



WARRIOR VILLAGE PROJECT

The Bugle: Vol 3, Issue 12, December 2021

www.WarriorVillageProject.com

PROGRESS REPORT

Interesting things are happening in Building Trades Career Technical Education (CTE). Our friend, [Mike McSweeney](#), has joined the California Homebuilding Foundation (CHF) as CHF's statewide CTE Coordinator. We will be hearing more about CHF's plans from Mike in the future.

The Poway Unified School District (PUSD) hopes to start a Construction Class in the 2022 - 2023 school year; they are searching for an instructor for the class. PUSD dipped its toes in the Building Trades CTE world by offering a four-week workshop for PUSD high school students last summer to start building a Moveable Tiny House. Read more about their project on Page 3.



L to R: Chris Geldert, BITA Instructor at San Marcos High School, and Joe Ismay, Tiny House Project Instructor in the Poway Unified

PROGRESS REPORT

We are preparing for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony!



IN THIS ISSUE

Progress Report	1
VIP Profile	2
School Update	3
Construction Update	6
Partners	12
Sponsors	14
Donate	15
Contacts	15
Subscribe	15

FUTURE EVENTS

**Wounded Warrior Homes ADU
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
in January 2021
(COVID-19 permitting)**

WarriorVillageProject.com

VIP PROFILE

Veterans Served by Wounded Warrior Homes



WOUNDED WARRIORS HOMES

Helping Those Who Protect Our Freedom

Steven, United States Marine Corps

“Before I reached out for help from [Wounded Warriors Homes](#) I was homeless. I lived in my car in Vista, California for 30 days. This event was very self-reflective and humbling. I never begged for money but I did go to bed hungry some nights. I finally enrolled in the VA and was happily directed to the WWH. On June 15th, 2014 I moved in and my life drastically changed. I hope to one day get the opportunity to teach, train, motivate and encourage others by either becoming a pastor, mentor, school teacher or a guidance counselor.”

[\(Click to hear Steven in is own words.\)](#)



Anonymous Veteran, Served by WWH

“I was a veteran of 18 years. After an injury and years of taking opiates, coupled with PTSD and TBI symptoms, it all ultimately led to my early departure from what I loved to do. Once out of the military I was left jobless, homeless, and without a car. After having a series of blackouts, no one was willing to take a risk with me and I ended up in the hospital with nowhere to go. I got temporary shelter at a local crisis house and while there, my case manager referred me to Wounded Warrior Homes. A lot of stress has been taken out of my life and I honestly can't say where I would be if it weren't for Wounded Warrior Homes.”

Anonymous Veteran, Served by WWH

“Wounded Warrior Homes has been there for me, and helped me out with hard times when my service was done for the country. My life was missing people that care. I suffer from post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury. It's been tough getting my life together. I would like to say thank you to the Wounded Warrior Homes staff for all the assistance.”

SCHOOL UPDATE

Poway Unified School District, Poway

In the 23 August 2021 online issue of the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#), Elizabeth Marie Himchak reported on a great project underway in the [Poway Unified School District](#) (PUSD). Twenty-three students from Poway high schools were building a Moveable Tiny House in a Career Technical Education (CTE) Builders Bootcamp workshop. The workshop was one of seven offered by PUSD as part of an enrichment program made possible by COVID relief funds and partnerships with businesses that donated supplies and services.

The workshop was held at Mt. Carmel High School, but open to students from all PUSD high schools: [Del Norte](#), [Mr. Carmel](#), [Abraxas](#), [Poway](#), [Rancho Bernardo](#) and [Westview](#). PUSD CTE Specialist Jeremy Martin explained that “*previous class projects at some Poway Unified high schools included building sheds, but nothing as extensive as a tiny house that when complete will be a structure someone can live in as a permanent accessory dwelling unit. Our goal is to finish it and sell it to an organization helping with the housing shortage crisis, Martin said.*” “*When we sell it, we can reuse the funds to build another, Martin added.*”



Source: Elizabeth Marie Himchak
San Diego Union-Tribune, August 2021

“CTE officials are also hoping to turn the workshop experience into a building and construction trades course at Poway High for the 2022 - 23 school year, Martin said.” Jeremy Martin is looking for an instructor for this course. If you are interested in joining the Poway High School Faculty, please contact Jeremy at JEMartin@PowayUSD.com, or **(619) 665-5190**.

