

THE  
ROAD  
TO

# CHANGE

ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2021

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## SHE IS...

### TIME FOR CHANGE FOUNDATION'S 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL "SHE IS..." AWARDS GALA WAS A VIRTUAL SUCCESS!

On April 8<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the successes and continued determination of the homeless women and children we serve, and honored outstanding community champions throughout the state of California at our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual "She is..." Awards Gala!

Hosted by author, philanthropist, and co-host of *The Real*, Loni Love, the event highlighted the empowerment of all women. This year's theme, "She is..." uplifted up the beauty that resides in each woman, regardless of their past circumstances.

The challenges of the past year have shown the need for collaboration to support members of our community. The "She is..." Gala applauded the work of the many champions who make daily contributions to our society, and commended these heroes for their work.

cont. page 7



# FROM OUR DIRECTOR



It has already been an eventful first quarter of 2021. As we mark one year since the pandemic started, an ambitious national vaccine rollout is now underway. Our continued gratitude goes out to all of you still working on the frontlines as we continue moving forward together helping those most in need.

Here at Time for Change Foundation, we are focused on many simultaneous priorities. While our current programs remain, the scope of our mission is expanding as past successes have presented us with greater opportunities to make a bigger impact.

The ongoing development of our Black and Brown Opportunities for Profit (BBOP) Center, improving women's economic mobility through entrepreneurship opportunities. We are very excited about the continued development of this groundbreaking project, stay tuned for updates!

As we continue navigating through the pandemic, TFCF is ensuring that we go above and beyond to ensure that the needs of our clients are met. Empowering women on their road to self-sufficiency, and reuniting children with their mothers is at the core of our work.

Our advocacy is leading to action, and we are gaining a greater volume amongst those needing collaborative voices. Amongst those are the voices of young girls of color. We are instilling in our girls that no matter what age they are, they have the power to be anything they want to be. By lifting up the voices of women and girls we are creating leaders that are paving the way for social change.

That said, the state of our agency is much like the women that complete our programs—thriving!


*Vanessa Perez*

Vanessa Perez  
Executive Director  
Time For Change Foundation

## THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR DONATIONS

We at Time For Change Foundation want to thank everyone for your donations. YOU make the impact that saves lives and restores confidence, determination, dignity, and hope!

Many of you have chosen to be a voice for families and have committed to monthly contributions. This stable financial base allows us to keep the women and children we serve fed and sheltered. By becoming a Time For Change Foundation donor, you are joining an incredible group of people who have made a commitment to empowering disenfranchised, low-income individuals and families, enabling them to attain self-sufficiency.

If you have thought about contributing regularly, \$50 a month is all it takes to provide food security for those in need. Visit [timeforchangefoundation.org/contribute/donate](https://timeforchangefoundation.org/contribute/donate) for more information on how you can help. 



# PANDEMIC STORIES: WHEN THE RENT IS DUE

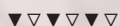
COVID-19 has put families on the brink of homelessness. Our W.I.S.H. program addresses emergencies like housing insecurity. In their own words—initial letters from those it has helped.

The past year has been a lot for all of us. When we think on the pandemic, about what experiences we all have in common, it's loss. We've all lost something during this pandemic. Money, jobs, time. Many of us lost people, too.

Yet many are still on the cusp of losing more. The passage of SB 91 may have extended California's moratorium on evictions from February to June, but the requirement of paying 25% of all rent owed from September 2020 through June 2021, has many concerned about the future.

Time For Change Foundation's *Wellness Is Stabilized Housing* (W.I.S.H.) Program addresses housing insecurities by providing rental and utility assistance. You can find out more about the W.I.S.H. program on our website, [timeforchangefoundation.org/services](https://timeforchangefoundation.org/services).

These are the stories of just some of our W.I.S.H. recipients, written to us and used with their permission.



## Ulysses Carillo

As a salesman part of my job is going to people's home to discuss solar panels. At least until COVID-19. As a result of the pandemic my job began to keep me on call. I would work one week out of the month, or sometimes not at all. It's a great job, but with the pandemic people don't want you over.

My wife works in customer service with an English based company. Since the pandemic, her place of employment has stopped work for foreign workers. Thankfully, she was able to receive unemployment, which I haven't,

since I wasn't actually laid off.

The thing is, on top of all this going on my wife gave birth to our daughter in December of 2020. A micro-preemie, she arrived at 23 weeks and was immediately placed into the NICU, where she still is.

My wife and I have been with each other for 29 years, and this is our first child. We've never been apart, and it's sad we can't see our daughter together at the same time because of COVID-19.

It's been really tough.



