that education was the only way to overcome the barriers facing her because of her conviction.

Keisha decided she wanted to be a nurse and work to give back to the community. While she had lost precious time not being focused, she knew that she wanted to work in the medical field, helping others.



Keisha pursued her education with vigor despite being denied enrollment at community colleges because of her record. To avoid the potential pitfalls so many face by being denied a second chance, Keisha devoted her time, energy and finances towards private nursing school and became a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN). She worked as an LVN for six years and in 2016 she decided she wanted to further her education in hopes of becoming a Registered Nurse (RN). Once more, Keisha was denied admission to community colleges but did not allow that to hinder her progress. She enrolled in a private university and since then she has continued her employment as an LVN while also completing the coursework for the RN program. Things were progressing perfectly until the day Keisha got some devastating news in early 2019.

The dean of West Coast University informed her that she would no longer be able to continue enrollment in her clinical classes. Not only would this stagnate her progress but without those clinical classes Keisha would not be able to graduate. Having \$119,000 in debt with only 2 classes left, she was devastated. Although she had earned her Certificate of Rehabilitation and knew the Ban the Box law had passed, West Coast decided that she should have done more disclosure and that although they had ran several background checks throughout her enrollment it wasn't enough. Right away, Keisha reached out to Time for Change Foundation's Founder, Kim Carter and Director, Vanessa Perez because of this devastating news. Keisha knew that she would receive the help she needed because she participated in the Positive Futures program which aims to support Formerly Incarcerated Women of Color. As a result, Ms. Carter, enlisted the help of Root & Rebound (R&R). R&R went to work right away contacting the school on Keisha's behalf and advocating for her. Without fail, Keisha was re-admitted and cleared to enroll in her clinical classes!

Thanks to the support of Time for Change Foundation (TFCF), Keisha is able to continue pursuing her dreams of becoming an RN. Keisha also gained invaluable knowledge through her participation in TFCF's Positive Futures I (PF I) program funded by the California Wellness Foundation. The program is designed specifically for formerly incarcerated women of color to help overcome barriers associated with having a past criminal record. Through PF I, Keisha completed TFCF's 10-week Employment Development course, a 6-week Entrepreneurship course, and Financial Literacy classes presented by Wells Fargo.

Advocating for Change is another key leadership development program at TFCF and empowering women to use their voices. Alongside Keisha, many of our women face insurmountable barriers trying to reestablish their lives. Prop 47 that was passed by the voters ensures that resources are allocated to assist with reentry. Our leaders have been advocating to ensure that women and girls receive adequate consideration. Women Organizing Re-entry Communities of Color (WORCC) *"Just to think, I was in a prison, and now, I'll be a nurse working in the hospitals, saving lives."* Keisha says her determination today rests on knowing that my voice counts and I do matter. *"My time behind bars motivated me, but it will not define me."*

CONGRATS GRADS!



We are so proud of our graduates this year! They worked hard and accomplished their goals.

Vanessa Perez, the Director of TFCF and Board Member Alexis Belmonte (left) received their AA in Leadership.

Moving clockwise, Jakob son of Aimee a former TFCF client, graduated High School, Mary Samano came to us in 3rd grade and was promoted to 6th grade, and Channell Cleveland completed Kindergarten!



Next, Stacy Stafford-Pena received her Medical Assistant Certificate and is going towards becoming a nurse. Last but not least, Ashley, who started with us in kindergarten, (see newspaper article below) graduated High School!

This just goes to show that the impact of providing women with opportunities for self sufficiency supports the best interest of the child.

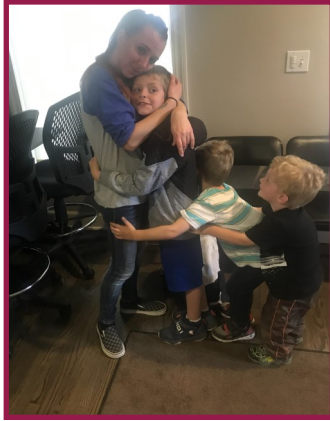


FAMILY REUNIFICATION

To date we've reunited 291 kids back with their mothers. Family reunification is essential in helping families heal and recover from trauma, homelessness and separation. We are happy to share that within this last year we have reunited 7 kids back with their moms!