When they started building their Moveable Tiny House, they knew that they would not be able to complete it during the four-week workshop. Their plan was to continue the building project as an after-school activity available to all PUSD high school students on the Poway High School campus. This part of the program, with two 2-hour work sessions per week, started in late November with 20 enthusiastic students from several Poway high schools, including 6 who worked on the house during the summer workshop. They expect to complete their house by the end of this school year.



As with the summer workshop, the after-school program is being taught by Joe Ismay, a Technology Instructor with 30 years of teaching experience in the Poway Unified School District. The 16-foot trailer foundation, the plans for the house, and the basic materials were purchased from Nick Mosley’s [California Tiny House](#) in Fresno. “*Ismay said that PUSD paid \$19,000 for the basic kit, and the lumber was purchased locally.*” “*When I saw the tiny house company it looked like an amazing opportunity, Ismay said.*” “*The hands-on benefits for everyone involved is that it teaches all the different trades within construction.*”

(continued on page 4)

SCHOOL UPDATE

Poway Unified School District, Poway (continued)

Jeremy and Joe invited Chris Geldert and me to visit Poway High School to check out Poway's Moveable Tiny House project. Chris and Joe have much in common. Both are wrestling champions with a passion for teaching young people. Chris and Mark shared their experiences with building cottages for the Warrior Village Project, and Joe told us about the lessons he is learning about teaching students building skills through the construction of a Moveable Tiny House.

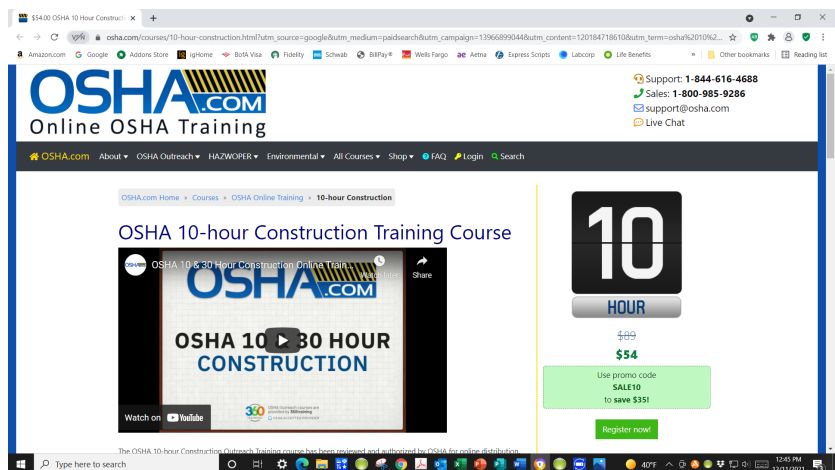
During the school day Joe teaches shop and technology classes at Meadowbrook Middle School. He has been given a dedicated classroom for his after-school program at Poway High School. The tiny house is parked just outside the classroom. It is fitting that Joe's classroom and build site are next to Poway High School's world class wrestling center!

During the four-week summer workshop, the outside of the house was largely completed. Soon Joe's students will start installing PEX plumbing and electrical equipment and doing other work to complete the interior of the house.



But before the students start working on the house, Joe is going to spend some time acclimating them to the build environment. Most of the students in Joe's after-school program have little experience working with tools and lumber. All of Joe's students are working to obtain their Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10 certification before they start working on the house. The [OSHA 10 Hour Construction Industry Outreach Training Program](#) provides general awareness for entry-level construction workers. The training covers recognizing and preventing hazards on a construction site.

To apply the OSHA lessons, Joe's students are working on small wood working projects to get comfortable with the tools they will be using in the construction of the house, including hammers, pry bars, chop (or miter) saws and circular saws. Some are tearing apart wood pallets. They will build tool boxes from the pallet lumber and 2" x 12"s. Others are building barn owl boxes from sheets of plywood.



(continued on page 5)

SCHOOL UPDATE Poway Unified School District, Poway (continued)

During our visit, the students spread out around the build site to maintain safe working distances, already practicing what they were learning in their OSHA class. I enjoyed watching the students as they experimented and discovered the best way to pull the nails from the pallets and separate the lumber pieces, being careful not to damage the lumber so that it could be recycled into tool boxes. They students shared as they learned different techniques. As the sun fell below the horizon, Joe turned on LED work lights that he had positioned around the build site so that the students could continue to work safely as it grew darker.



