



WARRIOR VILLAGE PROJECT®

501 (c)(3) Nonprofit

The Bugle: Vol 5, Issue 3, March 2023

www.WarriorVillageProject.com

PROGRESS REPORT

On March 16, Chris Geldert, construction teacher at [San Marcos High School](#) (SMHS), and Mark Pilcher, founder of the Warrior Village Project, took a road trip to Fontana, CA. The purpose of the trip was to present a beautiful plaque made by Chris' students to [Weyerhaeuser](#) to show our appreciation for all that the company has done for Chris' students and the Warrior Village Project. Our trip was timed to coincide with the visit of Weyerhaeuser executives, Keith O'Rear, Senior Vice President, Wood Products, and Ross Theilen, Vice President of Distribution, to Weyerhaeuser's Fontana Distribution Center. We were flattered that Keith and Ross and our friends in Fontana found the time in their busy schedules to host our visit. Read about Weyerhaeuser's many generous contributions to our program on page 7.



Left to Right: Maria Kaiser, Erin Thatcher, Arturo Alcaraz, Ross Theilen, Estevan "Steve" Garcia, Bryan Horng, Chris Geldert and Keith O'Rear.

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FUTURE EVENTS

SMHS Spring Break
March 27—31

WarriorVillageProject.com

VIP PROFILE

Our Students

[TinyFest California](#) was held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, March 11 - 12, 2023. On the Friday before the official opening of TinyFest, TinyFest held its inaugural **Tiny Home Student Career Connection** event for San Diego County schools. Approximately 120 students from [Oceanside High School](#), [Mira Mesa High School](#), [The Learning Choice Academy](#), [Carlsbad High School](#), [Millennial Tech Middle School](#), [Santana High School](#) and [Urban Corps of San Diego County](#) attended. Students listened to short presentations by Tiny Home Builders who shared insights about the industry and job opportunities within the industry. Instructors led their students on tours of tiny houses to see the variety of types, sizes and features of tiny homes.



SCHOOLS

San Marcos High School

[San Marcos High School](#) (SMHS) construction teacher Chris Geldert was invited by Al Love, Senior Director, College and Career Readiness/Innovation, San Diego County Office of Education, to talk about the Warrior Village Project at the [6th Annual College and Career Pathways Summit](#). The Summit, sponsored by the [Classroom of the Future Foundation](#) (CFF), was held at the National University Spectrum Center on March 7. Al had recently visited SMHS and saw Chris' great program in action, inside and outside his woodshop. Al was impressed by the cottage Chris' students are building for the Warrior Village Project and wanted Chris to share the story of the Warrior Village Project with county educators.

The Mission of CFF is to *unite business, community, and educational leaders in creating innovative learning environments in San Diego County public schools that prepare our students to thrive in a competitive, global society*. CFF seeks to lead the community in establishing more college and career pathway opportunities for San Diego students, with a focus on providing best practices, career experiences for students, educator capacity-building, and fostering partnerships between school districts and businesses.



CFF is an extension of the [San Diego County Office of Education](#) and is known for being the convener of business, community, and educational leaders around innovation in education in our region. CFF is a catalyst and champion for the creation of learning programs that apply proven business and technology-based practices in the school setting. CFF is also a trusted resource for school districts, and a thought leader on innovation in the classroom.

Preparing students to be successful in the workforce has been central to the identity of the CFF organization. CFF provides programs, training, curriculum, and opportunities for historically marginalized students to help them discover college and career pathways while developing hands-on skills - specifically within the realm of STEM - for high-demand jobs. To achieve the goal of helping students with their career choices, CFF brought great minds in education, business, and our community together again for its sixth annual summit.

The Warrior Village Project is a *collaboration of the building industry, sponsors, nonprofits serving veterans, high schools and colleges*. In keeping with the collaborative spirit, Chris invited [AGC Apprenticeship Program](#) instructor Jon Hill and [Warrior Village Project](#) founder Mark Pilcher to join him on stage as co-presenters.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

San Marcos High School

Our students at SMHS work on our second cottage one day per week, on Wednesday mornings. They started installing siding on the cottage many Wednesdays ago. [Chaac](#), the Mayan god of rain, lightning, and storms, must be laughing up a storm, because he managed to bring rain down upon SMHS four of the five Wednesday mornings in March!



