



WARRIOR VILLAGE PROJECT

The Bugle: Vol 3, Issue 3, March 2021

www.WarriorVillageProject.com

PROGRESS REPORT

Montecito High School Is In The House: “We’ve Got This!”

On Thursday, March 4, Nick Jordan and his construction students from Ramona’s [Montecito High School](#) arrived ready to work on our cottage in Vista for [Wounded Warrior Homes](#). The 10 students were a welcome site walking down the driveway to the building site with their tool boxes in tow.



Mia Roseberry, Executive Director of Wounded Warrior Homes, welcomed the Montecito Toros to the job site and thanked them for their help in providing housing for our veterans. Montecito presented a beautiful American Flag Bench to Wounded Warrior Homes for their new cottage.



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FUTURE EVENTS

Visit our Website:

WarriorVillageProject.com

VIP PROFILE: Matt C.



Matt C.: A Story of Endurance

In support of [Wounded Warrior Homes](#), we are bringing you the story of Matt C. Matt joined the Army right after 9/11 and served for almost 12 years, reaching the rank of Staff Sergeant. During his first two tours, Matt trained and served as a fire direction specialist in the artillery. His last three and a half years were spent as a 'Human Intelligence Collector' (Interrogator). After multiple combat deployments, which included Iraq and Afghanistan, he left the military with an almost 100% disability rating, suffering from Traumatic Brain Injury, PTSD, severe depression and anxiety. After trying to make it on his own for several years, he ended up at the [Aspire Center](#), the VA's residential program in San Diego. The [Aspire Center](#) promotes recovery in service members, particularly those returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. After discharge, Matt was homeless and living in his truck when he came to [Wounded Warrior Homes](#).

Matt stayed two years in Wounded Warrior Homes' transitional housing program, concentrating on his physical and mental issues with treatment and therapy. Although he was unable to go to work or attend school, he dedicated himself to getting better a day at a time while chipping away at his other issues, which included establishing financial stability, regaining his driver's license and reestablishing a relationship with his kids. He recently graduated from our program and moved to Long Beach where he is living independently.

Looking back on his two years in the program, Matt admits "*Without Wounded Warrior Homes I don't know where I would be.*" He goes on to say, "*The staff and owners are absolutely amazing! They go above and beyond to support their veterans. Thank you Wounded Warrior Homes for helping me turn my life around*".

To help more Veterans like Matt, Wounded Warrior Homes needs YOUR help. Your support will directly change the lives of wounded veterans struggling with Traumatic Brain Injury and/or issues of PTSD. Please help Wounded Warrior Homes by clicking here to donate whatever you can to Wounded Warrior Homes' [Full Force for Veterans](#) campaign.

Thank you, on behalf of:

Mia Roseberry
Executive Director & Co-Founder
[Wounded Warrior Homes](#)

SCHOOL UPDATE

Montecito High School, Ramona, CA

In last month's newsletter we introduced you to [Montecito High School](#) (MHS), its awesome Construction Program, and Nick Jordan, the amazing teacher that makes it all happen. We also told you about Montecito's enviable record in SkillsUSA Competitions. The results from this year's 2021 [SkillsUSA Region 6 Conference](#) are in. Once again, Montecito students walked away with more than their fair share of metal, as in Gold, Silver and Bronze medals!

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the SkillsUSA Region 6 Conference was virtual this year. Instead of performing their assignments in person, the competitors did written and verbal presentations of how they would have completed their assignments. Their communication skills were tested as well as their technical skills.

Francisco Santoyo, Jonathan Liona and Kaleb Koeberlien competed in Carpentry. **Francisco** brought the Region 6 Gold back to Montecito. **Adrian Garcia** was unable to compete in the 2020 State competition, because it was cancelled due to COVID-19. As a 2020 graduate, Adrian returned this year to win the 2021 Region 6 Gold in Carpentry in the College Division.