While some students disassembled pallets, others worked with a chop (or miter) saw to cross cut 2" x 12" lumber for the bottoms of their tool boxes. It was fun to watch as the students worked as a team to figure out how to position the lumber, measure twice, and then lower the blade down to cut the boards.



Students on the other side of the build site worked together to cut plywood sheets for the pieces they will need to assemble barn owl boxes. They learned how to operate a circular saw, adjusting the shoe (or base plate) to make sure that the blade cut through the plywood without hitting the asphalt surface below.



As we left Poway High School after our short visit, I thought to myself: these Poway students are going to be great home builders!

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

After [So Cal Counterworks](#) finished installing the granite countertop in the kitchen, Rick Hoehn returned to the site on December 13 to install plumbing fixtures and hardware. He installed stopcocks to regulate the flow of tap water to the kitchen and bathroom sinks and the toilet. Rick also installed the drain traps for the kitchen and bathroom sinks, the faucets and the shower trim kit. After A-1 Factory Direct Flooring finished installing the flooring, Rick returned to set the toilet. The vanity donated by [Ferguson](#) in Vista looks great with the granite countertop fabricated by JPR Stone Surfaces in San Marcos!



WWH did not want a garbage disposal.



(continued on page 7)

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE (continued)

The last remaining plumbing installation work was a two-man job. On December 15, Rick Millwee drove down from a job he was doing in the mountains to help Rick Hoehn install our propane-fired tank-less water heater. Once the propane supplier installs their propane tank and hooks up the propane supply line to the water heater, we will have hot water! Rick and Rick, thank you so much for sticking with us throughout the pandemic and helping us get to the finish line!



L to R: Rick Millwee, owner of RM Plumbing, & Rick Hoehn, retiree from R.A. Hoehn Plumbing.

(continued on page 8)

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE (continued)

In October [A-1 Factory Direct Flooring](#) came to sand and level our subfloor to get it ready for the installation of our vinyl plank flooring. We then laid 7/16" Oriented Strand Board (OSB) on top of the newly leveled subfloor and installed our kitchen base cabinets and our bathroom vanity. We were ready for John Cox and Michael Silva of A-1 to return on December 15 to start laying our flooring.

I purchased the vinyl plank flooring and underlayment from a flooring contractor who was selling them on Craigslist. I thought I had obtained a real bargain. Although the flooring contractor assured me that the underlayment was the right material for the job, A-1 quickly determined that it was unsuitable for the vinyl plank flooring I had purchased. The vinyl planks have a 'tongue and groove' design, with each plank interlocking with adjacent planks. A-1 knew from years of experience that the underlayment I had was too thick and spongy for the vinyl planks. The planks would flex slightly when walked on; eventually they would separate as the tongues would pull out of the grooves of the adjacent planks.

A-1 has been called on to repair many vinyl plank floors with this problem. A-1 spent the morning searching for and purchasing the underlayment needed to do the job right. The flooring installation morphed from a one-day job into a two-day job as a result of this delay. The moral of the story is to work with experienced flooring contractors like A-1 who can be trusted to use the right materials for the job. Thank you Bob Chamberlain, owner of A-1, John and Michael for a beautiful floor!



(continued on page 9)

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE (continued)

Our kitchen cabinets are finished and installed!

Our kitchen cabinets were designed and built by Brendan Mathews of [Foothill CabinetWorks](#) and his students in the [Palomar College Cabinet & Furniture Technology Program](#). They were installed by two teams. Dave Span of [The Refined Craftsman](#) and Georg Kast from Palomar College installed the base cabinets. Brendan, Georg and Frank Kuzniar, one of Brendan's students, installed the upper cabinets and the hardware.

We thank Jennifer Anderson, Lead Instructor at Palomar, and our generous industry sponsors for making this collaboration between Palomar College and the Warrior Village Project possible. Our cabinet Sponsors included [Timber Products Company](#), [DBS](#) (Drawer Box Specialties), [blum](#), [American Laminates](#), [ESI](#) (Edgebanding Services, Inc.), [Würth](#), [Saroyan Hardwoods](#) and [Foothill CabinetWorks](#).



