



WARRIOR VILLAGE PROJECT

The Bugle: Vol 1, Issue 4, December 2019

www.WarriorVillageProject.com

PROGRESS REPORT

It was another great month for our Project!

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

- [Sherwin-Williams](#) committed paint and painting supplies for our first two cottages.
- [OSI](#) donated adhesive products and tools for our first two cottages.
- [Aloha Lumber & Truss](#) built and donated prototype trusses for our cottages.
- [Meridian Development](#) donated power tools to our San Marcos High School program.

On December 13, Joseph Lucido, from the [Palomar College Architecture Department](#), visited our San Marcos High School build site with two of his students, Kiara Hiatt and Erik Schwartz, to tell our students about the work that they will be doing for the Warrior Village Project.

Eric and Kiara will produce renderings of our cottages to illustrate different architectural treatments in different settings. They will develop a multimedia presentation of their work, including renderings to show how our first two cottages will look when installed. Kiara said that she wished that she had the opportunity to build a cottage when she was in high school!

The Architecture Department is one of several departments at [Palomar College](#) that will be working together to support the Warrior Village Project with their talents. We will tell you more about our collaboration with Palomar in future newsletters.

1 November 2019



SHERWIN WILLIAMS.

[Sherwin-Williams](#) donated paint and supplies for two cottages.

[See more](#)

4 November 2019



[OSI](#) donated adhesive products and tools for two cottages.

[See more](#)

25 November 2019



[Aloha Lumber & Truss](#) built and donated prototype trusses.

[See more](#)

29 November



[Meridian Development](#) donates tools to SMHS program.

[See more](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

Progress Report	1
VIP Profile	2
School Update	3
Construction Update	4
Partners	5
Sponsors	6
Donate	7
Contacts	7
Subscribe	7

FUTURE EVENTS

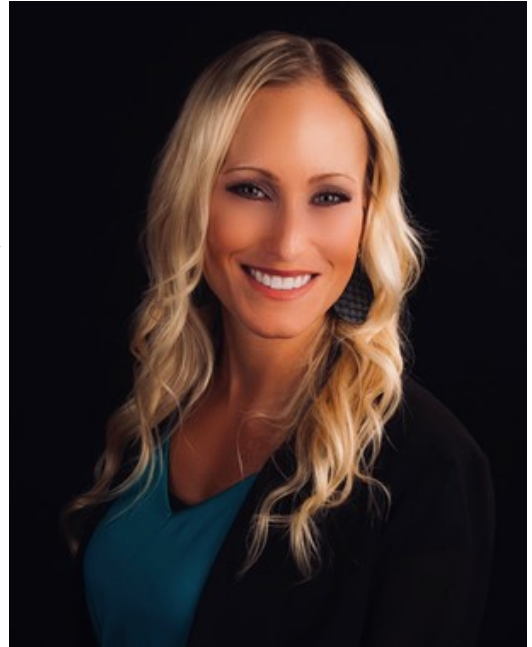
Visit our new Website:

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

VIP PROFILE: Lisa Stout Executive Director The San Marcos Promise

Lisa Stout is the Executive Director of [The San Marcos Promise](#), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, public charity established in August 5, 2014. The vision of The San Marcos Promise “is to make the communities of North San Diego County the most sought after places to live and work by investing in our San Marcos Unified School District students to ensure their college and career readiness.”

Education empowered Lisa to change the course of her life for the better – and today it inspires her to help youth do the same through The San Marcos Promise. She began college as a low-income student with little resources. As the first in her family to earn a degree, she also lacked guidance. Lisa knows the fears, doubts and frustrations that can hinder full potential, and she uses that to better serve students in the programs she oversees. *“Thankfully, I found a support system that made all the difference,”* she recalled. *“I knew I had people who believed in me, and that propelled me.”* That faith inspired her to become a high school counselor. *“I knew I wanted to spend the rest of life helping students achieve their dreams, the ways others had helped me,”* she added.



