



WARRIOR VILLAGE PROJECT®

501 (c)(3) Nonprofit

The Bugle: Vol 7, Issue 9, December 2025

www.WarriorVillageProject.com

PROGRESS REPORT

[Palomar College](#) has been a Partner of the Warrior Village Project since our founding. Instructors and students in the [Cabinet and Furniture Technology Department](#) designed and built the kitchen cabinets for our first house that we donated and installed as an ADU at a [Wounded Warrior Homes](#) (WWH) group home in Vista. Thirteen veterans have lived in the ADU on their path to a better future. We asked Palomar Assistant Professor Jordan Clarke if his students would design and build the cabinets for the four tiny houses we are currently building. Three students eagerly accepted the challenge.



Palomar students visited the ADU and talked with the veteran resident about cabinet design features.



The materials for the cabinets for our first home were donated by [Timber Products Company](#) (plywood), [American Laminates](#) (thermally fused laminate panels), [DBS](#) (drawer boxes), [Blum](#) (cabinet hardware), [ESI](#) (edge banding), and [Würth](#) (cabinet hardware). The generosity of these companies enabled us to furnish the ADU with beautiful, top-of-the-line cabinets made from the highest quality materials. Most of these companies have committed to supply the cabinet materials for our tiny houses. The Cabinet Band is back together again to support our veterans, our future home builders, and our future cabinet makers. Read more about our cabinet makers and Sponsors on [pages 7 – 10](#).

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EVENTS

High School Winter Recess

Dec. 22, 2025 - Jan. 9, 2026

VIP PROFILE

Our Next Generation of Home Builders



October was [Careers in Construction Month](#), a time to recognize the professionals in the field and spotlight opportunities available for the next generation.

[Reprinted from NAHBNow Blog: Posted: 10/27/2025](#)

Colorado Program Bridges Gap Between Students and Industry

[Careers in Construction Colorado](#) (CICC) is reshaping how the state's residential building industry constructs its workforce. By directly connecting high school students with hands-on learning, pre-apprenticeship certifications and industry mentorship, CICC is creating clear, successful pathways into construction careers while addressing Colorado's skilled labor shortage.

Launched in 2015 by the [Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs](#) (CSHBA), the program began in one high school with just 23 students. By 2019, CICC became its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and has since expanded to 91 schools statewide, serving nearly 5,000 students annually. The program's goal is for at least 20% of participants to enter the construction industry after graduation.

"We are really providing students opportunities to have successful futures," said Marlo Asher, CICC director of operations. "This program is the opportunity for kids to be truly successful and figure out what they like and don't like. Now is the perfect time for them to be in that true exploratory phase."

CICC's approach blends classroom instruction with real-world experience. Participating schools provide a facility and CTE instructor, while CICC delivers curriculum through the [Home Builders Institute](#) (HBI), NAHB's nonprofit education partner. In addition to supplying and funding the [HBI Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training \(PACT\) curriculum](#), CICC offers instructor support and certification costs.

A cornerstone of the program is its team of Career Navigators, professionals who serve as the bridge between students and the industry. Career Navigators visit classrooms monthly to mentor students, help them explore career pathways and directly connect them with employers for internships, apprenticeships and full-time opportunities after graduation.

Through the program, students earn nationally recognized HBI PACT credentials and OSHA-10 safety certifications, equipping them with both trade and jobsite readiness skills. To date, more than 2,238 CICC graduates have entered Colorado's construction workforce.

The program reaches urban and rural regions alike, including 25 rural schools where access to hands-on CTE programs is often limited. To connect educators and employers to students, CICC partners with CSHBA, the [AGC Education Foundation](#), [BUILT NoCO](#), the [Summit County Builders Association](#) and the [Housing and Building Association of Western Colorado](#). *"We believe that relationships matter," Asher said. "What's unique to the Careers in Construction program is we're the conduit between industry and education."*

CICC students gain additional hands-on experience and professional exposure through [SkillsUSA Colorado](#), a state affiliate of the national [SkillsUSA](#) program. Every spring, students statewide compete in regional competitions in carpentry, electrical, masonry, cabinetry, plumbing and more, with top performers advancing to the state competition in April.

