



# WARRIOR VILLAGE PROJECT

*The Bugle: Vol 2, Issue 5, May 2020*

[www.WarriorVillageProject.com](http://www.WarriorVillageProject.com)

## PROGRESS REPORT

This month's newsletter is a special edition, focusing on our partners in the Palomar College Cabinet and Furniture Technology Department, our Sponsors who are making the building of kitchen cabinets at Palomar College possible, and one Warrior Village Project VIP who learned his cabinet making skills at Palomar College. I have discovered that Cabinet Makers and Cabinet Suppliers are a special group of people! We thank all of them for supporting our students and our veterans.



**Timber Products Company**  
THE TREMENDOUS RESOURCE™

19 May 2020

Timber Products Company donates plywood

[See more](#)



19 May 2020

DBS donates cabinet drawers

[See more](#)



19 May 2020

Blum donates cabinet hardware

[See more](#)



AMERICAN LAMINATES  
INCORPORATED

19 May 2020

American Laminates donates laminate

[See more](#)



a J.R. Sharp Company

19 May 2020

ESI donates edgbanding material

[See more](#)



Wurth Louis and Company

19 May 2020

Wurth donates cabinet hardware

[See more](#)

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**FUTURE EVENTS**

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19 May 2020

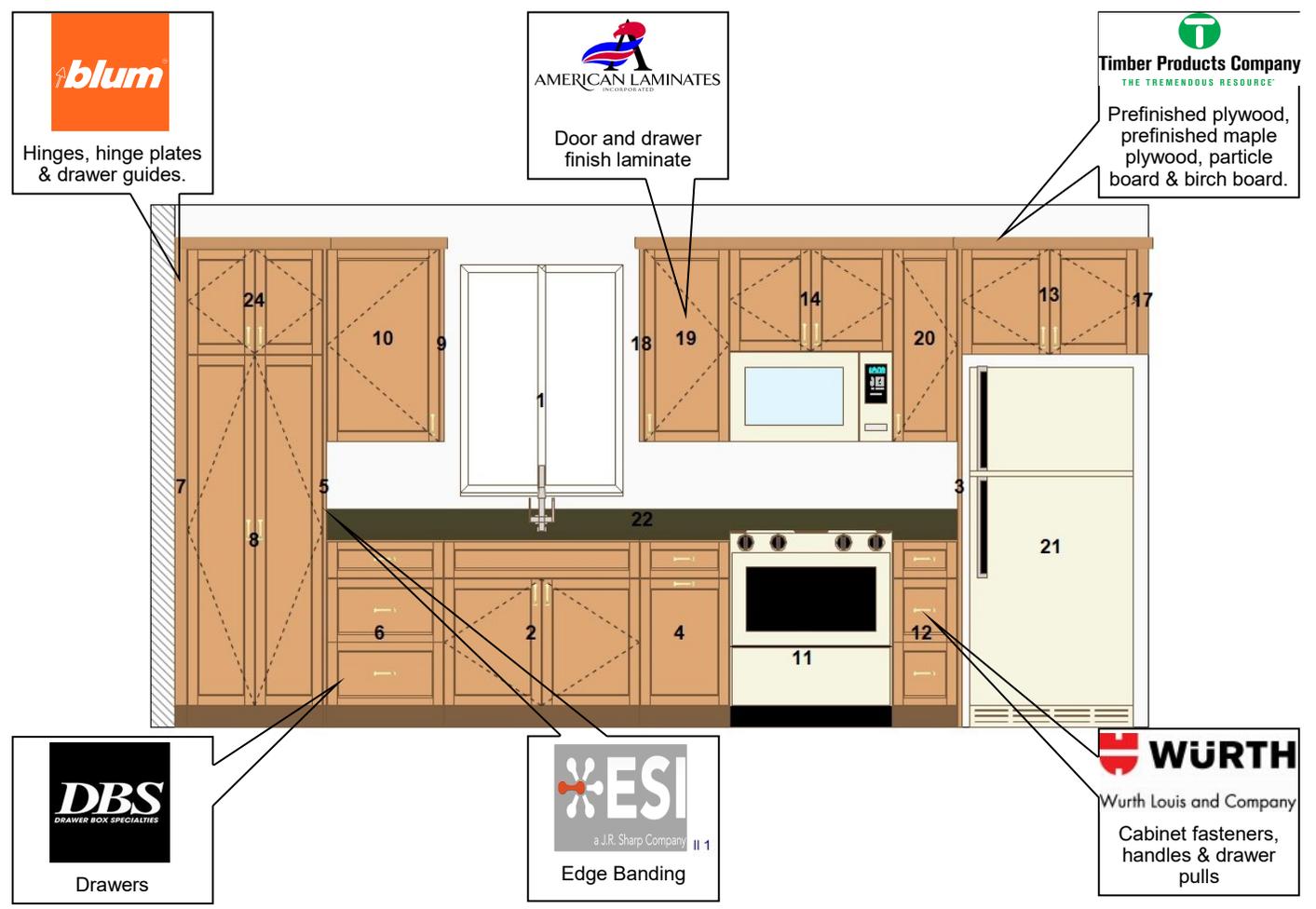
**Brendan Mathews  
builds cabinets**

[See more](#)