Lisa dedicated nearly 20 years to that mission, working as a high school counselor for San Marcos Unified School District. She enjoyed working with students with all sorts of backgrounds and aspirations – and therefore is a firm believer that a one-size-fits-all approach does not work when it comes to navigating life after graduation. *“I work relentlessly to convince students of their own brilliance and help them to reach their potential, whatever that may look like for them,”* she explained.

This experience, passion and expertise earned her a special assignment as the district’s lead counselor, where she focused on ensuring every student had access to the resources needed to succeed. In 2018 Lisa was tapped to lead The San Marcos Promise, a mission she stands ready to advance. She is committed to helping students discover and define their strengths, interests and values. She firmly believes this sets the foundation for students to embrace their purpose and fuel their passion; leading them toward a meaningful career and successful future leading to purpose.

Under her leadership, The San Marcos Promise aims to guide students through that exploration process – and help them create a thoughtful, well-developed plan for their future. This includes plans to attend a traditional college, earn professional certificates or enter other viable training programs. Lisa’s ultimate goal is to make The San Marcos Promise the nexus between the local business community, civic and nonprofit partners, and schools. This is because students must absolutely gain real-world exposure through these outside entities, she explains. *“Students need direct interaction with professionals to gain career awareness, exploration, and development which will allow them to be successful in their futures,”* she said. *“Empowering this next generation will benefit our region greatly. We are all one community. Let’s make a shared promise to our students.”*

Lisa was an early and enthusiastic supporter of SMHS’ participation in the Warrior Village Project. The San Marcos Promise is realizing its vision at SMHS, where 22 students are learning skills that will prepare them for careers in the building industry or higher education while developing critical thinking skills and self-confidence in their ability to achieve their dreams.

The San Marcos Promise is the fiscal sponsor for the Warrior Village Project at San Marcos High School. Donors can contribute to the Warrior Village Project program at SMHS through [The San Marcos Promise](#).

SCHOOL UPDATE: San Marcos Unified School District

In the inaugural edition of our newsletter, way, way back in September 2019, I described San Marcos High School (SMHS): *“From the moment you walk onto the SMHS campus, you can tell that there is something special about the place. It is physically imposing. My first impression was that it looked more like a college than a high school. And then I discovered the secret sauce that really makes SMHS special: the teachers, the administration, and The San Marcos Promise.”* In the last four months, I have discovered that there is an abundance of secret sauce in the San Marcos Unified School District (SMUSD). It isn't just at San Marcos High School. They must put it in the water with the fluoride, because I have met so many people at SMUSD who are very dedicated to ensuring the success of their students.

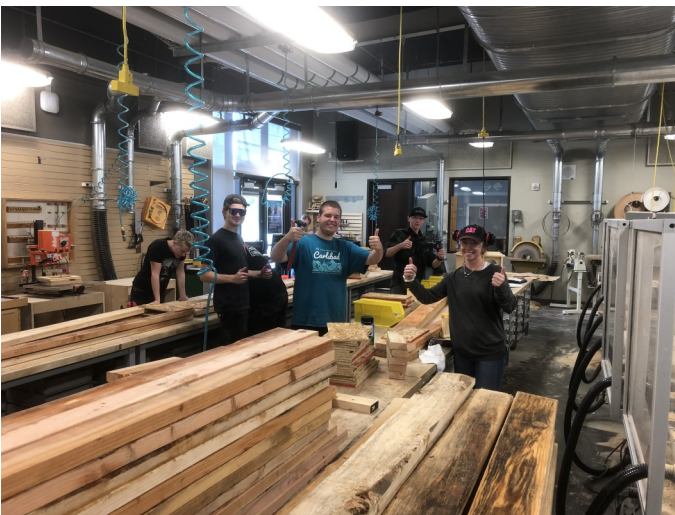
As it says on [The San Marcos Promise](#) (TSMP) website, SMUSD employees “are the heartbeat of this district, working collaboratively to ensure every student, parent, and community member is engaged in the educational process.” Many employees donate to the TSMP through payroll deductions. So, I wasn't surprised when I learned from Heather Lowery, Human Resources Support Technician, that SMUSD employees were holding a silent auction at their Annual Christmas Luncheon and would donate the proceeds to our Project. Items for the auction were donated by: [Larry Beard Fine Art Photography](#) (prints and original work), the SMHS Woodshop Class (cutting boards and bowl), the [Mission Hills Metalsmithing Class](#) (jewelry), Heather Lowery (gourmet cupcakes), and [Palomar Heritage Painters](#). The Silent Auction was a great success, raising over \$600 for our Project. We are grateful to the employees of San Marcos Unified School District for their moral support and generosity.

