



Fall 2014

BOYS REPUBLIC & Report

LeAnn Rimes, Eddie Cibrian are Honorary Co-Chairs of 2014 Della Robbia® Campaign

■ **Chino Hills, California:**
Meaningful work helps disadvantaged students learn the means toward a better life.

Centuries-old artisanry, electronic technology and celebrity advocacy unite this year to help facilitate Boys Republic's single largest student self-help activity and one of the most comprehensive self-funding efforts conducted by any non-profit child-care center in the nation — the annual Della Robbia wreath campaign.

With the beginning of wreath production just weeks away, boxes of seed pod clusters and pine cones are piled ceiling-high and wreath assembly booths are jam-packed into the old wreath barn at Boys Republic's main campus in Chino Hills, California. Meanwhile, wreath office receptionists are frantically processing an avalanche of customer orders that will guarantee a busy production schedule.

The Della Robbia wreath operation is first and foremost a work experience program for disadvantaged teenagers enrolled at Boys Republic. From gathering, sorting and preparing decorative seed pods to fastening them to supple evergreen boughs and finally, to shipping the finished "circles of Christmas cheer" to destinations throughout the world,

(Please turn to page 2)





POD BARN: Wreath assembly booths are jam-packed into the "pod barn", an old brick gymnasium on Boys Republic's Chino Hills, California campus. At an exciting pace, more than 3000 wreaths are assembled and shipped each day of production.

Symbols of Christmases Long Ago

Just as wreath production embodies traditional work values, the wreath themselves continue to be what they have been for nearly a century, enduring symbols of Christmases long ago. Hand made of aromatic greenery, fresh apples and lemons and thick clusters of cones, seed and pods, they look and smell like Christmas itself.

Produced by Boys Republic students since 1923, the distinctive wreaths have gained international fame in part because of the sponsorship and promotion of prominent Americans. Since the original wreath chairperson, First Lady Mamie Eisenhower, posed for publicity photos with Boys Republic students holding a Della Robbia wreath in 1956, dozens of prominent citizens from many walks of life have added their personal endorsement to the effort. All have been drawn to the Della Robbia campaign by a common desire to help vulnerable, troubled teenagers work and study their way to responsible, productive lives.

Della Robbia Program is a Student Work Experience Project

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students working in the Della Robbia program experience the challenges and rewards of adult responsibility, while earning part of their own way.

LeAnn Rimes and Eddie Cibrian

This year, LeAnn Rimes and Eddie Cibrian have generously accepted the role of Della Robbia wreath campaign National Chairpersons. The celebrity couple, stars of the reality show *LeAnn & Eddie*, have added luster and prestige to the annual wreath sale by appearing in campaign literature.

A singer, author, and actress, Ms. Rimes



rose to national acclaim with the release of her second album *Blue* when she was just thirteen. Ms. Rimes, whose vocal style is reminiscent of Patsy Cline's, has enjoyed 42 singles on the *Billboard* Hot Country Songs Chart, 13 of which have made the Top 10. She has also won two Grammy Awards, three Academy of Country Music Awards, and 12 *Billboard* Music Awards for her contributions to country and pop music.


Mr. Cibrian is a versatile television and film actor whose extensive résumé includes *Third Watch*, *CSI: Miami*, *Hot in Cleveland* and *Say it Isn't So*. The actor's foundation lies in daytime dramas including *The Young and the Restless*, *The Bold and the Beautiful*, and *Sunset Beach*. Five months after his leading debut on *Sunset Beach*, TV Guide designated Mr. Cibrian one of "Daytime's 12 Hottest Stars."

Ms. Rimes and Mr. Cibrian are long supporters of charitable organizations including Make-A-Wish Foundation, StandUp for Kids, National Psoriasis Foundation, and the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes.



POWERED BY TEENS: From gathering, sorting and preparing decorative seed pods to shipping the finished wreaths to destinations throughout the world, students working in the Della Robbia program experience the challenges and rewards of adult responsibility, while earning part of their own way.

WE KNOW YOU LOVE our Della Robbias — why not LIKE them, too?