Fortunately, when it rains, there is always something fun and productive to do in the shop!



PARTNERS

California Homebuilding Foundation

The [California Homebuilding Foundation](#) (CHF) is the industry's leading and most highly regarded non-profit organization guiding students on the limitless potential of future careers in homebuilding as well as providing industry leaders with critically important tools essential to ensure their legacy is fully realized within construction-related fields.

To help fulfill its workforce development mission, CHF offers the [Building Industry Technology Academy](#) (BITA) curriculum to high schools. BITA is an industry recognized four-year Career Technical Education pathway program:

- BITA is the only construction curriculum that is free to school districts, has program status with UCOP, and recognized by the [California Building Industry Association](#) (CBIA) and its 5,000 members. It is currently active in 52 High Schools in California.
- BITA 1 - 3 are a - g approved under the elective (g) subject requirement.
- Students learn skills and knowledge needed for future careers or continued education in the building industry.
- BITA takes the existing shop class and integrates construction technical skills and knowledge with hands-on training, teaching students how to build a house from start to finish while exposing them to the multitude of skilled professions and career pathways within the construction industry.
- Industry support is the driving factor for the BITA program. Organizations play a vital role in supporting BITA by coordinating job-site visits, providing guest speakers in the classroom, in-kind donations, offering an internship or employment to BITA graduates, mentoring students throughout the year, or sponsoring a BITA site to procure materials, new tools, or improve their construction lab space.



BITA seeks to create real “hands-on” CTE work experience, so CHF partnered with San Marcos High School in the Proof-of-Concept phase of the Warrior Village Project. At the [2023 Educating for Careers Conference](#), CHF BITA Program Director [Jill Herman](#) and Career Technical Education Coordinator [Michael McSweeney](#) posed the question: *CAN 25 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, WITH NO PRIOR CONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE, BUILD A HOUSE?*

Michael recounted his role in helping to start the Warrior Village Project in his former position with the [Building Industry Association of San Diego County](#), concluding that **Yes, students can build a house!**



Jill Herman, BITA Program Director



Michael McSweeney, CTE Coordinator.

PARTNERS

California Homebuilding Foundation (continued)

When we launched the Warrior Village Project in 2019, there were 30 schools in 15 counties enrolled in the [Building Industry Technology Academy](#) program sponsored by the [California Homebuilding Foundation](#). There were none in San Diego County. Today, with the recent addition of [Carlsbad High School](#), there are now 51 schools in 21 counties participating in BITA, including 4 in San Diego County.



SCHOOLS IN THE BITA PROGRAM

ALAMEDA COUNTY

- Eden Area ROP

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

- Antioch High School
- Freedom High School

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

- Aptos High School
- Watsonville High School

SOLANO COUNTY

- Armijo High School

MARIN COUNTY

- Marin County Regional Occupation Center

MERCED COUNTY

- Livingston High School

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

- Edison High School

STANISLAUS COUNTY

- Riverbank High School

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

- Carlsbad High School
- North County Trade Tech
- Rancho Buena Vista High School
- San Marcos High School