Front Row: SMUSD Board Members, Victor Graham, Pam Lindamood, Janet McClean, Sydney Kerr & Stacy Carlson, President; Chris Geldert, Teacher; Barry Zeait, Asst. Principal; BITA II students.
Back Row: BITA II students.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Ten SMHS students came to school on November 30 for 'Truss Building Saturday'. Using the prototype truss from [Aloha Truss](#) as a template, they set up stations to cut lumber into the 8 pieces required for each truss. They used chop saws, circular saws, a table saw, and a CNC (Computer Numerically Controlled) router to cut the 352 pieces required to assemble 44 trusses, and they finished assembling 14 trusses. A second crack team laid out, cut and assembled the first end wall for our cottages.



By the start of Winter Break, our students had raised 7 End Walls and installed our first Ridge Beams!



PARTNERS

The Warrior Village Project is a community effort. It is a collaboration of building industry associations, nonprofits serving veterans, high schools and colleges, business and private donors, and private citizens working together to **provide affordable, permanent housing for homeless veterans while training the next generation of homebuilders**. Each of the organizations contributing to the Project is providing expertise and resources consistent with its unique capabilities and the mission of its organization.

We have been talking with a number of large, national nonprofits in an effort to find suitable sites for the installation of our cottages. One local nonprofit which we just recently became acquainted with is [Wounded Warrior Homes](#) based in San Marcos. We discovered that we have a common mission to serve our homeless veterans in southern California.

America faces a crisis, with over [37,000 homeless veterans](#) in the United States. Though we are experiencing a national decrease in veteran homelessness, our battle against homelessness is far from over. The County of San Diego has not only one of the highest populations of veterans in the country, but also one of the highest numbers of homeless veterans. According to this year's [San Diego Point-in-Time Count](#), there are 8,102 homeless people in San Diego County. Approximately 1,068 - 13% - of those people are veterans.

The aim of Wounded Warrior Homes is to alleviate the growing stress of unsheltered veterans in California by providing transitional housing to those with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Service Members returning from combat or exercises experience stress in many forms. These stresses can later translate into Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder can result from discharging weapons, being shot at, from attacks or ambushes, seeing dead bodies, receiving incoming fire, or from knowing someone injured or killed in combat.

While on the front lines or in training, service members can experience many forms of physical disorientation. Traumatic Brain Injury can result from being hit in the head, the head striking an object, from the head being affected by a nearby blast, or even a major force to the body or spinal column.

Some veterans may find it difficult to switch back to a "civilian" mindset when they return from service. After prolonged exposure to a war zone and the dangers of combat, adjusting to life at home can be a challenge. For service members experiencing PTSD or TBI, the battle isn't completely over. The effects of stress and pain from combat can contribute to anxieties that can cause a range of effects on daily life. Some service members will turn to alcohol or drugs to cope with the effects of combat. This resultant addiction can cause their life to become unbalanced, create distance between themselves and family members, and ultimately lead to financial instability and eventual homelessness.