Foothill CabinetWorks
"Custom Hand Crafted Cabinetry"

(continued on page 10)

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE (continued)



L to R: Brendan Mathews, owner of Foothills CabinetWorks and Instructor at Palomar College, and Georg Kast from the Palomar College Cabinet & Furniture Technology Program.

We also got work done on the exterior of our Wounded Warrior Homes ADU this month. Frank and Jonathan from [Santa Fe Roofing & Rain Gutters](#) came on December 20 with their gutter roll forming machine in the back of their truck and quickly produced two 24 ft lengths of seamless aluminum rain gutters for the front and back of the house. Seamless gutters are made on site by feeding a roll of metal sheet through a gutter roll forming machine. The roll is automatically unrolled and fed into one end of the machine, and it comes out the other end of the machine shaped in the form of a gutter. Unlike rain gutters that are assembled from 10 ft lengths of gutter, seamless rain gutters do not have connection joints that can leak. Seamless gutters are also more attractive than gutters with multiple seams.



(continued on page 11)

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE (continued)

Frank and Jonathan worked quickly to attach the seamless gutters to the fascia and install the downspouts and support brackets inside each gutter. You may recall from our November Newsletter that Chris Krajewski, Santa Fe's rain gutter manager, chose a rain gutter color to match the gray color of our fascia. However, when Chris tried to order a roll of gray metal sheet, Santa Fe's supplier told Chris that gray sheet was on back order until March. This is typical of the supply chain problems currently facing many businesses in the construction industry.

We could have white gutters installed on December 20, or wait until March for gray gutters. It was an easy decision to go with white rain gutters. The gutters look great, and they arrived just in time for our heaviest rains of the year. Thank you Monte Stewart, owner of Santa Fe Roofing & Rain Gutters, Chris, Frank and Jonathan!



A final finishing touch for the exterior of our house was the installation of a custom awning over the front door and window. The awning was fabricated from carbon steel angles, flat steel and ornamental scrolls, and stone coated roofing panels from [Boral Steel](#). Referring to awning designs on the internet my friend and neighbor, Barry Heppenstall, helped me design the awning, select and cut the steel, and weld the steel into a supporting frame.

Barry and I became friends when he was the President of our Home Owners Association and I was his right-hand man on the Board. Barry is a manufacturing engineer by training and ran manufacturing operations for Smith International before retiring. In his home country of England, he learned many skilled trades, including welding, as part of his engineering education.

Barry answered my call for help with the fabrication of our awning. He loaned me his electric arc welding kit, steel chop saw, welding mask and welding gloves. But, when it became apparent that I lacked the skills to lay down a decent weld bead, Barry rescued me by doing the welding himself. Thanks Barry for the rescue!



(continued on page 12)

PARTNERS Homes For Our Troops

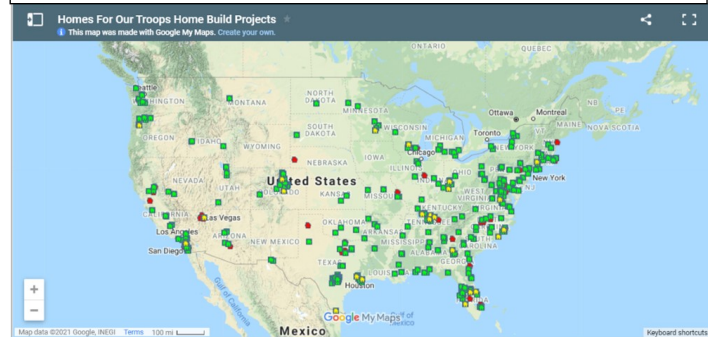
[Homes For Our Troops](#) (HFOT) is a publicly funded 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization that builds and donates specially adapted custom homes nationwide for severely injured post-9/11 Veterans, to enable them to rebuild their lives. Most of these Veterans have sustained injuries including multiple limb amputations, partial or full paralysis, and/or severe traumatic brain injury (TBI). These homes restore some of the freedom and independence our Veterans sacrificed while defending our country, and enable them to focus on their family, recovery, and rebuilding their lives.

Since 2004, HFOT has built over 320 specially adapted homes nationwide. HFOT's goal is to build a home for every Veteran who qualifies for one of their specially adapted homes. HFOT builds these homes where the Veterans choose to live, and continues its relationships with the Veterans after home delivery to assist them with rebuilding their lives.