All students who placed first through third at the six state competition events in 2025 came from CICC-affiliated schools. In total, 11 schools statewide had students place. Beyond competition, the program emphasizes career readiness, as students learn how to communicate, work in teams and carry themselves in professional settings to prepare them for life after high school.

"We believe that students deserve choices, and the industry deserves a workforce," said Sydney White, a CICC career navigator.

For additional resources to introduce local students to residential construction, explore NAHB's [Workforce Development Champions program](#), the [CTE Employer's Guide](#) and the [Ford Next Generation Learning Roadmap](#).

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE, SMHS

San Marcos High School: SM #1

- Chapter 1 Trailer
- Chapter 2 Framing
- Chapter 3 Rough Plumbing
- Chapter 4 Rough Electrical
- Chapter 5 Wall Sheathing
Roofing Shear
Moisture Barrier
Roofing
- Chapter 6 Windows & Doors
- Chapter 7 Exterior
Exterior Trim
Finish
- Chapter 9 HVAC
Venting
- Chapter 10 Insulation
- Chapter 11 Interior Wall
Ceiling Covering
- Chapter 12 Interior Cabinetry
Installations
Flooring
Fixtures
- Chapter 13 Interior Trim Finish
- Chapter 14 Finish Plumbing
Electrical
Fixtures
- Chapter 15 Finish Hardware
Touch-ups
- Chapter 16 Health & Safety
Final Testing
Certification
Submission

Our build days at SMHS were again limited in December due to end-of-semester activities and three full weeks off for Winter Recess from December 22 through January 9. But, we dodged the torrential atmospheric rivers that blew through town over the holidays.

One student came to school on December 30 to work on the siding on SM #1, while three students came to work on their [Design Build Competition](#) 'practice shed' under the supervision of teacher Chris Geldert and Jon Hill from the [AGC Apprenticeship Program](#).



We delivered a mini-split heat pump as well as a shower stall, so that our Construction 2 students could start working on Chapter 9 of the Tiny House curriculum when they return from Winter Recess.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE, SMHS

- **Chapter 1 Trailer**
- **Chapter 2 Framing**
- Chapter 3 Rough Plumbing
- **Chapter 4 Rough Electrical**
- **Chapter 5 Wall Sheathing
Roofing Shear
Moisture Barrier**
- Chapter 6 Roofing
- **Chapter 7 Windows & Doors**
- **Chapter 8 Exterior
Exterior Trim
Finish**
- **Chapter 9 HVAC
Venting**
- Chapter 10 Insulation
- Chapter 11 Interior Wall
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San Marcos High School: SM #2

Our Construction 2 students started installing the Drain-Waste-Vent system in SM #2. This plumbing work should go fairly quickly since our students have the experience of completing this work on SM # 1. Our Construction 1 students completed the exterior siding and caulked the exterior siding and trim to prepare for painting.

Over the Winter Recess Michael McSweeney of the [California Home-building Foundation](#) volunteered for a day on December 30 to install and make up the electrical panel on SM # 2.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE, RBVHS

Rancho Buena Vista High School: RBV #1

- **Chapter 1 Trailer**
- **Chapter 2 Framing**
- **Chapter 3 Rough Plumbing**
- **Chapter 4 Rough Electrical**
- **Chapter 5 Wall Sheathing
Roofing Shear
Moisture Barrier**
- Chapter 6 Roofing
- Chapter 7 **Windows & Doors**
- Chapter 8 Exterior
Exterior Trim
Finish
- **Chapter 9 HVAC
Venting**
- Chapter 10 Insulation
- Chapter 11 Interior Wall
Ceiling Covering
- Chapter 12 Interior Cabinetry
Installations
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- Chapter 14 Finish Plumbing
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Fixtures
- Chapter 15 Finish Hardware
Touch-ups
- Chapter 16 Health & Safety
Final Testing
Certification
Submission

Our build days at RBV were again limited in December due to end-of-semester activities and 2-1/2 weeks off for the Winter Recess from December 22 through January 6.

Our students started checking the wall studs on RBC #1 to see if they were flush. High spots were planed down, and low spots will be covered with cardboard drywall shims before drywall is installed to make sure that the joints have solid backing. Students built a drop ceiling in the bathroom and other students installed a ceiling exhaust fan and a vent to the outside.



