

Tami Halton Pardee (center)
with graduates of the Life Change
Warriors program.



Building Roadmaps, Changing Lives

—BY JACK NEEDHAM

IMAGINE RECEIVING a devastating multiple sclerosis diagnosis just as your adult life is starting to take shape. What would you do — fall into a pit of despair, or figure out how you're going to make the best of a bad situation?

That was the stark reality facing REALTOR® Tami Halton Pardee 17 years ago, just as she was entering her 30s. She opted to make the best of it; the uncertainty associated with MS jolted her into reassessing what she truly wanted in life.

“I really wanted to star in the life I loved,” says Halton Pardee, “because I didn’t know how long I would be mobile and capable of doing that ... I wanted to make every minute count.”

What she couldn’t have anticipated then was just how significant an impact this newfound desire for a meaningful existence would have, or just how many other lives it would touch.

Enrolling in a litany of self-help workshops to

learn the strategies she would need to maximize her own quality of life, she came to a stark realization. “I looked around the room and it was always wealthy people there, because they [were the only ones who] could afford it.”

That realization would become the bedrock of Halton Pardee’s charity: Life Change Warriors. “I thought, if you could take these tools and give them to people who couldn’t afford them and teach them that they’re responsible to make a plan and plan their lives, that could change their lives.”

Life Change Warriors revolves around helping disadvantaged, predominantly homeless and oftentimes pregnant women formulate their own roadmaps for success — operating under the mantra, “Star in the life you love.” With participants drawn from Venice-local charities like the Harvest Home (for pregnant women) and Venice Arts (for at-risk youth), the six-week program consists of six to eight sessions where participants are first asked to map their lifelines — where they’ve been and the hurdles they’ve faced — and then their goals. Success can mean many different things to different women, and goals can be as simple as having a better diet to getting their GED, explains Halton Pardee, who coaches many classes herself.

“It’s baby steps. [For example, with the GED, it’s] ‘Call the school and sign up by this date.’ ‘Go to class.’ ‘Finish class.’ ‘Pass the test by this date.’ These goals often stretch well past the program itself, which means Life Change Warriors operates as a support network long after students have graduated from the program.

With the initial success of Life Change Warriors in the Venice area, Halton Pardee is now looking to extend the model to other parts of California. REALTORS® interested in starring in lives they love by replicating the Life Change Warriors program in their own communities can get in contact with Pardee and her team via lifechangewarriors.org.

BIO: As founder and CEO of Halton Pardee + Partners, Tami Halton Pardee has built a concierge real estate company comprised of a specialized team that has sold over \$3.7 billion worth of residential and commercial properties. She operates in the Los Angeles area and has been in business for 14 years.