19 May 2020

**Saroyan rallies cabinet  
material suppliers**

[See more](#)



The Palomar College Furniture and Technology Department finished the kitchen cabinets for our first cottage (SM #1). They will be installed at a Wounded Warrior Homes residence in Vista this summer. Until then, the cabinets are in temporary storage in Brendan Mathews' trailer.

## VIP PROFILE: Christopher 'Chris' Geldert

In previous newsletters we profiled individuals who have made significant contributions to the Warrior Village Project. This month we are profiling the one absolutely indispensable person on our amazing team, San Marcos High School (SMHS) Instructor, Christopher Geldert. It is not hyperbole to say that we could not do what we are doing without Chris' skills, his dedication to his students, and his extraordinary commitment to the success of the Warrior Village Project.

Chris teaches 120 students in four Intro to Woodworking (BITA I) classes. Chris integrated the construction of two cottages into the curriculum for his 23 BITA II students, a challenge he eagerly undertook to provide his students with additional learning experiences. Chris also teaches an Advanced Wood Manufacturing class that focuses on CAD/CAM skills and CNC machine set up and troubleshooting, as he sees a future where building processes become more automated. In addition to making sure that his students learn marketable skills, Chris has also worked to build ties to industry to help his students find jobs upon graduation.



Chris teaches framing fundamentals in Building Industry Technology Academy (BITA) II class.

Chris has run a very strong cabinet and furniture making program at SMHS for the last 9 years. The quality of his instruction at SMHS is reflected in the bushels of blue ribbons his students win for their handcrafted furniture every year at the San Diego County Fair in Del Mar. In his typically humble way, he gives credit to his predecessor, Allan Brent, for bequeathing him a thriving program. But, after being at the helm for 9 years, Chris deserves much credit for the continuing success and growth of the program, bucking the national trend of declining enrollments in vocational education across the nation.

(Continued on page 4).

## VIP PROFILE: Christopher Geldert (continued)



San Marcos High School craftsmanship on display at the San Diego County Fair, June 2019.

Chris has been teaching high school students in a woodshop for 10 years. Prior to joining the faculty at SMHS, Chris taught in Oceanside and South Pasadena. Chris' background is in finish carpentry and cabinet making. Chris was a student in the [Cabinet and Furniture Technology](#) Program at Palomar College and then ran a small business building and installing cabinets before he decided to become a teacher. Chris continued his education at UC Santa Barbara and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics before attending National University to earn his M.A. in Cross Cultural Teaching, his teaching credential in Industrial Technology and Economics, and a CTE Credential in Building and Construction Trades.

Prior to starting his teaching career, Chris was a seasonal firefighter for Cal-Fire. He has been an ocean Lifeguard and EMT I for 20 years, which keeps him involved and active during the summers. Chris still does some side work in kitchen cabinet design and construction; however, his daughter June (age 4), son Dean (age 2), his wife Sara who is a nurse, and the many extra hours he spends helping his students, limit his time for moonlighting.

Chris has always been passionate about helping others, desirous of assisting to develop talent in students, and assuring a well-run community. He believes in developing and training students in all professions as well as exposing them to a variety of opportunities so they will thrive in their chosen careers. Christopher enjoys seeing students excited about a profession then steering them to resources and developing their talents for amazing outcomes. He is constantly reviewing new programs and ideas for students as well as pursuing his own continuing education to stay informed and strive for excellence in his teaching.

(Continued on page 5)

## VIP PROFILE: Christopher Geldert (continued)

Chris is very excited about the BITA curriculum and was grateful for the opportunity for his students to construct housing for homeless veterans. Noting that he is not a home builder himself, he was eager to learn about building cottages for the Warrior Village Project. Chris is extremely passionate about providing students with opportunities to learn about skilled trades. The opportunity to offer the BITA curriculum with the Warrior Village Project as a capstone project is a dream of his that has come true.