HFOT has completed 39 homes in California and has 9 more in progress. Since 2010 [Youngren Construction](#) of Fallbrook has built 29 homes for HFOT in southern California.

Each of HFOT's specially adapted custom homes for injured Veterans is equipped with over 40 major special adaptations and exceeds ADA compliancy standards, providing full accessibility for the Veteran. These adaptations include wider halls and doorways, automatic door openers, roll under sinks, stove tops, and counters, pull down shelving, generators and safe rooms, all designed to help the Veteran live independently. Homes For Our Troops builds four-bedroom, two bath, specially adapted energy efficient homes of just over 2,800 square feet, the right size home for a Veteran to comfortably raise a family while limiting expenses for utilities.

HFOT has built over 320 specially adapted homes.



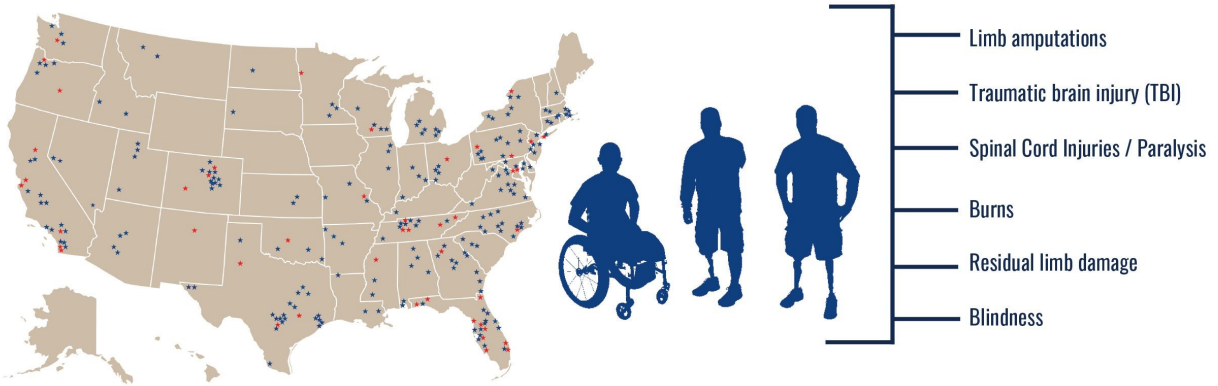
Typical HFOT home, built for Marine [GYSGT Brian Meyer](#) by Youngren Construction in Fallbrook, CA.



HFOT has more than 100 Veterans in the application process for its program for severely injured Veterans. As a top-rated military and Veterans' nonprofit organization, Homes For Our Troops relies on the generosity of donors like you. Homes For Our Troops is a publicly funded nonprofit, with approximately 65 percent of our operational budget generated by individual donors, private and family foundations, and community fundraisers nationwide who step up to help our American Veterans by coordinating everything from lemonade stands to golf tournaments. The remaining 35 percent comes from corporate supporters in the form of cash and donated materials. Please [DONATE TODAY](#) or see how you can help us by calling (866) 787-6677.

Homes For Our Troops FACT SHEET

VA estimates over **2,000** severely injured Post-9/11 Veterans nationwide



Map of Our Specially Adapted Home Projects

★ Under Construction ★ Completed Homes

2800 sq. ft
of full wheelchair accessibility

Over **40** major special adaptations



Nearly 90 cents of every \$1 spent goes directly to our program services for Veterans