Lisa reunited with Mya after 12 months of separation. Rosemary reunited with Romeo after 10 months and Lachelle after 16 months. Elvira reunited with her son Tony after 2 years and Elisabeth reunited with her 3 sons after 7 months of separation.

All of the families were reunited due to the housing and support services that TFCF offer. None of this would be possible without the support of the foundations and people who support our mission.



A Special thanks to **Listen for Good—Fund for Shared Insight** for their support in our family reunification program! Through listening we are able to improve the work we do to help reunify families and end homelessness for women and children!



HOMES OF HOPE

Established in 2012, designed for chronically homeless individuals with disabling conditions. Homes of Hope maintains a 100% retention and stabilization rate for these families.

This program supports a total of 10 women and 23 children with permanent housing and supportive services, congratulations to all the families that are maintaining their housing!

Thank you HUD for funding this program!

ELISABETH'S STORY

Elisabeth's as story as told in her own words

Before ending up at Time For Change Foundation, I had a huge struggle finding stability following divorce. With no drivers' license, job, or anywhere to go, I felt the need to hand my 3 young children over to their father while I put together the pieces of my life. I spent a year moving from place to place, finding job after job to try to find the best fit that would get my children back to me. No luck. I found support in Hawaii so I figured to give that a try. Jobs were booming, I had plenty of friends to lean on. So I left behind everything to start a new life and gain stability so I can get my children back where they needed to be.

I spent 7 months in Hawaii working, saving money and actively looking for a home to place the children in with me. After looking for housing I decided that it was too expensive to reside in Waikiki with 3 children. So I decided to fly to Kentucky to live with my father while I try to look for the same stability I was looking for in Hawaii. I finally felt like I was getting somewhere. I was being called to job interviews and housing was the cheapest I have ever seen. March 6th, I was called for a job interview the next day. I was so ecstatic.

An hour later that same night, I received a phone call from Children and Family Services. They gave me the worst news and told me they had removed my children from their father for testing positive for methamphetamines. They had asked me a million questions and I answered all of them with haste worrying that they would keep my kids from me. After learning that their father had put hands on me in the past, they decided to keep them because I had failed to protect my children from violence. I flew out to California the next day to get ready for court to see what would happen with my children that I have not seen in 8 long months. Court definitely did not go as I had expected. After they discovered that I had no criminal or drug history, and tested negative for drugs, the judge ruled that he would award me full custody of my kids as long as I had a place to live and regularly attended parenting and Domestic violence classes. Right away I had called Time For Change Foundation to see if they could house my kids and I so CFS would give me my kids back. I went in for a face to face interview and they told me I could live there with my kids! 3 weeks later on March 25th, I was reunited with my children again. It was the best day of my life and I have never felt so relieved!

Time For Change Foundation has taught me stability, mothering skills, helped me find a job, and have been my biggest support system since my mother has passed. I have never been so blessed for what they have done for my children and I. Thank you Miss Vanessa Perez for giving me a second chance at life with my beautiful children and giving me the strength to pull myself up from nothing. I hope to achieve more by acquiring cheaper housing, and save money to get a new vehicle, and most importantly gain custody of my oldest son who is still living with my father. With the program's help, I know I can achieve anything.

Thank you to all of our supporters!



LAPRIA'S STORY

Lapria's story as told in her own words

Growing up, all I saw was anger and abuse in my home. Even though I didn't come from a broken home, I was nurtured in a toxic environment. My parents' abusive relationship served as my only example of what a loving relationship should be.

I never realized how much that had affected me. Though I replicated my parents' toxic relationship in my own relationships, I never thought that I would become the abuser.

That's what lead me to serve 18 months at Folsom State Penitentiary. While there I had a lot of time to reflect on my life and how I come to such a low point.

I was also an alcoholic and that fueled my abusive behavior.

My father was an alcoholic and drinking was how I learned to cope with my issues. I drank because I could not deal with life on its own terms. My alcoholism was a symptom of a greater problem.

I grew up with a learning disability which fostered my insecurities and lack of self-confidence. I knew I needed help. I need to make some big changes in my life.

As soon as I got released from prison, I checked myself into an inpatient rehabilitation program. I needed recovery! After successfully completing the 90-day program I ran into a former client who told me about Time For Change Foundation and how this organization was helping her get on her feet. She told me they could help me too, and to give her a call and she would get me into the program.

