



WARRIOR VILLAGE PROJECT

The Bugle: Vol 2, Issue 4, April 2020

www.WarriorVillageProject.com

PROGRESS REPORT

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, we continue to make progress with our Project!

The business community continued to step forward to support our students and our veterans:

- Rick Millwee, Owner of RM Plumbing, donated his time, expertise and materials to install plumbing in our cottages.
- [Hunsaker & Associates San Diego](#) surveyed the Wounded Warrior Homes site for our Site Plan submission to the County of San Diego.
- [The Pelletier Company](#) solicited the donation and arranged the delivery of doors for our cottages.
- [T.M. Cobb](#) responded to The Pelletier Company's request with the donation of four doors for our cottages.

On April 8, Robert Nagle, Supervising Building Inspector for the County of San Diego, performed the first inspection of our Wounded Warrior Homes cottage at SMHS. We appreciate the support provided by the County of San Diego.

Kelly Luisi, Founder and CEO of [Homeless Veterans of San Diego](#), toured our cottages at SMHS on April 13 to kick off our partnership to provide housing for homeless veterans.



RM Plumbing Inc.

7 March 2020

RM Plumbing donates plumbing services and materials

[See more](#)

HUNSAKER & ASSOCIATES SAN DIEGO

24 March 2020

Hunsaker & Associates donates surveying services

[See more](#)

The Pelletier Company

25 March 2020

The Pelletier Company facilitates donation of doors.

[See more](#)



T.M.COBB
DOORS • WINDOWS • MILLWORK

27 March 2020

T.M. Cobb donates doors for two cottages

[See more](#)

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FUTURE EVENTS

Visit our Website:

WarriorVillageProject.com

VIP PROFILE: Kelly Luisi Founder and CEO, Homeless Veterans of San Diego

Kelly Luisi's younger brother, Sgt. Kyle Colnot (23), was Killed In Action on April 22, 2006 while serving his second tour in Iraq. Her life was changed forever that day. Since then Kelly and her family have been drawn to serve our military and veterans.

In 2006 [Kelly Luisi](#) founded a nonprofit called Our Fallen Soldier that served as a national assistance program for children, spouses and families of fallen soldiers. Using the proceeds from Kyle's insurance policy, the family provided financial assistance to hundreds of families across the country so that they could attend the funerals of their fallen soldiers. As the number of war casualties diminished and the need for support to grieving families abated, the [Our Fallen Soldier](#) website evolved to become a memorial website that continues to honor these heroes.



In 2009 Kelly and her team created [Our Heroes' Journey](#) to support the Wounded Warrior Battalion at Camp Pendleton that was established to help rehabilitate the wounded while they continued to remain on active duty in order to maintain the benefits they might have lost otherwise. The outreach started with "whatever we could do," including basic, non-monetary activities, says Kelly: bringing cookies, hanging out, making fleece blankets, field trips, appointment transportation, turkeys at Thanksgiving, all aimed at making life a little easier following the warriors' hospital stays.

Kelly and her colleagues also began building expertise at speeding and easing the process of obtaining help, securing needed services and doing whatever was necessary to assist the marines in meeting their goals of returning to active duty. In appreciation for her efforts, the 11th Marines awarded Kelly The Molly Pitcher Award, given to individuals who have demonstrated stellar commitment to the mission of the Marines. She was also recognized for her work with gold star families on Camp Pendleton.

Volunteering for the [North County Veterans Stand Down](#), a three-day event aimed at providing services such as haircuts, showers, clothing and access to other support for homeless veterans, marked the next milestone in Kelly's outreach mission. Her outstanding participation at the Stand Down event was recognized by other service providers and led to a leadership role in Outreach for subsequent veterans' gatherings. Kelly became painfully aware of the epidemic of homeless veterans. "I spent all three days focusing on these homeless soldiers," says Kelly. "But at the end of the Stand Down it became apparent that, as positive and beneficial as the experience was, there remained no next step. The veterans just dispersed back into the community without the long-term fix that they needed."