Montecito's 2020 Region 6 Gold winning **TeamWorks** team, comprising **Blake Yule, Christopher Coleman, Luis Lozano and Manuel Moreno**, returned to take the Gold in the College Division.

Montecito entered two teams in the High School Division **TeamWorks** competition. The team of **Lanie Rake, Lacie Leggit, Mark Snow and Kylun Webb** brought home the Gold. The team of **Luis Alaniz, Oscar Ramirez, Ivan Oros and Joel Dukes** took the Silver.

Keynigh Gastelum competed in **Electrical Construction Wiring** and brought home the Gold Medal. All of our Montecito students have advanced to the SkillsUSA California State Competition in April.



SCHOOL UPDATE San Marcos High School

[San Marcos High School](#) (SMHS) students returned to campus on Tuesday, March 23rd. Students in Cohort A will be on campus on Tuesday/Thursday and students in Cohort B will be on campus on Wednesday/Friday. Chris Geldert's students will make the most of their abbreviated in-person school year by participating in the [Design Build Competition](#) hosted by the [Construction Industry Education Foundation](#) (CIEF), and promoted by the [Building Industry Association of Southern California](#) and the [California Homebuilding Foundation](#) (CHF)

The event was designed to promote career awareness and create a fun learning experience for high school students. [Twin Oaks High School](#) (San Marcos) and [Montecito High School](#) (Ramona) will also be competing. This is the first year that San Diego county schools have participated in the Competition.

SCHOLARSHIPS

A limited number of scholarships will be awarded to 2021 Design Build participants who are seniors graduating in the spring of 2021 and will be pursuing a career in the built environment. This includes apprenticeship programs, two and four year colleges or universities and trade schools.

Visit cia.foundation to apply for a 2021 Design Build Competition Scholarship.

QUESTIONS?

For questions on the 2021 Design Build Competition or the Construction Industry Education Foundation, please contact Jordan Blair at jblair@cia.foundation or 916.465.8345.

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INSPECTED

Competing from your campus (or home) in 2021!



Photos from past Design Build Competitions

(continued on page 5)

SCHOOL UPDATE

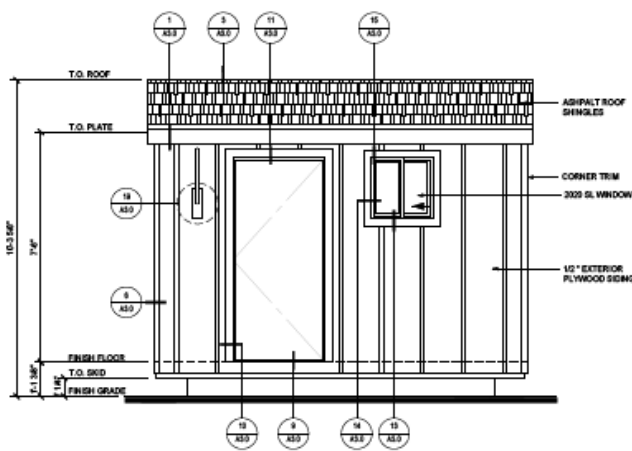
San Marcos High School

The CIEF **Design Build Program** promotes career awareness of the construction industry among high school students. It is an effort to recognize student achievements and affords the construction industry an opportunity to support schools, students, and Career Technical Educational (CTE) programs. The competition provides an opportunity for high school students to gain firsthand knowledge of the construction industry and have hands-on experience in the construction process.

Each team in the **Design and Open Competitions** will be challenged to design and prepare construction documents according to criteria outlined by CIEF and build their structure at their school site or other designated location. Plans will be provided for schools in the **Build Competition**. Participating student teams will be judged on the completion of design, plan review (if applicable), safety and health adherence, and construction phases of a structure.

CIEF has provided all construction materials listed on the materials list, arranged for the delivery of the materials to the school site, and will judge the Competition. Schools competing in the **Open Competition** will be responsible for any additional items they would like to incorporate in their structure beyond the provided materials list. Gift cards to purchase at-home building materials and free online OSHA 10 Training is available for students competing from home. CIEF's mission is to help instructors and students to keep building in whatever manner they can this spring.