*Happy New Year from
Rancho Buena Vista High School*

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE, RBVHS

Rancho Buena Vista High School: SP #1

- Chapter 1 Trailer
- Chapter 2 Framing
- Chapter 3 Rough Plumbing
- Chapter 4 Rough Electrical
- Chapter 5 Wall Sheathing
Roofing Shear
Moisture Barrier
- Chapter 6 Roofing
- Chapter 7 Windows & Doors
- Chapter 8 Exterior
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Two of our students, who are interested in becoming electricians when they graduate, have benefitted from a lot of one-on-one time working with Michael McSweeney, CTE Coordinator for the [California Homebuilding Foundation](#), to complete the rough electrical installation on SP #1.

Other students started installing the exterior wall sheathing and worked on a number of punch list items, including tightening the bolts that secure the framing to the trailer foundation.



PARTNERS

Palomar College Cabinet and Furniture Technology

The [Palomar College Cabinet and Furniture Technology](#) program offers one of the most comprehensive woodworking career curriculums in the nation. The program is built on decades of excellence (1956-present) with an annual enrollment of more than 750 students in over 35 different classes. Utilizing 3 fully-equipped shops, four full-time instructors and numerous part-time instructors from industry provide a breadth of courses and depth of expertise impossible to obtain from smaller programs. So, when Associate Professor Jennifer Anderson told us in 2020 that Palomar would build cabinets for our houses, we were thrilled! Enlisting the help of Adjunct Instructor Brendan Mathews of Foothill Cabinetworks in Vista, they prepared their students in the Spring of 2020 to start building cabinets for the ADU we were building for [Wounded Warrior Homes](#).

Coordinating with SMHS teacher Chris Geldert, Brendan did a preliminary design for the base and wall cabinets. Then, consulting with Palomar College 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 Brad Irvine of [Saroyan Hardwoods](#) in San Marcos, Brendan secured the donation of all of the materials required from six companies: [Timber Products Company](#), [American Laminates](#), [DBS](#), [Blum](#), [ESI](#) and [Würth](#). I should not have been surprised by the response he received, but I was in awe of how eager companies were to help our veterans and students.

Jennifer and Brendan had everything lined up and ready for Brendan's students to start building cabinets 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.

Brendan milled the parts to build cabinets for our Wounded Warrior Homes ADU. He also 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. Completion of the ADU and installation of the cabinets was delayed by the lockdown, but they were installed in time for our ribbon cutting ceremony in March 2022. We are very grateful to our Partners at Palomar College and the companies that donated the materials to build our cabinets.