 Boys Republic's newly-redesigned website (boysrepublic.org) makes ordering a Della Robbia a snap. Just a few clicks and you can bring up your last year's order — no need to hunt for address books; it's all right in your personal account. And if you order online, we will send you tracking information when your Della Robbia wreaths have shipped.

While you're there, please help us spread the word: You can "like" the Della Robbia wreath with convenient Facebook and other social networking icons placed on almost every page.



Sowing Seeds for a Sustainable Republic

“I don’t have any boys at home, so this is fun to have a little boy time,” muses Derek Scott on what he enjoys most about teaching Boys Republic’s Landscaping class. Today, boy time for Mr. Scott means visiting Landscape’s new project with eager students who call him “Pops”. The class’ current project, and the collaborative labor of instructor and students, produces sustainable food and wholesome values for the boys. As Landscape’s popular teacher creates learning opportunities for his students, he enjoys watching their discoveries happen. “I like seeing the guys get the ‘ah-ha’ experience in class”. Today, the “ah-ha” moments the boys have surface as they

occasion. They confidently describe the farm’s construction as a couple boys begin tending down the horizontal lines of their nascent crop. William ambles through neat rows of GardenSoxx, a patented mesh fabric the boys filled with compost and threaded through with drip tape irrigation. He plucks a couple wilted onion shoots as he discusses organic farming’s benefits. “We want to know what we are putting into our bodies and that it’s healthy,” he says. His classmate Jorge chimes in, “We got to mix our own herbicide, so we know that our food isn’t sprayed with pesticide.” And what will the boys do with their yield? The organic onions and fennel — “what does fennel taste like?” Mr. Scott asks. “Licorice!” the boys reply — will stock Boys Republic’s kitchen. The flavor of fennel isn’t the only enlightenment offered as the boys grow here: teenagers graduating will have a skill they can offer to their



HYDROPONIC FARMING:

Students enrolled in Boys Republic’s landscaping program learn environmentally sound cultivation methods. At left, they tend closely-clustered rows of GardenSoxx planters. Sprouting green onions and fresh fennel allow three times as many plants to thrive in a quicker amount of time than crops planted traditionally in the ground.

The boys’ hydroponic farm occupies little space on Boys Republic’s 200-acre, farm and campus; the GardenSoxx method reduces water use by 70% and fertilizer by 50%.

coax a burgeoning, organic crop to reach up out of Landscape’s innovative urban farm.

The student workers are at first hesitant to let outsiders into their community. When Mr. Scott prods them to discuss the design and installation of their vertical, hydroponic farm, the boys rise to the

communities since most come from the city. Some boys have never seen a cow nor will they return to the sprawling, verdant fields they often work in late mornings.

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Della Robbia[®] News

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOYS REPUBLIC DELLA ROBBIA WREATH PROGRAM

FALL 2014

Historic Wreath Program Will Again Help BR Teens Earn Their Own Way

When the first Della Robbia Christmas wreath of 2014 travels by conveyor from the hand-assembly area to the shipping dock in the Boys Republic wreath barn late this November, it will signal the beginning of the 91st season of one of the oldest and largest self-help enterprises undertaken by any child-care program in the nation. It is an enterprise as rich in history and tradition as it is essential to the school's work with hundreds of troubled teens every year.

As they have every year since 1923, the students of Boys Republic will greet the holidays with the crackle of dried pine cones and seed pods, the scent of fresh California evergreen foliage, and the sight of piles of greenery, boxes of fresh apples and lemons and stacks of shipping cartons.

Della Robbias come in two sizes. A 22-inch diameter wreath sells for \$49.95 complete with applicable taxes, shipping and handling. A 28-inch diameter wreath is priced at \$69.95, taxes, shipping and handling included. Wreaths can be bought by check, money order, Master Card, Visa or Discover Card.