I now have a job and a stable living situation. Through the Positive Futures I program I also received my certification as a forklift operator, a goal achieving moment. But the biggest thing I have gained from this program is an amazing and unshakable support system that believes in me and wants my success just as much as I do.



Thank you California Wellness Foundation for supporting Lapria on her journey forward. And for investing in formerly incarcerated women of color throughout California.



THANK YOU BANK OF AMERICA

With the support of Bank of America we are able to advance women in the job of their choice by equipping them with employment training and skills necessary for today's workforce.

Our Work to Win project teaches our women to walk with confidence and offers a variety of workshops and individual training sessions where our women learn to dress for success, proper interviewing communication, follow-ups, and develop how to overcome any employment barrier.



ADVOCACY

Leadership Development through advocacy and civic engagement empowers our women to be the change they want to see! This year our women advocated locally and in Sacramento on the following bills:

- SB 1359—Child care services: CalWORKs
- SB 923—Criminal investigations: eyewitness identification
- SB 1437—Accomplice liability for felony murder
- ACA-6—To end felony disenfranchisement
- SB 394 —Pre Trial Diversion keeping families together
- AB 2466 —Voting Bill
- SB 1393— 5-year sentence enhancement
- SB 10— Pretrial release or detention
- SB 1025— Eligibility: crimes relating to controlled substances



RGHR RACE, GENDER, AND
HUMAN RIGHTS FUND
At The East Bay Community Foundation

A MEETING WITH GOVERNOR NEWSOM

We met with Governor Gavin Newsom to discuss affordable housing opportunities for low-income families in California.

Without affordable housing opportunities families are sinking deeper into poverty and homelessness which is why we are on the frontlines making a way out of no way!



THANK YOU SAN MANUEL



Over the last 17 years we've been able to grow our program to provide high quality services to homeless women and children. Our dedication to ending homelessness thrives on those that selflessly give to those most in need. We know we would not be able to provide life's basic necessities such as a home without supporters like San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

We salute you and thank you San Manuel for your commitment to staying true to "Yawa," acting on your beliefs, through your culture of giving. Your continued support is truly making a difference—this is yawa.



POSITIVE FUTURES II EXPANSION PROJECT



Serving 220 incarcerated women of color with Reentry and Supportive Services, Positive Futures II is designed to eliminate recidivism and ensure successful transition back into the community.

The original Positive Futures I project was piloted in 2015 and served 135 incarcerated women with successful reentry yielding a 100% reduction in incarceration, 80% gained employment, 98% successfully secured housing and a total of 78 children were reunited with their mothers.

Yes, this is the Crime Prevention Model that works!



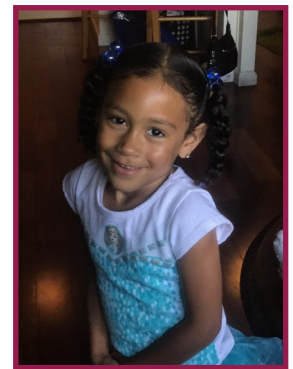
BRIGHTER FUTURES—BAY AREA

On December 2018, TFCF opened up its first housing project in the City of Hayward. Our goal was simple, recreate the TFCF model that has successfully helped over 1500 women make the transition into self-sufficiency. Using the family style model, the Brighter Futures Home is the perfect place for women to recreate their lives.

Devastation from mass incarceration, homelessness and family separation are deeply rooted in the communities we serve so we meet the challenge head on. Having a stable home that allows for healing and building is the perfect place to reunite with one's children and become the nurturing parents one was meant to be.

Aisa Esa, suffered from addiction, co-dependency and low self esteem but being a mother was her greatest joy and her greatest pain. Recognizing that she was not being the mother Lilly deserved she checked herself into a 9 month drug program. During that time she received help with her addiction, learned some valuable coping skills and began to heal from her trauma. Meanwhile, Lilly was placed with her grandmother and together they began counseling and receiving services designed for reunification.

Aisha entered Brighter Futures on Jan 2, 2019 and has not looked back. Today she is a full time student working on her Nursing degree. Lilly has begun her over night visits and this family is well on their way to reunification. When asked what is the best thing about Brighter Futures, Aisha replied—Finally, I have a safe place for me and my daughter.



Stability, this courageous mother of 4 entered the Brighter Futures home June 18th, 2019. One of the worst nightmares for a mother is not having a safe and stable housing for their children. Coming from a lifestyle where drug addiction, incarceration and violence is the norm, Christine decided that she didn't want her children to follow that family dynamic.