ORANGE COUNTY

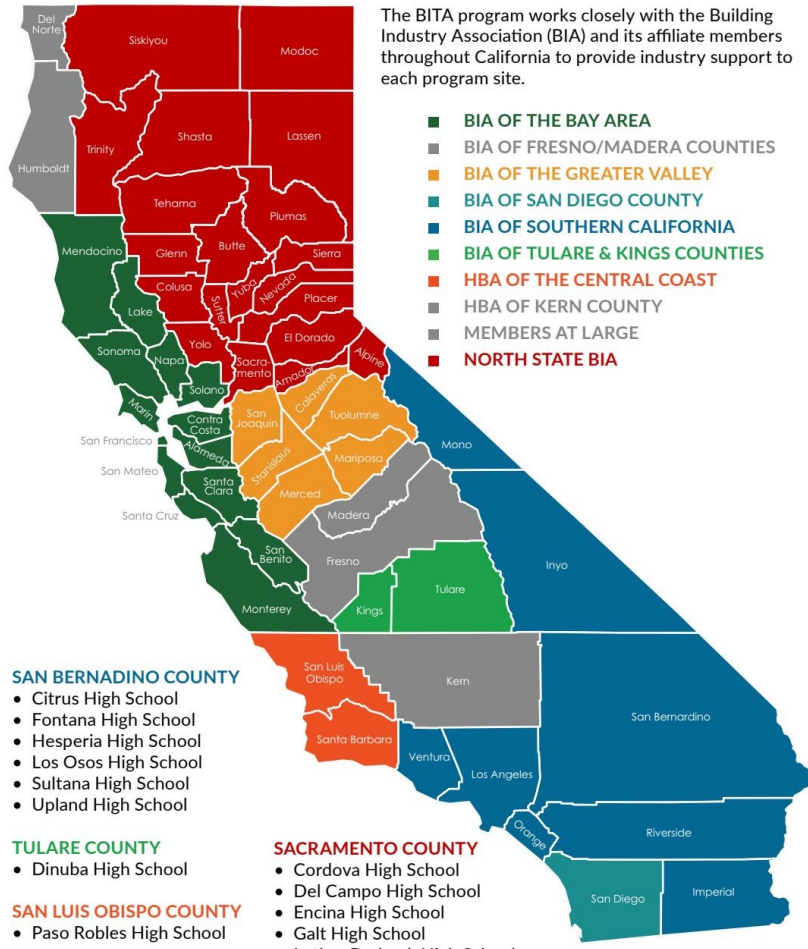
- Anaheim High School*
- Brea Olinda High School*
- Creekside High School**
- Estancia High School**
- Magnolia High School*
- Portola High School
- San Juan Hills High School
- Savanna High School*
- Valencia High School*
- Western High School*

* North Orange County Regional Occupational Program (ROP)

** Coastline Regional Occupational Program (ROP)

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

- Beaumont High School
- Corona-Norco USD



The BITA program works closely with the Building Industry Association (BIA) and its affiliate members throughout California to provide industry support to each program site.

SAN BERNADINO COUNTY

- Citrus High School
- Fontana High School
- Hesperia High School
- Los Osos High School
- Sultana High School
- Upland High School

TULARE COUNTY

- Dinuba High School

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

- Paso Robles High School

PLACER COUNTY

- Lincoln High School
- Oakmont High School
- Whitney High School
- Woodcreek High School

PLUMAS COUNTY

- Portola Jr Sr High

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

- Cordova High School
- Del Campo High School
- Encina High School
- Galt High School
- Luther Burbank High School

SISKIYOU COUNTY

- College of the Siskiyou
- Happy Camp High School
- McCloud High School

SUTTER COUNTY

- Sutter Union High School

YUBA COUNTY

- Lindhurst High School
- Wheatland High School

YOLO COUNTY

- Bryte Career and College Center

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BITA PROGRAM PLEASE VISIT WWW.MYCHF.ORG

Jill Herman, BITA Program Director | (916) 340-3309 | jherman@mychf.org

SPONSORS

Weyerhaeuser

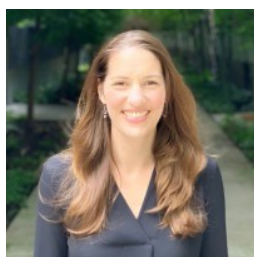
Sixty-seven companies and foundations have supported our program with financial donations or in-kind donations of tools and materials. Several of our Sponsors have contributed to our cause multiple times. One company in particular has proactively sought ways that they could help us on an ongoing basis. Of course, I am referring to [Weyerhaeuser](#).



Weyerhaeuser

Our relationship with Weyerhaeuser began in July 2019 when I sent an email to the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund to request the donation of building materials. The next business day [Autumn Simmons](#), Program Coordinator - Giving Fund and People Development Programs, sent me the link to their online grant application form. The Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund awarded us a \$5,000 grant in October 2019 when we really needed financial support to get our program up and running. The Giving fund awarded us a second grant of \$4,000 in July 2020, giving us a needed vote of confidence after COVID-19 sent our students home and I had started to worry that our program would not survive the pandemic. Weyerhaeuser has also donated a **LOT** of materials for the construction of our cottages.