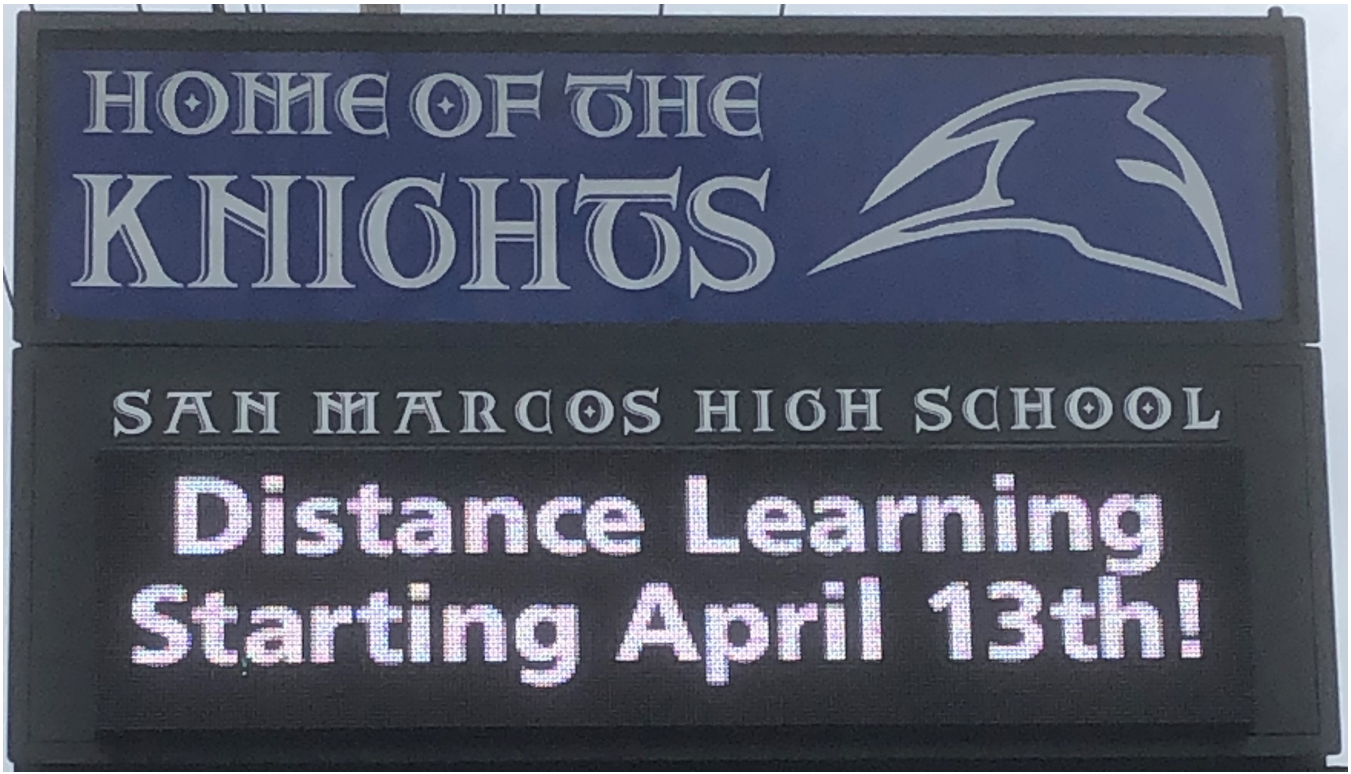
Determined to make a difference, Kelly and her team established [Homeless Veterans of San Diego](#) (HVSD) in 2017. Since then, Kelly has been responsible for developing the strategy and programs of the organization. She has also recruited volunteers and led fund raising efforts. Kelly's "hands on" management style produces results and her experience as a financial manager enables a maximum return on investment.

Kelly Luisi and her team believe that no veteran that has served our country should have to sleep next to a freeway, in downtown doorways, under bridges, in tents on busy city streets, or in brush in canyons and parks. Through individual advocacy, mentoring, and a "hand up" approach Homeless Veterans of San Diego helps homeless veterans realize the comfort of having their own home.

Kelly Luisi and the other good folks at Homeless Veterans of San Diego sound like our kind of people!

SCHOOL UPDATE

COVID-19



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Late March and early April was a tough period for our construction activity. San Marcos High School (SMHS) was shut down, and it rained, and rained and rained. Unfortunately, we also experienced a break-in at the school. A few tools were stolen from our storage container and cottages. Fortunately, there was no physical damage to our cottages, windows or doors stored on site.