You would never hear this from Chris, but he was a Champion Wrestler in high school. In 2001, Chris scored an 8 - 6 win in the heavyweight competition to push Oceanside's El Camino High School past defending league champion La Costa Canyon. That match was tied, 24 - 24, entering Chris' bout. The following week, competing in the 215 weight class, he recorded the match-clinching pin in El Camino High School's 33 - 28 Avocado League victory over Fallbrook, pinning his opponent in 1:25. El Camino's 16-year drought without a league title was finished.



February 2001:

Chris reversed the take down, scored 2 points, and won the match 8 – 6, and the championship.

Chris' drive to complete our cottages by the end of the school term reflects the competitive spirit that propelled him in wrestling. He doesn't like failure, whether it is on the mat, teaching in the classroom, or building homes for our homeless veterans behind his woodshop. When San Marcos High School classes were suspended due to the Corona Virus pandemic, Chris came to school to continue working on our cottages along with other adult volunteers. He made sure that we were able to deliver our first cottage to Wounded Warrior Homes, as promised.

Chris is an imposing man. He still has the muscular physique of a heavyweight wrestler. In his black hard hat, sporting 'Terminator' sunglasses and a full beard, he must look intimidating to his students. This could explain why he has so few discipline problems in his classes! But, after many days observing him work with his students, it is clear that his students respond to his instruction style, rooted in mutual respect between him and his students. Chris isn't just teaching carpentry skills; he is teaching life skills, which will serve his students well no matter where life takes them.

## SCHOOL UPDATE

### COVID-19

Our students have the opportunity to participate in two major competitions to test their skills against students from throughout California. In our February newsletter, we told you that five of our students had advanced from the SkillsUSA Region 6 competition on February 1 to the State Competition to be held in Ontario on April 16 - 19. Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 shutdown, this event was cancelled.

Another competition our students were looking forward to is the [Design Build Competition](#). Design Build gathers teams from high schools and community colleges in a two-day competition to design and build their own structures. Recent years have brought a focus to green designs, framing and construction techniques. Each school may sell their final product and retain the revenue to support their program.

We were excited to have SMHS field a team for the Design Build Competition for the first time this year. Forty-six California high schools registered to participate. However, due to COVID-19, the competition was moved online so students could participate individually from home, and the competition was opened to students throughout the US. The online competition included four segments:

- Free OSHA 10 Construction Training online through CareerSafe.
- Resume submission (including a live webinar about how to create a resume as a high schooler).
- Access to the Online Student Plan Room (including a live webinar about how to use plan rooms).
- A cost estimating exercise for the shell of a Tiny Home (with a live webinar about cost estimating).
- Building a physical model using only materials found in a student's home.
- A video submission of the student's physical model showing where they would anticipate the biggest challenges if actually constructing the Tiny Home.

Twenty-two of our twenty-three SMHS students took advantage of the learning opportunity by signing up for at least one of the Competition's segments. Seniors Jackson Fradd and Angie Witt completed all six segments of the Design Build Competition. Jackson finished 6th in the competition, which is a great personal accomplishment, and a very strong showing for SMHS' first time in the Competition.

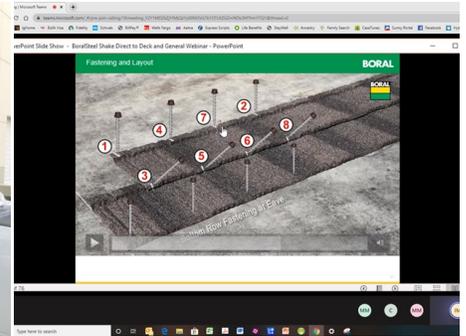
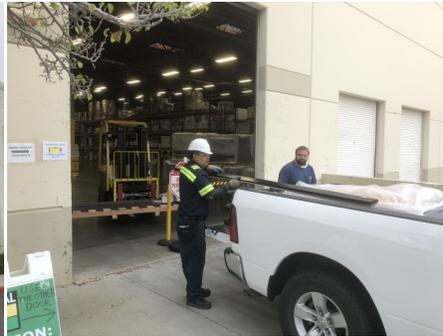


## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

We continued to make progress on the construction of our two cottages with a crew of adult volunteers. On May 7, Rick Millwee, RM Plumbing Inc., and Rick Hoehn returned to the job site to install the PEX cold and hot water supply lines in our first cottage (SM #1). They returned again on May 13, along with Wes Jenkins, to install the supply lines in our second cottage (SM #2). Their work is complete, until SM #1 is installed at our Wounded Warrior Homes site in Vista. Thank you Rick, Rick and Wes!