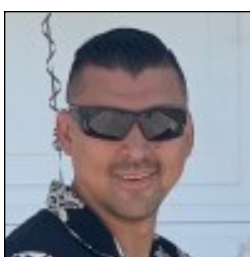
Autumn introduced me to [Lana Bru](#), Weyerhaeuser's Finance and Planning Manager for the Phoenix area and southern California, and a member of the Giving Fund's Southern California Employee Advisory Committee. Autumn explained that Lana could steer me in the right direction to request the donation of materials. Lana reached out to tell me that Weyerhaeuser occasionally has inventory that vendors take out of current stock. She explained that Weyerhaeuser would set up a process by which they could donate these materials to the Warrior Village Project on an ongoing basis. Working with Area General Manager [Graziella Terranova](#), Operations Supervisor [Estevan Garcia](#), and Buyer [Mistiann Stegemann](#), Lana got the Warrior Village Project in the Weyerhaeuser system so that they could expedite future donations of materials. Weyerhaeuser kicked the process into gear in September 2020 with a pro bono delivery of 420 pieces of [Hardie® Plank lap siding](#) and 5 rolls of [WeatherSmart® housewrap](#), enough for 3 cottages!



Autumn



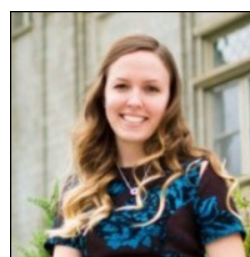
Lana



Estevan



Graziella



Mistiann

Since September 2020, Weyerhaeuser has donated Hardie fiber cement molding and [TIMBERTECH® DECKING](#) materials for our first cottage that we donated to [Wounded Warrior Homes](#) in Vista and for our second house under construction at [San Marcos High School](#) (SMHS). They gave us additional deck materials for a garden shed that students are building for the Agricultural Department at SMHS. I have lost track of how many times Weyerhaeuser has dispatched a truck to make a delivery to San Marcos!

(continued on page 8)

SPONSORS

Weyerhaeuser (continued)

I admit that my pulse picks up a beat now when I see an email in my inbox from Lana, because it usually means she has some materials for us. I was not disappointed on January 19, 2023 when she wrote: *"We have some discontinued decking and railing that might be of interest on a future home. Would you like me to send you some of the colours and discuss potential to ship to you for use?"* I didn't hesitate to say YES, and I was ecstatic when Lana's colleague Timothy Phipps sent me an inventory of the decking material Weyerhaeuser was offering! It was more than SMHS could possibly use, but I was sure that other schools would appreciate receiving some of our bounty if we could coordinate the distribution.

We reached out to other schools and, as expected, several said that they would really appreciate receiving decking material for their house projects or other student projects. I responded to Lana that we would take all of the material they would give us and share it with [Poway High School](#) (PHS) and [Rancho Buena Vista High School](#) (RBV) and other high schools in San Diego County. Weyerhaeuser quickly agreed to deliver half of the materials to SMHS and half to PHS, from which we will distribute materials to other schools.

Needless to say, a donation like this involved a lot of paperwork, logistical planning, physical labor and teamwork by Weyerhaeuser, not least of which was arranging the delivery with Salvador Alvarez at [C.R. England](#), Weyerhaeuser's transportation service provider. All of this work culminated in the delivery of a humongous truck load of material delivered to SMHS and PHS on March 2, 2023 by C.R. England driver Jose Gutierrez. Jose made his first drop off at SMHS with the assistance of SMHS' ace forklift operator Adrian Garcia, under the watchful eye of construction teacher Chris Geldert.



Chris Geldert & Adrian Garcia



Jose Gutierrez, Chris & Adrian



Chris, Jose & Adrian

After dropping off about half of his load at SMHS, Jose fought the southbound traffic on I-15 to Poway High School, where he was greeted by Jeremy Martin, Career Education Specialist with the Poway Unified School District (PUSD), and construction teacher Gene Tallon. PUSD also has an ace forklift operator on their staff named Joe.



Joe starts to unload at PHS



Joe manages a 20 ft long load



Jose, Jeremy & Gene

SPONSORS

Weyerhaeuser (continued)

Thank You Weyerhaeuser!



Weyerhaeuser Fontana Distribution Center Day Crew



Weyerhaeuser Night Crew

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 \$60,000 per cottage (June 2022 estimate). It costs 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 \$100,000 per unit (\$250/sq ft). 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, in 2019 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 about the Warrior Village Project visit our WarriorVillageProject.com website, or email Mark@WarriorVillageProject.com. You can also subscribe to our monthly [Newsletter](#).