The good news is that the rains finally stopped, and we made progress on our cottages, despite the absence of our students. Adult volunteers, including teacher Chris Geldert, Mike McSweeney from the Building Industry Association, Jon Hill and Alan Jurgensen from Associated General Contractors, and Mark Pilcher worked when it wasn't raining to finish the interior framing and install the roof sheathing.



On April 8, Robert 'Bob' Nagle, Supervising Building Inspector for the County of San Diego, performed the first inspection of the cottage we are building for [Wounded Warrior Homes](#). He pointed out a few things we needed to correct before our next inspection, and gave us helpful advice on ways that we could do some things better in the future. Mark Pilcher really appreciated Bob's patience in explaining the 'why and how' of some building codes. We appreciate the continued support from the County of San Diego.



In addition to Kelly Luisi, Founder and CEO of [Homeless Veterans of San Diego](#), we had other visitors to our cottages. Some of our visitors liked our cottages so much that they took up residence. The Bee Family established its household outside of our Wounded Warrior Homes cottage. The Sparrow Family, practicing social distancing, built its cozy nest inside the wall of our other cottage.



PARTNERS: Homeless Veterans of San Diego

The Mission of Homeless Veterans of San Diego is straightforward: **Ending Homelessness Among Veterans in San Diego!** [Homeless Veterans of San Diego](#) (HVSD) helps veterans leverage their considerable skills to rejoin their community. HVSD offers support for veterans to secure housing, medical care, employment, and life skills that are necessary to enable re-entry into their community. Each veteran has a unique story and circumstances. HVSD focuses on individual veterans by providing support and services customized to their needs, delivered in a high touch manner. HVSD creates a relationship, founded on trust, with each veteran that makes them feel comfortable and treated with dignity.

Homeless Veterans of San Diego serves homeless veterans willing to make a commitment to help themselves and work one-on-one with one of HVSD's advocates. HVSD asks a lot of the veterans they serve; they must put in the work to be successful in HVSD's program. Each of them works toward their individual goals with a case manager. Homeless Veterans of San Diego emphasizes the importance of employment and education and offers encouragement through the several steps each veteran must go through. HVSD's approach focuses on **Empowerment, Encouragement** and **Enrichment**:

- Empowerment: Creating weekly goals in collaboration with the veteran, assisting them in rebuilding self-esteem and accountability.
- Encouragement: Using the "No Veteran Left Behind" motto, championing the veteran's strengths while fostering an atmosphere of growth and development leading to a meaningful life as they rejoin their communities after the military.
- Enrichment: Providing resources and programs that enhance a veterans mental, physical, educational, vocational and recreational well-being.

Homeless Veterans of San Diego is an all-volunteer organization. Each week HVSD volunteers meet and talk with 5 - 12 new veterans that are living without shelter here in San Diego. HVSD recently achieved a milestone, by taking their 100th veteran and their families off the streets of San Diego and finding permanent housing for them.



HOMELESS VETERANS OF SAN DIEGO



Homeless Veterans of San Diego has been very successful helping veterans. But, the good folks at HVSD want to do even more. HVSD is working on a plan to create an Equestrian Ranch in North County with the ability to house 25 veterans at a time and serve 75 to 100 veterans per year. The ranch will include a resource and community center, staffed by on-site case managers. The goal is to create a community facilitating the connection of veterans with veterans in a purpose-filled work environment.

When we reached out to Homeless Veterans of San Diego to tell them about our goal of building permanent housing for homeless veterans, we were excited to hear that HVSD believes that collaboration with partners is an absolute necessity to end homelessness for our veterans. HVSD has established and maintains many partnerships within the community. The Warrior Village Project is proud to become one of HVSD's partners. We are excited about the possibility of working together, with the Warrior Village Project providing cottages for HVSD's Heroes & Horses Ranch.

SPONSORS

The Warrior Village Project is a community effort. To succeed, we need financial support. We have been receiving a tremendous response to our pleas for help from individuals and businesses.



Rick Millwee

Rick Hoehn

As we reported in our January Newsletter, Rick Hoehn came off of the retirement bench to help us with our plumbing. Prior to retirement, Rick H. was a plumbing contractor who worked closely with Rick Millwee, now the owner of RM Plumbing Inc. They 'got the band back together again' to help us with the installation of our plumbing. Rick M. donated plumbing materials and tools for our project, and the two of them, working together like a synchronized machine, installed the Drain-Waste-Vent (DWV) system in the cottage we are building for Wounded Warrior Homes. They also taught a couple of our students how it is done so that they could install the DWV system in our second cottage. Thank You Rick and Rick!