Last-minute orders can be placed by telephone at (800)833-7769. Wreaths can also be ordered using the enclosed form. The completed

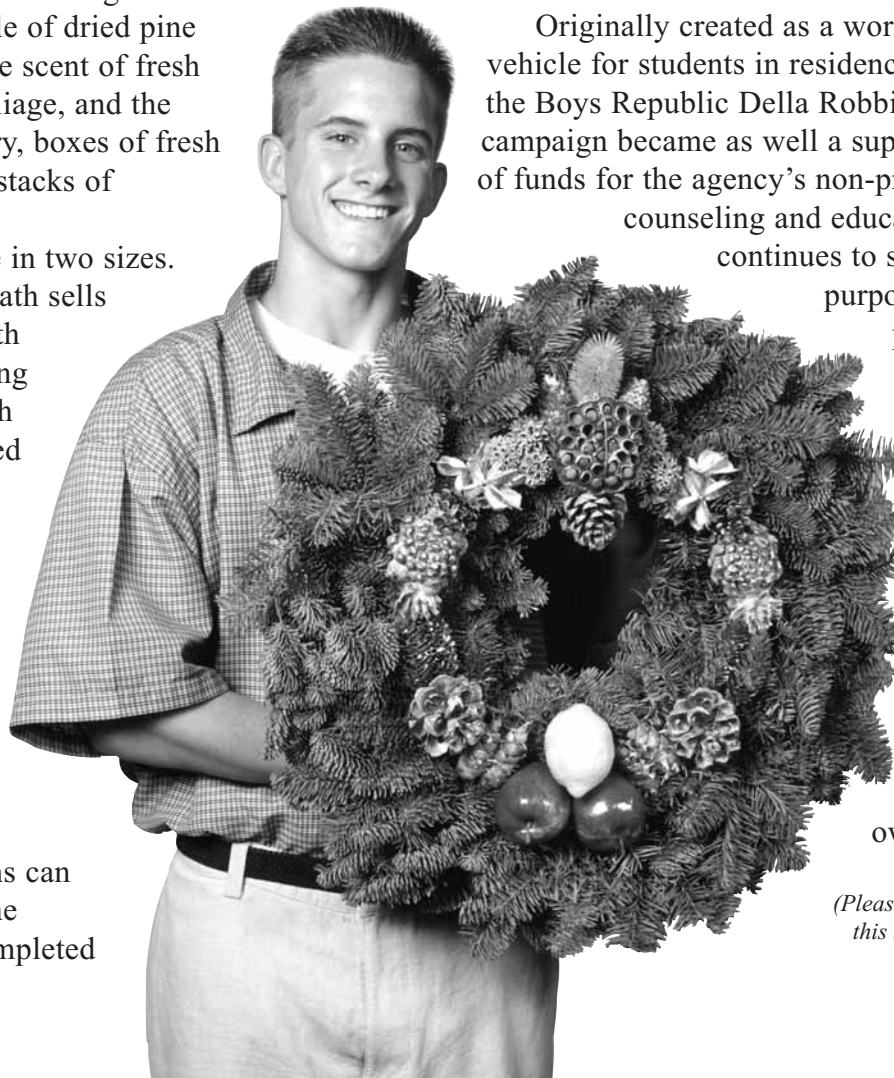
form can be faxed to (909)628-9688 or mailed to Boys Republic at 1907 Boys Republic Drive, Chino Hills, CA 91709.

Della Robbia wreaths can also be ordered by computer, online. Orders can be placed via Boys Republic's home page at: www.boysrepublic.org.

Early ordering is encouraged. If past years' experience again holds true this season, every wreath the students and their adult helpers can assemble from the stores of pine cones and pods will be purchased by mid-December and late orders will have to be returned unfilled.

Originally created as a work-experience vehicle for students in residence, over the years the Boys Republic Della Robbia wreath campaign became as well a supplemental source of funds for the agency's non-profit programs of counseling and education. It

continues to serve that dual purpose today, providing meaningful after-school and weekend work for hundreds of students a year and helping Boys Republic raise nearly one-quarter of its own annual



(Please turn to back page of this special section)

Distinctive Della Robbia Wreaths Are Natural Symbols of the Holiday Season

They have been called “the very image of holiday celebrating” and “Christmas cheer in a box.” They are Boys Republic’s world-famous Della Robbia Christmas wreaths, distinctive, all-natural decorations that have been an important part of Christmas to families throughout the nation and elsewhere for 91 years.

Hefty rings of fresh California evergreen boughs encrusted with pine cones, seed pods and burrs and

then highlighted with fresh apples and lemons, Della Robbia wreaths look and smell like Christmas itself.