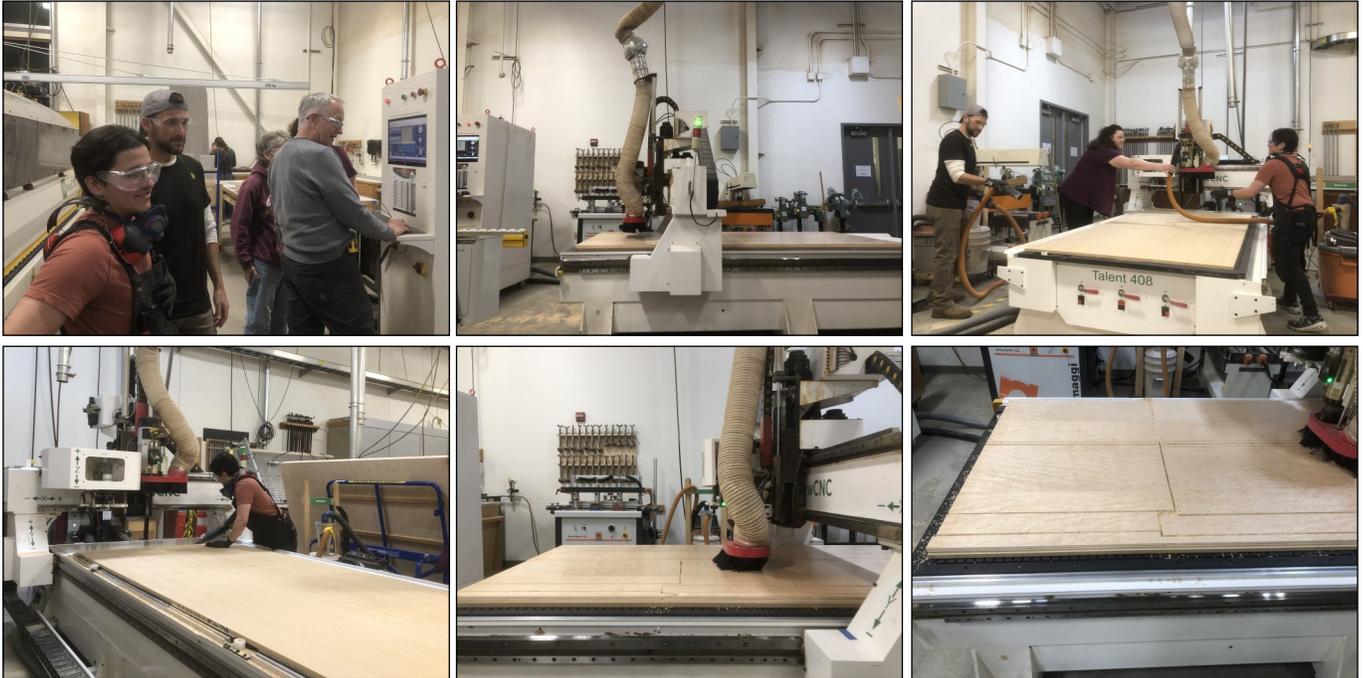
The old adage is true; no good deed goes unpunished. This year I reached out to our cabinet industry Sponsors again to ask them to donate more materials for 4 more houses. I was not surprised when all but one committed to supply us what we needed. Plywood from Timber Products, thermally fused laminate (TFL) panels from American Laminates, and edge banding from ESI have already been delivered to Palomar College. [Saroyan Hardwoods](#) donated the last-mile delivery of the plywood from its facility in San Marcos. And [Peterman Lumber](#) volunteered to deliver the TFL panels from its Fontana facility. Hardware from Blum and drawers from DBS will be provided when our cabinet makers are ready for them.



PARTNERS

Palomar College Cabinet and Furniture Technology

Between 5 and 9 pm on Monday and Wednesday nights, the [Cabinet and Furniture Technology](#) workshop is humming with activity as students fabricate a variety of projects, vying for time on the amazing equipment available to them. On one such night, Palomar College student Michael Rowen took control of the CNC (Computer Numerical Controlled) router table while classmates Solimar (Sol) Beniquez Pagan and Joe DiGiorgio looked on. The CNC router table automates cabinet making by precisely cutting and drilling hardware recesses in plywood panels for cabinets boxes and doors with accuracy and speed, ensuring consistent quality and reducing material waste.



CNC (Computer Numerically Controlled) Router Table

Michael, Sol and Joe will use a boring machine to drill holes on the edges of cabinet panels for the insertion of dowels. An edge bander will be used to apply edge banding tape with heat and glue to the exposed edges of panels. Then, the banding is trimmed and finished for a seamless, durable, and decorative edge. Lastly, they will use the assembly table to assemble the cabinet pieces into finished cabinets.



Boring Machine



Edge Bander



Assembly Table

SPONSORS Cabinet Industry



A lot of materials are required to build kitchen cabinets, starting with the plywood used to build the cabinet boxes. In response to our request for the donation of plywood David Smith, [Timber Products Company](#) VP of Panel Sales, said that his company “*is excited to participate in the opportunity to help young people learn about wood products and help veterans.*” Sales Manager Mark Herbert coordinated with Brad Irvine, Manager of [Saroyan Hardwoods](#) in San Marcos, to deliver the donated plywood to Palomar College from Brad’s facility in San Marcos. We received 38 sheets of ¾” and 8 sheets of ¼” [prefinished maple plywood](#).

Thank you David, Mark and Brad for collaborating to make it happen.