San Marcos High School is competing in the **Build Competition**. They will be transforming the materials provided by CIEF into a tool shed for another great SMHS CTE program, the [Agriculture Education](#) program, which is training our [Future Farmers of America](#).



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

On March 4 and 5, students from Nick Jordan's Montecito High School Construction Program worked on our first cottage which was installed on its foundation in Vista on February 12. They attacked a 'punch list' of items to prepare for the installation of exterior lap siding. They installed steel support straps around the perimeter of the cottage to secure it to the foundation. After a little bit of hands-on instruction from Nick Jordan, the students secured the window frames and caulked the windows.



There was a lot of activity on the building site on March 4 and 5. In addition to the Toros, several volunteer contractors were working. Rick Hoehn and Rick Milwee, owner of [RM Plumbing](#), have been helping us throughout the project, starting with the installation of the interior plumbing with students at San Marcos High School before the cottage was transported to Vista. Rick Millwee installed the connection to the sewer with the help of the [Seabees](#) in December. The Ricks came back this month to complete the underground plumbing, and connect the sewer and the water and propane supply lines to the cottage.



Rick Millwee showed the students how to braze copper pipe. He installed a 1" copper standpipe for the fire sprinkler system. [Brazing copper pipe](#) is one of the many skills Rick learned on his journey to a very successful career as a plumbing contractor, and a volunteer for the Warrior Village Project.

Rick Hoehn was also a very successful plumbing contractor, who came off of the retirement bench to help our students and veterans. He will be coming back to the site to give our students a 'guided tour' of the plumbing.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE (continued)

Jon Joseph, Training & Safety Coordinator for [Symons Fire Protection, Inc.](#), was on site on March 5 to tell our students about careers in fire-life safety. Then he supervised the students who installed three fire sprinklers in the cottage. Jon arranged for the Vista Fire Department to inspect our students work on our next work day, but something called 'Finals' interfered with our scheduling.



At times, it got pretty crowded in the cottage. While some students were installing sprinklers, others were busy reinforcing the pony wall between the living room and the bedroom with OSB plywood. At the same time, other students were working on the manhole to the crawl space in the bedroom, and installing blocking and insulation for the shower stall in the bathroom.

Fortunately, there was enough work to do on the outside that the students weren't bumping into each other every time they turned around!

Our Montecito students got a lot of work done in 2 days. We are looking forward to their return!

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE (continued)

Josue Morales, Aaron Poliska and Sal Topete from [JAAM Electric](#) came to the site on March 5 to make the connection to the electrical panel and to install the low voltage electrical wiring. They came while our students were on site so that they could explain what they were doing and answer questions. JAAM is one of the many companies that are dedicated to helping our students and our veterans.



On March 5 the Toros demonstrated their championship teamwork skills to unload 150 pieces of [Hardie-ePlank® Fiber Cement Lap Siding](#) that was donated by our friends at [Weyerhaeuser](#) and transported from San Marcos High School to the building site by our friends at [Saroyan Hardwoods of San Marcos](#).



Montecito High School students will not be able to take any more field trips until further notice. However, we hope that Nick Jordan will be able to return with his students soon to install the siding that they unloaded.

In the meantime, we wish Montecito good luck in the 2021 California State SkillsUSA competition.

Go Toros!



PARTNERS

One of our Partners is the [California Homebuilding Foundation](#) (CHF). We share a mission to promote workforce education programs. One of our 'shared successes' is Angeline Witt, a 2020 graduate of the BITA program and the Warrior Village Project at San Marcos High School, Angeline is now a student in the Construction Management Program at [Cal Poly San Luis Obispo](#).

Student Success Stories

Angeline Witt is a graduate of the BITA program, San Marcos High School, San Diego. Because of your support of the BITA program, Angeline is following her dream of pursuing a career in construction that focuses on developing sustainable, energy-efficient homes.