Because of the fresh materials they contain, the final hand-assembly, packaging and shipment of the finished wreaths is limited to a period of only a few weeks at the start of the holiday season. Yet each Della Robbia wreath represents a full year of effort by Boys Republic and Girls Republic students and

(Please turn to back page of this special section)

Anatomy of a Della Robbia

PINE CONES

Cones from a variety of pine and fir trees are used in every wreath, some gathered at altitudes of up to 10,000 feet in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

COTTON BURR

These delicate star-shaped pods are gleaned from the fields of the San Joaquin Valley after the cotton crop has been picked.

EVERGREEN BOUGHS

Supple noble fir evergreens are harvested fresh in the forests of Northern California and Oregon. No trees are harmed in the pruning process.

LIQUIDAMBAR

A member of the witch hazel family, liquidambar trees grow in great profusion throughout Southern California. These spiny seed casings are gathered early in the year.

PLUMOSUM

Named for their feather-like plumes, these novel cones are native to Israel and South Africa.

WINESAP APPLES & FRESH LEMONS

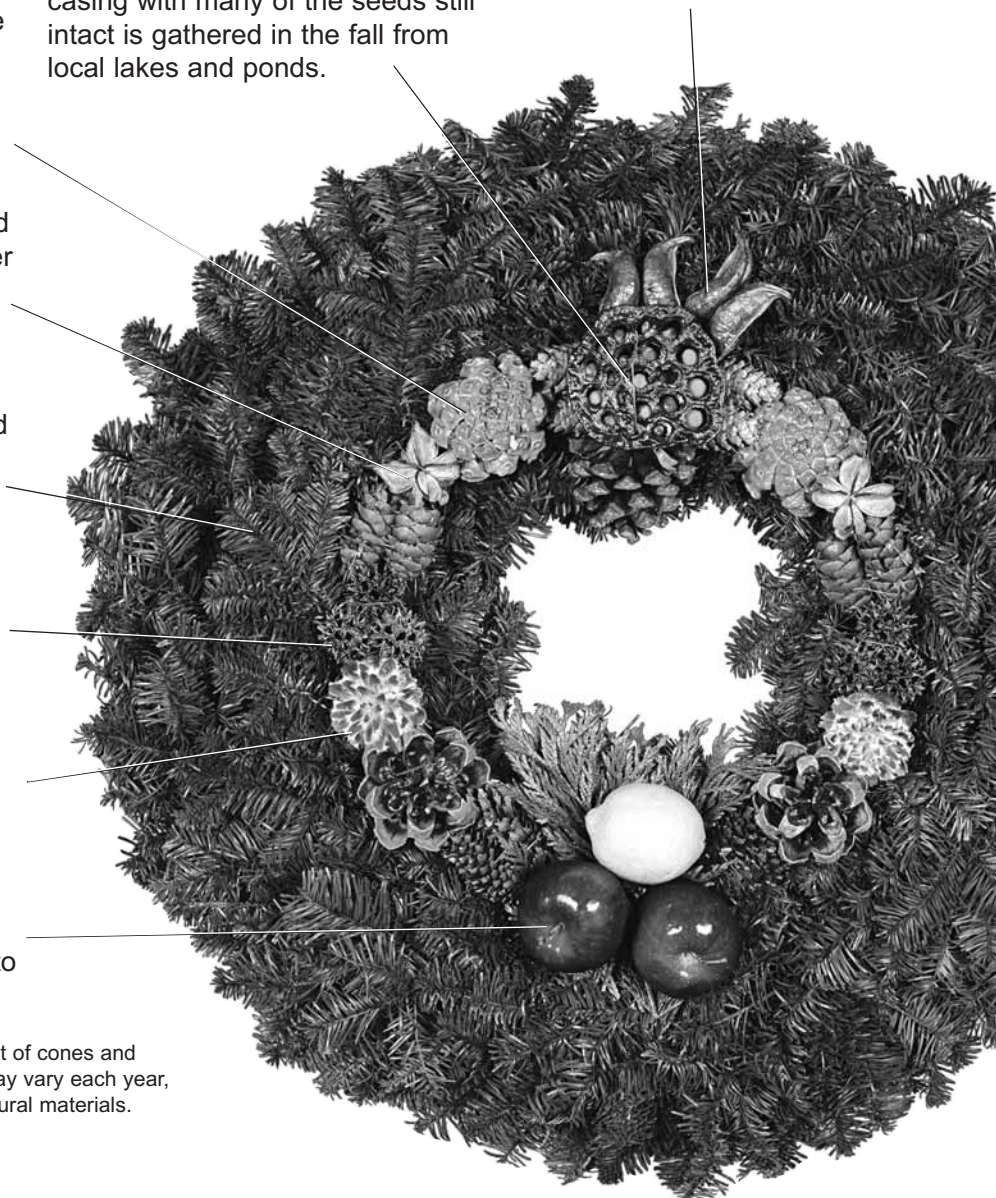
Hand-rubbed in alcohol and then lacquered to keep them colorful and plump.