The Brighter Futures Learning Center has proven to be an invaluable tool because all of the children are engaged in educational activities during this summer break. The neighborhood has a local park and a brand new library for these kids to enjoy.

We can expect exciting things to happen for this family!



Our "Ain't I a Mother Too?" event was a huge success! Our women came together to lift up the voices for all mothers that are seeking reunification with their children and to end family separation!

Special thanks to:

Meadow Fund
Tides Foundation
Q. Delaney
S. Feder
M. Cale
M. Sawyer
V. Doyle
James Irvine Foundation
H. & W. Carter Ubuntu Fund

BRIANA'S STORY - BRIGHTER FUTURES

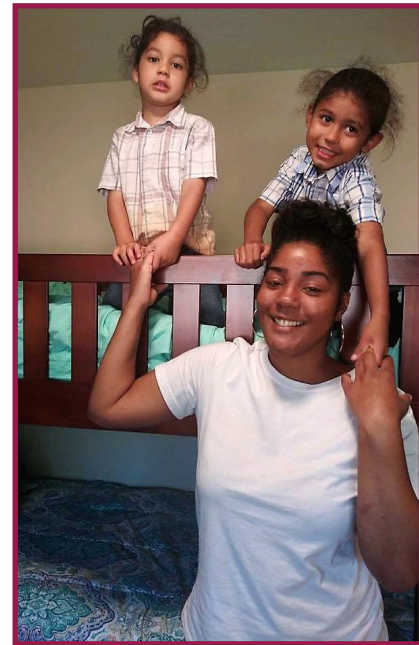
Briana's Story told in her own voice.

My name is Briana Janai's McMillon and before I begin to tell you my story, I would like to start off with one of my favorite bible verses:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

I am 25 years old today and I have been homeless for the past five years. I have two sons, Waden and Jayvaun, who are four and five years old. As you can see, I have been homeless my kids' whole lives. I was basically raising them in a car.

Throughout the first two years of my homelessness, I spent countless hours on the phone, day after day, calling 2-1-1 for resources and applying for affordable housing. Unsurprisingly, there was never anything available, shelters were always full (or I did not meet the criteria), and I was constantly told to call back the next day to check again.



The affordable housing properties I called told me the waitlist could take up to five years before I was accepted. I have stayed in 10 shelters, 2 inpatient facilities, lived out of 5 cars and spent numerous nights sleeping outside when nothing else was available to us. For the past 18 months, I haven't been able to see my kids for any holidays or birthdays. It's just been so hard.

I've been through so many programs to seek help, but am always told that only one child can receive the benefits. I have two sons; how can I choose between them? So still, I'm looking elsewhere for help; it's been a never-ending cycle.

I even tried reaching out to Child Protective Services (CPS) asking them to help me because I want a better situation for my kids. It wasn't until I was found passed out in my car with my two kids that CPS stepped in to do something, and by then they were removing them from my custody.

You may be asking where my mother was in this situation? Unfortunately, she was homeless too. Eventually, she was found dead outside in front of someone's doorstep in San Francisco. I lost custody of my sons five days after laying my mother to rest. Because of this constant trauma, I've never had a chance to properly grieve her death.

On May 1, 2019, I had my court date. On that day, the judge and lawyers decided that if I couldn't provide a home address, my services would be terminated, and I would lose my parental rights for LIFE. An address was something that I haven't had in 5 years. I just could not believe it.

Out of all this despair came some good news. I just happened to enter Time for Change Foundation's location on April 30th, 2019. My case manager escorted me to court and was able to provide the evidence that I resided in the Brighter Futures Home. Today, my social worker came to the house to inspect it to make sure it's appropriate for kids so that I can start overnight visits soon.

Motherhood alone is one of the toughest roles in life. It's easy for people to say, "well you shouldn't have had kids if you can't take care of them," but that's not the point. I'm here, my children are here, and there are so many mothers going through a similar situation right now. We deserve a chance to be good mothers to our children.

I'm sharing my story today because I have HOPE. Time for Change Foundation has given me hope that I can become self-sufficient, that I can be reunited with my children and take care of them the way a loving mother is supposed to take care of them.

Time for Change has reunited 291 children from foster care back with their moms and I know with hard work, I will be an addition to that growing number. Permanent Housing is the answer!