We've been approved for help with two months of rent, and if we get the one month more of help with Time For Change Foundation, then I can apply for the last three months we owe with another service. I've been ensured that my job will begin operating as normal in April, so we will be back on track financially.

## Elsa Espinoza

The pandemic has impacted my family in a very simple way, loss of work hours. We have tried our best to work as much as possible to make ends meet, but there have been moments where we've come up short, and recently, our rent has been one of them. We are asking for help because we feel that we have no other choice, there is no way we could not complete the remaining half of the rent.

I am currently not working due to a coworker who tested positive for COVID. My being near them was enough to be sent home to quarantine, without pay. We really appreciate the help we've gotten in these hard times.

## Rosalind Strong

I am writing this letter as a statement regarding how COVID-19 has affected my livelihood as a disabled senior. Because I depend on the extra change I sometimes get through sewing, babysitting, and other side hustles, I have been unable to meet the small overage on my monthly budget many of the past months during the 2020-21 pandemic.

After my separation and divorce I remained in my home because it is at the lowest price range of rentals in this area, it gives me the ability to utilize extra space for sewing, and allows sharing the cost of living with a roommate.

It would be to my advantage to remain in my space, and deal with finding the extra two to three hundred dollars needed each month, rather than moving into a smaller space to save fifty dollars a month. The expense of

**cont. page 6**





On April 16, ten wonderful young ladies dressed up to celebrate their participation in a series of events aimed at empowering girls of color. Held at Time For Change Foundation's recently acquired restaurant, the three course catered meal offered an opportunity for etiquette training, as well as the simple joy of fellowship with other teens. Spearheaded by TFCF Civic Engagement Specialist Tawna Whitfield, these events would not have been possible without *Grantmakers for Girls of Color*.

**"SEEING HOW THE PANDEMIC HAS TAKEN A TOLL ON THEM...IT'S MORE ABOUT FUN...AND HELPING THEM REALIZE THAT THEY ARE WORTHY OF GREATNESS."**

COVID-19 has dramatically changed their everyday lives. Isolation can lead to a variety of mental health issues in teens. "I'm most pleased in seeing them out of their comfort zone, and able to interact with other girls their age," Tawna says. "Seeing how the pandemic has taken a toll on them...it's more about fun...and helping them realize that they are worthy of greatness."

After the meal was an opportunity for the girls to share the importance of this experience with each other. Each girl was previously tasked with writing an affirmation for presentation to their peers, to help them in remaining steady and grounded, no matter what's happening in their world. Tears were shed, and seeds of inspiration were planted in the minds of all in attendance.

Then came the big surprise! New iPads for every young lady as a reward for their wonderfully inspiring participation.







## PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

Public policy plays a significant role in how Time For Change Foundation makes lasting, positive change. We truly solve problems, instead of temporary fixes.



### SB731

The bill would end the systemic crisis of disenfranchisement and underemployment faced by millions of Californians with a conviction record, who are disproportionately people of color, by effectively sealing all past convictions records once a person has fully completed their sentence and successfully gone two years without further contact with the justice system. Records of arrests that didn't result in a conviction would also be automatically sealed.

In addition, the bill would provide a much-needed major economic boost to California in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. Including an estimated \$20 billion yearly increase to our state's gross domestic product that it currently misses out on from widespread unemployment and underemployment of those with a conviction history.

### AB 990

This bill would include the right to personal visits as a civil right. The bill would provide that these civil rights may not be infringed upon, except as necessary and only if narrowly tailored to further the legitimate security interests of the government, and would provide that any governmental action related to these civil rights may be reviewed in court for legal error under a substantial evidence standard of review.

### SB 354

Seeks to remove barriers that have a disparate impact on families of color when seeking placement of a child in foster care with a relative or non-relative extended family member ("NREFM") who has a criminal history.

This bill addresses California's shortage of foster care homes by reforming state regulations to make it easier to place children with family relatives.



Thank you Tides, for your support of leadership development for formerly incarcerated women.





## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT: AMBER

Released from incarceration in June of 2020, Amber was driven to find a better way of life, but was unsure of where to start. On her acceptance into Time For Change Foundation, she eagerly completed program classes such as Financial Literacy, Entrepreneur Mindset, and Employment Development.

**“TFCF WAS THERE FOR ME AND PROVIDED EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO GET MYSELF ON THE RIGHT TRACK. IF I CAN DO IT, YOU CAN DO IT.”**

With her newfound knowledge on budgeting and saving, she was able to improve her credit score, and buy herself a car. Amber learned to craft a resume, and cover letter. Her hard work and eagerness to improve herself led to TFCF offering her a position as a Peer Mentor, working with our clients to encourage their growth. “If I can do it, you can do it to,” is the message she shares in her Peer Mentor role.