LOTUS POD

This distinctive water lily seed casing with many of the seeds still intact is gathered in the fall from local lakes and ponds.

BOTTLE TREE POD

This pod is from a tree native to Australia and now grows in San Fernando Valley, California.



Note: The number, selection and placement of cones and seedpods upon the Della Robbia Wreath may vary each year, depending upon the availability of these natural materials.

Phone, Fax, Modem or Mail In Your **Last-Minute Wreath Orders**

Phone: (800) 833-7769 **Fax:** (909) 628-9688

Internet: <http://www.boysrepublic.org>

Mail: Boys Republic, 1907 Boys Republic Dr., Chino Hills, CA 91709

WREATH ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- PLEASE FILL OUT FORM COMPLETELY, INCLUDE FULL ADDRESSES WITH ZIP CODES.
- WREATH ORDERS ARE PROCESSED AND SHIPPED IN THE ORDER RECEIVED..
- WREATHS SHIPPED TO ARIZONA CONTAIN NO FRUIT; HOWEVER, THEY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PODS AND A RED BOW.
- ONLY 22-INCH WREATHS WILL BE SHIPPED TO ADDRESSES OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND THEY GO UPS OR AIR PARCEL POST AT ADDITIONAL CUSTOMER EXPENSE.
- NOTE: DELLA ROBBIA WREATHS CANNOT BE SHIPPED TO P.O. BOXES.
- AVOID DUPLICATION. IF YOU TELEPHONE OR FAX YOUR ORDER, PLEASE DO NOT ALSO MAIL IT.

TO SEND BY MAIL OR FAX, CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

WREATH SIZE	SHIP TO: (PRINT NAMES AND FULL ADDRESSES INCLUDING ZIP CODES)

CREDIT CARD PURCHASES

VISA M/C DISCOVER AMX Exp. Date: _____

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Cardholder: _____

PERSONAL & BUSINESS CHECK PURCHASES

Please make checks payable to *Boys Republic*

SENDER INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone No.: _____

WREATHS PRICES*

_____ 22" WREATHS @ \$49.95, COMPLETE \$ _____

_____ 28" WREATHS @ \$69.95, COMPLETE \$ _____

TOTAL ORDER \$ _____

* PRICES INCLUDE APPLICABLE TAXES, SHIPPING, AND HANDLING.

* Shipments outside of Continental U.S. limits must go Air Parcel Post or UPS at customer's expense.



Della Robbias Evoke Holiday Charm and Joy

(Continued from page 2 of "Della Robbia News")

the professional wreath staff who work with them.

Beginning each January, weekend work parties of boys and staff go into selected fields, forests and orchards to collect numerous varieties of seed pods, nuts, cones and other natural, dried materials. Then during the week, each sackful is sorted, cleaned, drilled and wired. The cones and pods are wired together into decorative arrays and then stored in boxes and bins in an old gymnasium transformed into a wreath barn on the agency's Chino Hills campus.

Altogether, more than three million individual pods and cones from as many as a dozen varieties of trees and plants are collected, prepared and stored each year to await the holiday season.