SWEET DREAMS BEAUTIFICATION



We want to thank **Wells Fargo** (left) for their \$15,000 contribution to help transform the inside of our Sweet Dreams shelter for women and children. Through their support we were able to re-do our kitchen, paint the inside of our walls and purchase a washer and dryer.

Our women and kids want to express their gratitude to have The San Bernardino Sunset and San Bernardino Crossroads Rotary Clubs for sponsoring the beautification of our back yard. And a special shout out to Amazon for providing volunteers for our front yard beautification project! It's partnerships like this that help us provide quality housing for our women and children! Team work makes the dream work!



WELLNESS IS STABILIZED HOUSING



Our Wellness Is Stabilized Housing (WISH) Program helps families with rental and utility payment assistance to prevent homelessness and ensures housing stability. Through this program we are helping families stay together!



TFCF SUCCESSES

For this fiscal year, TFCF is proud to report that we have provided **59 women and 48 children** with a total of **5,230** shelter nights and **118,584.00 hours** of services; **15 women and 16 children** transitioned into permanent housing. TFCF has provided utility/rental assistance to **47 women and 39 children** in the community to prevent homelessness and maintain permanent housing.

Other services provided included:

- 4,380 -Hours of Women's Wellness Sessions
- 2,160 -Hours of Mommy & Me Child Bonding Sessions
- 2,280 -Hours of Financial Education and Money Management Sessions
- 120 -Hours of Parenting Education Workshops
- 164 -Family Wellness & Healthcare Trainings
- 196 -Work to Win/Employment Readiness Workshops
- 581 -Case Management sessions
- 720 -Hours of Independent Living Skills Workshops
- 711 -Hours of Leadership Development/Advocacy Training



None of this success would be possible without long term supporters like you! Corporate social responsibility is reflected in everything you do.

Thanks for being great and a part of the team!

We provided **6,344 hours of transports** to various community services, doctors' appointments, and civic engagement functions. For self-improvement and higher education, our clients attended **597 hours of education** and/or college instructions.

As part of rehabilitation, our clients attended **98** hours of drug and alcohol counseling sessions **5,986** hours of Twelve-Step Meetings, and 424 hours of Relapse Prevention coupled with individual One on Ones with Counselor. To ensure that we offer accountability and evidence based services promoting a drug free lifestyle, we conducted **294** random drug tests throughout this period. TFCF issued **78** certificates of completion to our clients for

PARTNER WITH US!

- Make a financial contribution
- Become a volunteer
- Host an open house
- Teach a class
- Help decorate a family's home
- And more!



KAISER PERMANENTE®

Thank you Kaiser Permanente for addressing social determinants of health. (Housing Stability)

Time for Change Foundation builds affordable housing for the women and children that we serve. TFCF is looking for land and other properties to create more housing opportunities. The Phoenix Square sets the standard for low-income housing, crime-free, and safe. Help us build more!



LET'S CONNECT



timeforchangefoundation



TimeForChangeFD



info@timeforchangefoundation.org



timeforchangefoundation



timeforchangefoundation



Time for Change Foundation
P.O. Box 25040
San Bernardino, CA 92406

Non Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
San Bernardino, CA
Permit #3079

You can mail, call or visit our website

Time For Change Foundation

Southern CA

P.O. Box 25040

San Bernardino, CA 92406

Northern CA

P.O. Box 12353

Pleasanton, CA 94588

Phone

909.886.2994

To date we've helped over **1,500** homeless women and children reach self-sufficiency AND have reunited **291** children out of foster care back with their mothers!

HOW YOUR DONATIONS HELP BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

Did you know that \$250 will cover school supplies for **15** children?

We will send you a special gratitude box, a mug, and our monthly newsletter so you can stay up to date on all the positive change TFCF is making with your generous contribution and support!

Learn more about ways you can help families by becoming a Supporter, Partner or Changemaker on our Donation page.

<https://www.timeforchangefoundation.org/contribute/donate>

Donate to TFCF without having to spend extra money!

Let your online shopping go the extra mile by registering your Amazon account to Amazon Smile.

- 1) Visit **smile.amazon.com** and sign in to your normal Amazon account.
- 2) Type **Time For Change Foundation** in the charitable organization search box; select us.
- 3) Do your shopping and Amazon will automatically donate to TFCF.



amazonsmile