A lot of work goes into building a home that often goes unnoticed, including the survey work required to obtain a building permit. This 'behind the scenes work' is expensive. So, we were very happy when [Hunsaker & Associates San Diego](#) offered to do the site survey for our Wounded Warrior Homes cottage for free.

Hunsaker's services include [land planning](#), [civil engineering](#), [survey and mapping](#), and support services such as [GIS and visual simulation](#). Hunsaker's 80 employees, including their surveying and mapping team, are experienced in handling projects of various sizes and complexities. Thank You Hunsaker!



Pete Pelletier



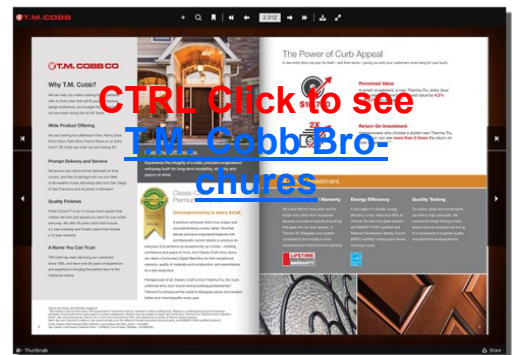
Dawson Family

[The Pelletier Company](#) is co-owned by Pete Pelletier and Craig Dawson. Mike McSweeney has known Craig Dawson as his door and window supplier for his contracting business for over 20 years. So, when we needed doors for our cottages, Mike asked Craig for help. Craig went to work contacting his door suppliers on our behalf. Craig coordinated the donation and delivery of two entry doors and two interior doors from [T.M. Cobb](#). We really appreciate the assist from The Pelletier Company!

If you need new doors or windows, visit The Pelletier Company's showroom and let their knowledgeable staff make recommendations that will bring function and style to your home. With over 30 years of window and door experience, they are ready to help you choose the right products.

When Craig Dawson contacted T.M. Cobb's Branch Manager Marty Gibbons and Outside Sales Rep Sandra Whitworth seeking the donation of doors, they were happy to help. They arranged for the donation of two beautiful fiberglass, single lite, French entry doors with integral blinds as well as two interior bathroom doors.

Ask our friends at [The Pelletier Company](#) about their selection of [T.M. Cobb](#) doors, and tell them you appreciate The Pelletier Company and TM Cobb for helping our students and our veterans.



DONATE TO THE WARRIOR VILLAGE PROJECT

We can provide truly affordable, permanent housing. But, we can't do it for free. To succeed, we need financial support. The materials required to build our cottages cost about \$25,000 per cottage. It will cost about \$10,000 to transport a cottage to its installation site. The cost of installing a cottage as an Accessory Dwelling Unit will depend on the site. But, it should cost about \$30,000 per cottage. Hence, we can provide permanent housing for a veteran for about \$65,000 per unit. This is a bargain compared to the cost of government supported 'affordable' housing projects. According to the [Terner Center for Housing Innovation](#) at UC Berkeley, it cost an average of \$480,000 (\$700/sq ft) to build one unit of affordable housing in California under the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program.

Donors who wish to donate for the construction of our first two cottages can make a contribution through our fiscal sponsor, [The San Marcos Promise \(https://thesanmarcospromise.org/donate/#ways-to-donate\)](https://thesanmarcospromise.org/donate/#ways-to-donate), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

- **Online Donations:** When you donate online, please '*Leave A Comment*' indicating that your donation is for the [Warrior Village Project](#).
- **Donations by Check:** Mail your check, made payable to [The San Marcos Promise](#), to:

**The San Marcos Promise
255 Pico Avenue, Suite 103
San Marcos, CA 92069**

Please write on the Check's Memo Line that your donation is for the [Warrior Village Project](#).

If you would like more information on the Warrior Village Project and our Partners, please visit our website, WarriorVillageProject.com, or send an email to Mark.L.Pilcher@gmail.com.

Please help us to provide affordable, permanent housing for homeless veterans while training the next generation of homebuilders.

PROJECT CONTACTS

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If you would like to receive future editions of our Newsletter via email, please send an email to Mark.L.Pilcher@gmail.com. Thank you for your interest and support.