Angeline— "I grew up watching HDTV and found a passion for construction. I am a hard worker and love doing projects around the house. When BITA started at my school, I knew I was very fortunate to go to a school that took my career and education seriously.

Our BITA class project was to complete two tiny homes for homeless veterans in our community. My grandpa was an engineer, career Navy. My family, especially my grandpa, was proud of me for taking BITA and learning to build houses for veterans. I am grateful I got to give back to veterans, while learning a skill that would ultimately benefit my future.

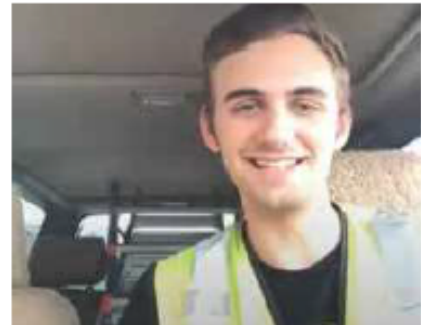
I was one of two girls in the BITA class and quickly fell into a team leadership role. My responsibility was to keep everyone on track and project focused. I learned to read blueprints, and help my team understand tasks for the day. I realized the importance of good communication, problem solving, and teamwork.

Without the support of industry, the tiny home project would not have been successful. Many of the volunteers became a mentor to me and guided me through different industry pathways. Before taking BITA, I was on a different career path, but BITA pivoted my vision and for that, I am thankful."

Your donations help students, like Angeline, identify their career goals. BITA kids know you care about their future.



With your support, Angeline Witt graduated BITA and just started Cal Poly SLO, Construction Management



Your gift is hard at work helping create viable futures. 2019 BITA graduate Blake Musso is a HVAC installer at Villara



With your help, BITA teaches teenagers how to build structures, while equally building self-esteem, confidence, and respect for the industry

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22% ADMINISTRATION

58% PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

HOW YOUR DONATIONS ARE USED

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Thanks to our Supporters

Hello friend,

Thank you! Your gifts this quarter have been especially important.

All BITA students across California returned this semester to 100% distance, online learning. Thanks to your gift, BITA programs were able to restart the semester strong; and despite distance learning obstacles, efforts to educate more students interested in a career in building continue.

In Q2 over 100 students became OSHA 10 certified online. OSHA 10 is highly valued by an employer, promoting workplace safety; however, disadvantaged students cannot always afford extra training.

Thank you for helping a student become OSHA 10 certified!

With your continued support, next steps to help BITA students during campus shutdowns is to provide homebuilding model kits and materials for students to build small scale structures at home in a virtual classroom setting; home tool kits of measuring tapes, speed squares, and pencils; and extra PPE equipment for intermittent on-site classroom attendance.

Thank you for supporting this life changing program.

With appreciation,
Terri Brunson



TERRI BRUNSON
Executive Director
tbrunson@mychf.org

2020 STUDENT SURVEY

65%

OF BITA STUDENTS
ENROLLED TO
LEARN A TRADE

THE BITA
NETWORK
EXPANDED BY

25%

63%

OF BITA 2
STUDENTS ARE
WORKFORCE READY

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Do you have any idea how important you are to the work we do?

CHF could not provide widespread hands-on, project-based construction training in over 40 high schools in California without you.

The BITA program is not about CHF's accomplishments, it is about what your generosity has helped accomplish. Your support is essential to training students in BITA.

Without donors like you, there would not be a BITA program. Your continued generosity has changed high school construction training in California.

Donor spotlight stories will kick off next newsletter... stay tuned.

OUR MISSION is to advance the homebuilding industry in California by providing scholarships, publishing innovative research findings, and promoting workforce education programs.

The California Homebuilding Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization. Tax ID#: 94-2581819.

All contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law. Please consult your tax advisor.

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 cottages at San Marcos High School can make a contribution through our fiscal sponsor, [The San Marcos Promise](https://www.thesanmarcospromise.org/one-time-donation) (<https://www.thesanmarcospromise.org/one-time-donation>), 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.

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