

Contractors Pool Talents, Go to Work Helping Community



KUDOS/GIVING

Stephanie R. Glidden

The Associated General Contractors of America, San Diego Chapter Inc. announced that its AGC Build and Serve Committee built a facility for Mountain Shadows Community Homes in Escondido.

Mountain Shadows Community Homes serves 105 intellectually and physically disabled adult residents. The nonprofit's Escondido Campus has 16 group homes on its 5-acre campus, including one that serves the residents who are wheelchair bound and dependent upon Mountain Shadow's caretakers. The AGC team built a much-needed new patio structure.

Don Romo of Escondido-based **Erickson Hall Construction Co.**, and chairman of the AGC Build and Serve Committee, visited the site last year and recommended the project, which the members enthusiastically approved. The team included: **HTK Structural Engineers, Casper Co., Rocky Coast Builders Inc., Quality Reinforcing Inc., Lehigh Hanson Aggregates, Bergelectric, Western Concrete Pumping Inc., Cement Masons Local 500 Area 744, D.A. Whitacre Construction Inc.** and the AGC Painting Apprenticeship Class.

Qualcomm Inc. co-founder **Andrew Viterbi** has given \$5 million to San Diego's **Old Globe**, the Balboa Park theater organization announced. The gift will honor **Erna Viterbi**, Andrew Viterbi's late wife who died in 2015, by



Photo courtesy of the Associated General Contractors of America, San Diego Chapter Inc.
Members of the Cement Masons Local 500 Area 744 with residents of Mountain Shadows Community Homes.

creating the **Erna Finci Viterbi Artistic Director Fund**. The fund designates **Barry Edelstein** as the **Erna Finci Viterbi Artistic Director**.

The Viterbis have supported **The Old Globe** for more than two decades. In 2008, the Viterbis made a leadership gift of \$2 million to permanently name the **Viterbi Family Lobby** of the in-the-round theater.

Old Globe board Chair **Vicki Zeiger** said Viterbi's "generous gift in Erna's name will perpetuate her legacy for years to come."

"I'm grateful for this opportunity to memorialize my beloved wife Erna by supporting an institution she valued," **Andrew Viterbi** said in a statement distributed by **The Old Globe**.

Prior to **Qualcomm**, **Andrew Viterbi** was co-founder of **Linkabit**. He invented an important piece of communications code called the **Viterbi Algorithm**.

In an effort to help teach responsible

spending to youth, San Diego-based **Miramar Federal Credit Union**, a 63-year-old financial cooperative, partnered with **Pro Kids | The First Tee** of San Diego to deliver financial literacy workshops to middle school children in **City Heights** and **Oceanside**. The workshops were led by the credit union, using golf analogies to make the subject material accessible and ultimately help kids make wise financial choices.

"By partnering with **Pro Kids**, we hope to help these kids get a head start on understanding the value of a dollar by learning budgeting skills," said **Paul Socia**, CEO/president of **Miramar Federal Credit Union**.

Workshops for Warriors, a nonprofit school assisting veterans who are transitioning into civilian life through advanced manufacturing training, certification and career coaching, announced it received a \$75,000 grant from **Wells Fargo**.

"These funds are vital to our being able to provide training to veterans seeking to make a better life for themselves," said **Hernán Luis y Prado**, founder of **Workshop for Warriors**. "... We're thrilled to have such a reputable company supporting our efforts."

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics employment data released recently, California currently has the highest levels of veteran unemployment. In 16 months, **Workshops for Warriors'** graduates earn the credentials they need to gain viable employment.

"**Workshops for Warriors'** veterans are living proof that when you get proper training and support, a transition into civilian life can be successful," said **Brian Lee**, North San Diego area bank president. "At **Wells Fargo** we believe we can only be successful if the communities in which we do business also succeed."

Luis y Prado founded the nonprofit in 2008 as a workforce training and career coaching facility after 15 years of active-duty service as a U.S. Navy officer, including combat tours in **Afghanistan** and **Iraq**.

"I saw more of my fellow service members die of suicide and drugs in San Diego than die from bombs and bullets in Baghdad," he said. "I needed to change that."

From 2011 to 2015, **Workshops for Warriors** trained more than 200 veterans and wounded warriors, all of whom obtained jobs in advanced manufacturing immediately after completing their programs. Visit workshopsforwarriors.org.

Send Kudos/Giving items to sglidden@sdbj.com.