Wounded Warrior Homes was established to serve our heroes and provide them with a safe environment of support and supplemental services to aid them in transitioning back from the front lines to the home front. Homeless veterans experiencing the effects of PTSD or TBI are handled with care and respect as they are taken from the streets and given the opportunity to flourish in a positive environment that not only contributes to the treatment of their injuries but also points them on a path to success in their new civilian life. Caseworkers help them make decisions about advancing their education and finding jobs, and even provide resources in financial planning to ensure a successful transition.

We are working with Wounded Warrior Homes to determine if it is feasible to install a cottage at one of its transitional housing sites so that they can serve more veterans. Regardless of whether we are successful with this effort, we encourage your support of the work that [Wounded Warrior Homes](#) is doing.



WOUNDED WARRIOR HOMES

Helping Those Who Protect Our Freedom.

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.

Dan Jestand, Manager of the [Sherwin-Williams](#) store in San Marcos, was quick to say “Yes” when we asked him to support the Warrior Village Project and San Marcos High School by donating painting supplies for our cottages. He is waiting for a call to tell him we are ready to paint. Dan also offered to give our students a tutorial on paints, painting tools and paint application techniques. He and his colleagues, Ross Purgatorio and Guillermo Muniz, came to our Open House to show their support for the Warrior Village Project.



The next time you are shopping for paint, stop by Dan’s store at 801 W. San Marcos Blvd and tell him ‘Thank You’ for Sherwin-Williams’ support of our students and veterans.



We are also grateful to the [Henkel Corporation](#), the world’s #1 adhesives producer. Jason Blacklock, a 1988 graduate of San Marcos High School, learned about our program when he was touring the campus during his wife’s 30-year SMHS reunion. Jason contacted us to tell us that his employer, Henkel Corporation, wanted to help.

Henkel is donating Loctite PL Premium Construction Adhesive, and [OSI](#) branded sealants (Quad Max, Quad Foam, Quad Butyl Flashing Tape, Fire Block Foam and SC175 Air Sealant), and foam applicator guns. Jason will come back to SMHS to teach our students how to apply his products correctly, to ensure that our cottages stay dry, air tight, fire safe, and energy efficient. Thanks Jason and Henkel! We also thank Jason’s wife, Jennifer, for bringing Jason back to SMHS at just the right time!

Most builders use factory-built roof trusses when building homes. But, our students are building our trusses to maximize their learning experience (and to test their knowledge of trigonometry!). Our vaulted, mono trusses look simple, but difficult, small-angle saw cuts are required to build them.

To ensure that we build all 44 of them correctly, we sought expert help from Jon Lazarus and Scott Eskridge, the owners of [Aloha Lumber & Truss](#). Jon and Scott were eager to help. They built us a prototype truss that we could use to construct a jig for making the rest of our trusses. And, they donated and cut the lumber for five more trusses so that we could build some ‘practice’ trusses. Thanks Scott and Jon!



The Building Industry Association of San Diego County has asked members to support our program by donating materials, journeymen to teach our students, as well as dollars to purchase tools and materials. Guy Asaro, President & CEO of [Meridian Development](#), shrewdly took advantage of Black Friday savings to acquire and donate a motorized 12” compound miter saw (with free stand) and an 8-piece DeWalt 20 volt tool kit (drill, impact driver, 6 ½” circular saw, oscillating saw, 4 ½” grinder, flashlight and Sawzall) for our program. Mr. Asaro asks that other development companies follow his lead to support our students and our veterans with the donation of tools, materials or dollars.

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. The cost of installing a cottage as an Accessory Dwelling Unit will depend on the home site. But, it should cost about \$15,000 to \$25,000 per cottage. Hence, we can provide permanent housing for a veteran or a couple for \$40,000 to \$50,000. This is a bargain compared to the cost of other 'affordable' housing projects. "In 2016, it cost an average of \$425,000 to build one unit of affordable housing in California, according to the Terner Center" (*Los Angeles Times*, April 16, 2018).

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>), 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.