When Palomar College students designed the cabinets for our first house, they selected [Thermally Fused Laminate \(TFL\) panels](#) to fabricate the cabinet doors and drawer faces. We will use the same Cannella Oak Real Wood Texture panels for the cabinets in our tiny houses. [American Laminates](#) Sales Manager May Yang was happy to donate the panels, but we needed help with the delivery of the panels from May’s Riverbank, CA facility to Palomar. Fortunately, [Peterman Lumber](#) is a distributor of American Laminates products, and Jeremy Peterman is a strong supporter of our veterans. So, when we asked Jeremy for help with the delivery to Palomar, he didn’t hesitate. He offered to transport the panels to Palomar from his Fontana facility and Outside Sales Manager Tony Menden scheduled it with Jordan Clarke. Our kitchen cabinets will be as beautiful as they are functional, thanks to the donation of 22 sheets of ¾” and 5 sheets of ¼” American Laminates TFL panels.

Thank you May, Jeremy and Tony!

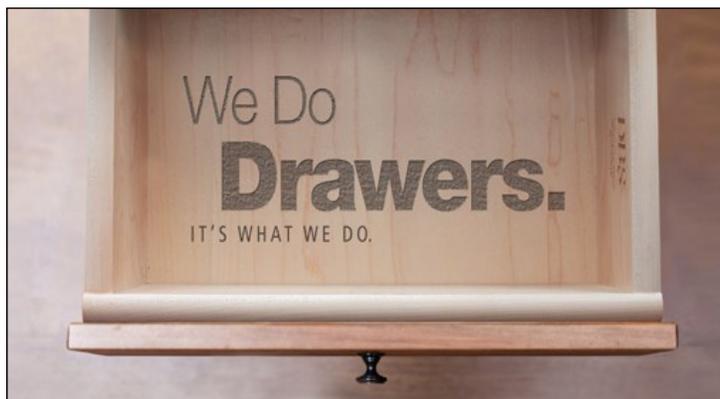


To be functional, cabinet doors must be hung with hinges, and drawers must have drawer runners so that they can be easily opened and closed. Palomar is building Euro style, frameless cabinets which require special hinges and drawer glides. [Blum, Inc.](#) Sales Representative Brent Akenson organized the donation of hardware for our cabinets: 78 110° hinges, 26 155° hinges, 102 hinge plates, 61 drawer runners, 70 right hand drawer locking devices, and 70 left hand drawer locking devices. If this all sounds ‘Greek to you’, trust me when I say that this is top-of-the-line cabinet hardware. Our veterans will love the quality of their kitchen cabinets.

Thank you Brent and Blum!

What are base cabinets without drawers: boring and not very functional! In 2020, when I reached out to Christopher Kish, Territory Manager for [DBS](#) (Drawer Box Specialties), Christopher not only promised to donate drawers for our cabinets, he said “*Thank you for allowing us to participate in this fantastic event.*” When I came back to ask for more drawers this year, Christopher said “*Yes, we would love to participate. Thanks for thinking of us. Let us know what you require.*”

Thank you Christopher for your continued support of our veterans and our students.



SPONSORS (continued)