Veteran pays

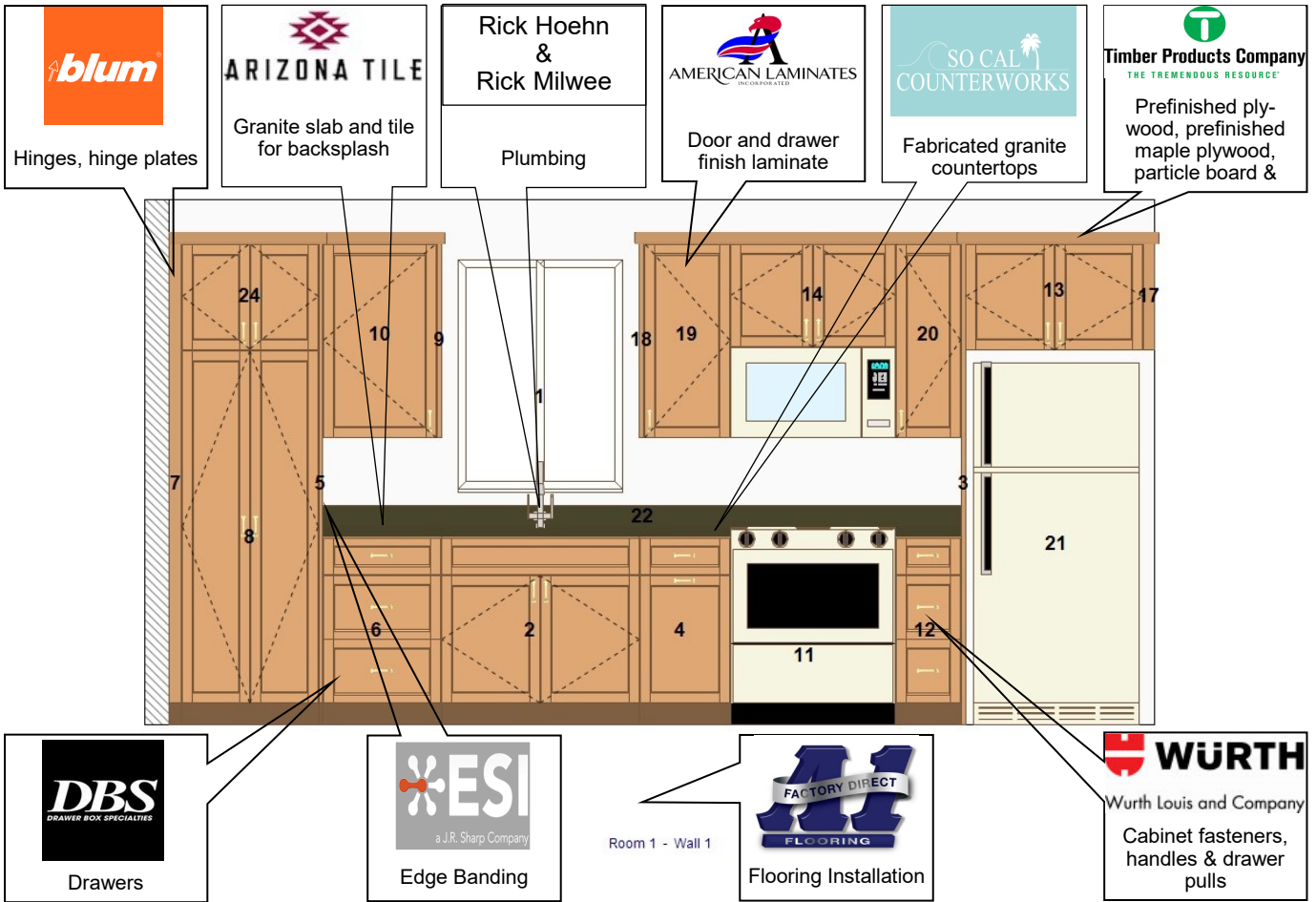
\$0 (ZERO)
for home

Each build project has opportunities to get involved and welcome the Veteran in your community

Community Kickoff
Volunteer Day
Key Ceremony

www.hfotusa.org

SPONSORS



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 [Turner 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 \(https://thesanmarcospromise.org/donate/#ways-to-donate\)](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.

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

PROJECT CONTACTS

Volunteer	Mark L. Pilcher	760-666-0077 ...	Mark@WarriorVillageProject.com
CHF BITA Program Dir.....	Jill Herman	916 412-7118	JHerman@mychf.org
CHF CTE Coordinator	Mike McSweeney ...	619-884-5354	MMcSweeney@mychf.org
SMHS BITA Instructor	Chris Geldert.....	760 390 2388 ..	Chris.Geldert@SMUSD.org
The San Marcos Promise ..	Lisa Stout.....	760-290-2373 ..	Lisa@TheSanMarcosPromise.org

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

If you would like more information on the Warrior Village Project and our Partners, please visit our website, WarriorVillageProject.com.

If you would like to subscribe to our Monthly eNewsletter, please email Mark@WarriorVillageProject.com.