We are incredibly proud of Amber and her progress towards self-sufficiency. She has recently moved into her own apartment and is thriving in her new life!

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## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT: LASHANA

Despite her childhood of poverty, and being witness to alcoholism, a biology degree and nursing assistant position rose LaShana towards success. LaShana came to Time For Change Foundation after a gambling addiction, and schizoaffective disorder disrupted her life.

Diagnosed in 2015, sudden homelessness and unemployment made her attempts to receive treatment and medication difficult. The stress of her predicament, and the inability to attain stable housing created a cycle, where her efforts to improve her life would trigger mental health episodes, collapsing the progress she had made. After being hospitalized, and therefore medicated, she was advised to reach out to Time For Change Foundation.

With mental health counseling, and the drive to make a better life for herself, Lashana is taking things one day at a time, developing healthy methods for coping with her mental health, and looking forward to the future. LaShana’s determination and efforts have been rewarded with her attaining employment, and taking a larger step towards self-sufficiency.

## Pandemic Stories cont. from page 3

paying people to help with packing, moving, truck rental, possible utility deposits, first and last month rent are something I cannot pay. Plus, I do not qualify for most rental units, being that my income is not three times the amount of the rent [required by most rentals.]

The pandemic has left me and many others between a rock and a hard place, but I believe we have hit bottom, and are now headed upward. With a little help, and lots of prayer I know I’ll make it! God has kept me thus far, and I know He’ll see me through! God bless and thanks for all of your help!



# JOIN US!

## WHAT ARE WE GIVING AWAY?

**\$100 CASH**  
*for utility bills (first 250 people)*

**\$50 GIFT CARD**  
*for groceries*

# COMMUNITY ACTION FAIR

## JUNE 12, 2021

**9 A.M.**

St John's Episcopal Church  
1407 N. Arrowhead Ave.  
San Bernardino



## **"She is..." cont. from page 1**

In light of the amazing accomplishments throughout our 19-year history, Time for Change Foundation has continued to live out our mission in ending homelessness for women and their children. What started from humble beginnings as a 6-bed shelter, has grown into a vital part of our community. An organization positively impacting the lives of over 1,700 women, and reuniting 303 children from foster care with their moms.

**"THE WORK BEING DONE BY TIME FOR CHANGE FOUNDATION QUITE LITERALLY CHANGES LIVES EVERYDAY. AND WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT TIME FOR CHANGE FOUNDATION IS THAT WHEN THEY TAKE SOMEONE ON, THEY INVEST IN THE PERSON FOR THE LONG TERM"**


TFCF's expansion throughout the Bay Area with our Brighter Futures shelter is extending greater support for women who are seeking to reunify with their children.

"The work being done by Time for Change quite literally changes lives every day. And what's so special about Time for Change is that when they take someone on, they invest in the person for the long term — making sure that they have both the skills and the resources to be self-sufficient," said host Loni Love.

The "She is..." Gala also highlighted women's success in transitioning to self-sufficiency in the midst of a global

pandemic and an inspiring, narrated painting of one of their client's journeys by artists Russell Craig and Mahogany L. Browne.

This year's honorees included: California Wellness Foundation with the Visionary Leadership Award, Clay Counseling Solutions with the Mental Health Champion Award, Dr. Guillermo Valenzuela with the Community Health Champion Award, California Criminal Justice Funders Group with the Courageous Philanthropy Award, Erin Brinker with the Community Champion Award, Jan Robinson Flint & Nourbese Flint with the Dynamic Duo Award, and Linda Hart with the Ramos Family Spirit of Compassion Award. The inaugural Nancy Varner Angel Award was presented to Nancy Negrette in honor of Nancy Varner's legacy in the Inland Region.

Want to watch a replay of this event? The "She is..." Gala is available on our website [timeforchange.org/videos](https://timeforchange.org/videos), or visit our YouTube channel. 

*thank you*

**TO OUR 19TH ANNUAL GALA SPONSORS!**



impact capital





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

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San Bernardino, CA  
permit#3079

Or Current Resident

To date we have helped over 1,700 homeless women and children reach self-sufficiency,  
and have reunited 303 children out of foster care back with their mothers!

**GIVE CHILDREN BACK. GIVE CHILDREN BACK. GIVE CHILDREN BACK.  
GIVE CHILDREN BACK. GIVE CHILDREN BACK. GIVE CHILDREN BACK.  
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GIVE CHILDREN BACK. GIVE CHILDREN BACK. GIVE CHILDREN BACK.**

Studies show that children who can return to permanent, stable routines in loving homes are more likely to succeed in school and social settings because they aren't occupied with the anxieties of being away from their mothers.

The safety, security, and stability of returning to home life paves the way for futures in which children and their parents can thrive.