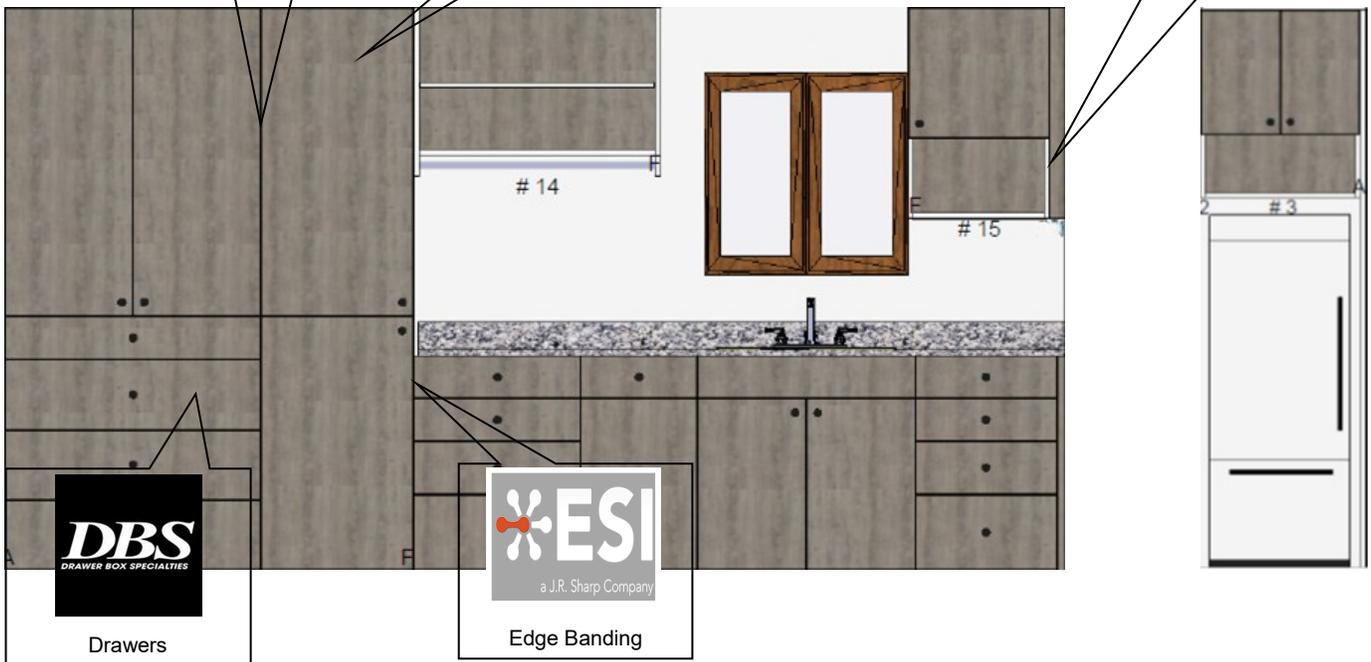
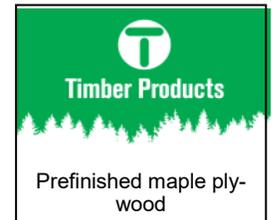


Many different types of materials are required to build a cabinet, and many different companies are involved in supplying those materials. In addition to the laminate panels required for cabinet doors and drawer faces, matching edge banding tape is required to finish the edges of the cabinet doors, drawer faces and interior prefinished maple plywood shelves.

Lori Armstrong, Director of Purchasing for [ESI](#) (Edgebanding Services, Inc.), donated 6 300' rolls of 1 mm x 15/16" ESI Cannella Oak banding to finish the edges of our doors and drawer faces, and 3 300' rolls of 1 mm x 15/16" Hardrock Maple edge banding to finish the edges of the interior shelves. That is 2,700 feet (more than 1/2 mile!) of edge banding for four sets of kitchen cabinets.

Thank you ESI and Lori for your generosity!

Thank you Cabinet Industry Sponsors!



DONATE TO THE WARRIOR VILLAGE PROJECT

The Warrior Village Project has joined the San Diego Gives 2025 Campaign. It is easy to donate to the Warrior Village Project through the [San Diego Gives online platform](#). Your donation will go to the Warrior Village Project General Fund to purchase materials to build Moveable Tiny Houses in high school construction classes in San Diego County.

The trailer foundation and building materials and consumables required for one Moveable Tiny House (MTH) cost about \$44,000. The curriculum and the inspection and certification package cost about \$6,000.

The cost of installing an MTH as an Accessory Dwelling Unit will depend on the site. But, it should cost about \$20,000 per house. Hence, we can provide a permanent, fully equipped tiny house for a homeless person for about \$70,000 per unit.

According to the [Turner Center for Housing Innovation at UC Berkeley \(March 2020\)](#): *“Between 2016 and 2019 the costs to develop a new affordable unit under the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program have increased from \$425,000 per unit to more than \$480,000 per unit.”* *“These escalating costs represent a significant challenge to a state struggling with an affordable housing crisis, and erode the impact of the increased public subsidies directed toward building new housing.”* Isn't it time to build truly affordable housing?



2025 Campaign

<https://sandiegogives.mightycause.com/donate/Warrior-Village-Project>

We need to raise \$80,000 to purchase materials to complete the four Moveable Tiny Houses we are building at San Marcos High School, San Pasqual High School and Rancho Buena Vista High School.