Boral Steel offered to donate roofing materials for our cottages way back in September. Tim Brown, Territory Sales Manager, coordinated the pickup of the materials with his colleague Shannon Brown, Logistics Manager. On April 29 we picked up the roofing panels and accessories at Boral's manufacturing plant and distribution center in Oceanside. Tim also organized an online Boral Training Webinar for us with his colleague Ian May who talked us through the installation process for the roofing panels.



Our crew installed 30# felt paper around the eaves of our cottages (SM # 1 and #2) in preparation for the installation of fascia board and our Boral Steel Stone Coated Roofing. Jon Hill, Associated General Contractors, came to the site on May 13 to show us how the pros measure, cut and install fascia boards.



## PARTNERS: Palomar College Cabinet and Furniture Technology

In our February Newsletter we described our nascent partnership with Palomar College, including the Departments of Architecture, Interior Design, and Cabinet and Furniture Technology. This month, I would like to expound upon the contribution that the Cabinet and Furniture Technology Department is making to the Warrior Village Project, because it is an extraordinary story of a community in action.

The Palomar College Cabinet and Furniture Technology program offers the most comprehensive wood-working career curriculum in the nation. Utilizing three fully-equipped shops, 1 full-time and 20 part-time instructors provide a breadth of courses and depth of expertise impossible to obtain in smaller programs. So, when Jennifer Anderson, Lead Instructor, told us that Palomar wanted to build kitchen cabinets for our cottages, we were thrilled! Enlisting the help of Adjunct Instructor, Brendan Mathews, they prepared for their students to start building kitchen cabinets for our two cottages in the Spring of 2020.

Brendan owns [Foothill CabinetWorks](#) in Vista, CA. In addition to running his business, Mathews has been teaching production cabinetmaking at Palomar College for the last twenty years. Coordinating with Chris Geldert, Brendan did a preliminary design for the base and wall cabinets. Then, consulting with Interior Design students Jennifer Ruder and Melvin Hardy, and Wounded Warrior Homes Executive Director Mia Roseberry, they produced a final design for the cabinets, taking into consideration the requirements of Mia's veterans. This sounds like a big undertaking, but it was just the beginning.

Brendan shifted into high gear, reaching out to his suppliers to seek donations of materials to build our cabinets. With the help of our friends at [Saroyan Hardwoods](#) in San Marcos, Brendan secured the donation of materials from six companies. I should not have been surprised by the response he received, but I am still in awe of how many companies are eager to help our veterans and our students.

Jennifer and Brendan had everything lined up and ready for Brendan's students to start building cabinets for us starting in March 2020. Then, we got hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Like other schools across the nation, the Administration and Faculty at Palomar College started working on plans for 'Distance Learning', which is extremely difficult for hands-on classes in cabinet making. But, it didn't take long for Brendan to come up with a plan. With the help of Georg Kast, Department Facilities Manager, and Paul Singer, a volunteer Teaching Assistant, Brendan milled the parts to build cabinets for our Wounded Warrior Homes cottage. Then Brendan produced an instructional video for his students so that they could assemble the cabinets at home, and made himself available via phone if they needed any help in the assembly. Brendan's students picked up the parts at Brendan's shop and took them home to assemble.

We are very grateful to our Partners at Palomar College and the companies who have donated the materials to build our cabinets: [Timber Products Company](#), [Blum](#), [DBS](#), [American Laminates](#), [ESI](#), and [Wurth Louis and Company](#). And, our special thanks go out to Brendan.



Growing up, the closest master cabinetmaker Brendan Mathews thought he would ever come to being a woodworker was wielding a baseball bat. "Like half of little boys in the U.S. I thought I was going to be a baseball player," Mathews says with a laugh. "I felt competent and reasonably skilled but I never thought I had a natural aptitude for woodworking."

By leveraging his inner drive and continuous pursuit of self-improvement, Mathews has not only succeeded as a professional custom cabinetmaker, he has enjoyed the opportunity to teach the next generation of cabinetmakers.

Mathews owns [Foothill CabinetWorks](#) in Vista, CA. In addition to running his business, Mathews has been teaching production cabinetmaking at Palomar College for the last twenty years. His students build cabinets for the Warrior Village Project.

(Continued on page 9).

## PARTNERS: Palomar College Cabinet and Furniture Technology (continued)

When Palomar College's Cabinet and Furniture Technology program offered to build cabinets for our cottages, we envisioned that they would be building them as a class project in one of three well-equipped workshops at Palomar. It did not quite work out as we had planned. These photos from a cabinet making class held two years ago show what we thought would happen, with students, instructors and teaching assistants working together to build our cabinets. This is how we hope future cabinets for the Warrior Village Project will be built after we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.



## 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.



A lot of materials are required to build kitchen cabinets. The starting point is the plywood that is used to build the boxes and doors for the base and wall cabinets. Brad Irvine, Manager of [Saroyan Hardwoods](#) in San Marcos, contacted Saroyan's plywood supplier, [Timber Products Company](#), on our behalf, seeking plywood for our cabinets. Randy Lambert, Daniel Libolt and Kassy Stout of Timber Products arranged for the donation of 24 sheets of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " prefinished maple plywood, 8 sheets of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " prefinished plywood, 3 sheets of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " shop birch and 4 sheets of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " particle board. That is a lot of sheet material. We are grateful to Timber Products Company for their generous donation, and to Brad, Randy, Daniel and Kassy for making it happen!

To be functional, cabinet doors must be hung with hinges, and cabinet drawers must have drawer glides so that they can be easily opened and closed. Brendan and his students are building Euro style, frameless cabinets which require specific hinges and drawer glides. Fortunately, when Brendan asked [Blum, Inc.](#) to donate hardware for our cabinets, Brent Akenson of Blum was happy to support our students and our veterans with the donation of 60 cam height adjustable hinge plates, 44 Inserta hinges, 16 zero protrusion Inserta hinges and 26 Movento 21" drawer guides. If this sounds 'Greek' to you, trust me when I tell you that this is top-of-the-line cabinet hardware. Our veterans will love their kitchen cabinets. Thank you Blum and Brent Akenson!



What are cabinets without drawers: boring and not very functional! When Brendan Mathews asked Chris Kish at [DBS](#) (aka Drawer Box Specialties) for help, Chris not only promised to donate drawers for our cabinets, he said "Thank you for allowing us to participate in this fantastic event." Thank you DBS and Chris Kish for your generous donation of 24 drawers and two double trash bin units for our two cottages. The next time you buy cabinets, make sure that they have the finest drawers available, from DBS, of course!

Brendan Mathews wasn't satisfied with building nice, functional cabinets. He wanted to build beautiful cabinets for our veterans! So, naturally, he wanted to finish the cabinets built by his students with a textured melamine laminate finish from [American Laminates](#). Jennifer Ruder and Melvin Hardy from the Palomar College Department of Interior Design worked with Mia Roseberry of Wounded Warrior Homes to select a beautiful laminate finish material from dozens of color and texture options offered by American Laminates. They selected the Cannella Oak color, with a Real Wood Texture. Our friend Brad Irvine from Saroyan Hardwoods helped Brendan obtain a donation of 10 sheets of the  $\frac{3}{4}$ " textured melamine from American Laminates. Our kitchen cabinets will be as beautiful as they are functional, thanks to American Laminates.



## SPONSORS (continued)



Following the process of cabinet making has been an educational experience for me. I didn't realize how many different types of materials are required to build a cabinet, or how many different vendors are involved in supplying those materials. In addition to the sheet laminate required to finish the faces of the cabinets, banding is required to finish the edges of the cabinet doors, drawers and interior shelves.

[ESI](#) (aka Edgebanding Services, Inc.) donated four rolls of 1 mm x 300' of ESI Cannella Oak tape banding to finish the edges of our doors and cabinets, and two rolls of 1 mm x 300' hardrock maple banding to finish the edges of the interior shelves. That is 1,800 feet of edge banding for two sets of kitchen cabinets. Thank you ESI for your generosity!

Each cabinet in a kitchen is assembled with a variety of hardware pieces that hold the individual cabinets together, and connect them together into a beautiful wall of furniture. [Wurth Louis and Company](#) donated all of the hardware for our cabinets, including all of the fasteners needed to assemble and install the cabinets: #7 5/8" wood screws; #8 1", 1-1/4" and 2-1/2" wood screws; 1-1/4" and 1-1/2" 18 ga. crown staples; Euro screws; Fastcap PVC screw cap covers; 1 mm PVC edge banding, and; 3M Fasbond contact cement.

No kitchen cabinet would be complete without decorative hardware from Wurth Louis and Company. Wurth Louis donated 36 pieces of decorative hardware (handles and knobs) to make our cabinets as beautiful as they are functional.



Cabinet and Furniture Technology student, Clint Eagleston, assembled a wall cabinet in his "Shelter-at-Home" workshop. His workshop is not quite as well equipped as the three large workshops at Palomar College, but that didn't keep him from building beautiful, top-of-the-line kitchen cabinets for our Wounded Warrior Homes cottage. We appreciate our Palomar partners for persevering under very difficult circumstances to help 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](http://WarriorVillageProject.com), or send an email to [Mark.L.Pilcher@gmail.com](mailto:Mark.L.Pilcher@gmail.com).

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

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