The distinctive design of the cone, pod and fruit-studded Della

Robbia wreath was inspired by the ceramic wreath sculptures of the Della Robbia family of artisans in 16th century Florence, Italy. Margaret Fowler, a founder of Boys Republic, happened to see an original Della Robbia ceramic while vacationing in Europe in the early 1920's, just at a time when she was searching for a craft project that would teach the children in her care the value of honest labor. She brought the idea home with her and, in 1923, the first few dozen Della Robbia wreaths were made and sold door-to-door for \$2.50 each.

So successful was the project that the following year wreath production was increased to 107. It was increased again for the third year and again for the fourth. Wreath sales quickly grew to 500 per season, then 1,000, then 1,500.

In the early 1950's, Boys Republic's Board of Directors formalized the Della Robbia program, expanding it to serve as a key component in students'

work experience activities and as a primary source of supplemental funding for the agency's non-profit operations. They converted an old, red brick gymnasium on the main campus into a permanent wreath barn and installed an automated conveyer system to speed the wreaths from each hand-

assembly stage to the next. By 1955, production had swelled to 30,000 wreaths per season.

Today, nearly 40,000 Della Robbias are produced in a 13-day period between Thanksgiving and mid-December each year. But despite that large volume, the wreaths are made as they have always been made, carefully hand-tied, one at a time.

Each wreath is packaged and ready to ship within minutes of being completed. Most

wreaths are shipped within 24 hours of manufacture. Those having to wait an extra day are stored in a cooler to keep them florist-fresh.



LeANN RIMES and EDDIE CIBRIAN have generously volunteered to act as Honorary National Chairpersons of the 2014 Della Robbia Wreath Campaign. The celebrity couple has added luster and prestige to the annual wreath sale by appearing in campaign promotional materials.

Historic Campaign Enters 91st Season

(Continued from front page of "Della Robbia News")

operating budget. Proceeds from wreath sales and other self-help activities and donations represent a savings to taxpayers of nearly \$4 million a year.

Pink is Popular!

What started as a flawless photograph became real in a matter of hours: a four-foot tall, two-foot wide “pink ribbon” cake. The cake was transformed from an image into something edible and fantastic by the cake’s creator, Chris Zamora, a Boys Republic student working in the Teaching Bakery. After paring the substantial sheet cake into a symmetrical ribbon and covering its surface with delicate pink flower piping, Chris prepared an impressive confection for his customer, school nurse Cynthia May.

Cynthia May supplied the cake for the Power of Pink Project’s annual fundraising event at Pomona Valley Hospital on Sunday, October 19. The Power of Pink, a nonprofit organization, makes homemade scarves for local women cancer patients. By celebrating donor support and cancer awareness, the Pomona Valley event raises proceeds for Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center.

Staff and students alike noticed Chris’ efforts to create a dessert worthy of the charitable event. Staff members trickling into the dining hall were intrigued



CHRIS ZAMORA, a former Boys Republic student, is now employed by the agency’s Teaching Bakery. Here, he prepares to decorate a cake ordered by the author.



PINK RIBBON CAKE was the creation of Boys Republic’s Teaching Bakery for an event sponsored by The Power of Pink, a non-profit organization.

by the “pink ribbon” cake. Yet it was Chris’ peers who really showed interest. While some students silently peered at the cake, more inquired about its purpose— “It’s for breast cancer, right?” “Where’s it going, Chris?”. That students recognized Chris’ culinary talent is clear. That Chris’ cake encouraged them to reflect on social issues not previously regarded during their day is significant.

Pink is not a color often seen in Boys Republic hallways and classrooms. But today pink is popular. Chris’s “pink ribbon” cake offers multi-layered awareness: it is the boys’ exposure to women’s and world issues, a product of the skill Chris can take out into that world, and an expansion of youth’s vocational skills and the opportunities organizations present that allow the boys to apply these skills. The value of pink today is the increased awareness of a young baker’s creative talent and his and his peers’ awareness that they can positively serve others.

Boys Republic Stunned by Loss of Long-Tenured Employee

Over a span of 38 years, Boys Republic Admissions Director Bruce Oliver personally interviewed more than 10,000 students seeking enrollment in the agency's programs. There was no more passionate advocate of Boys Republic's distinctive treatment philosophy; Bruce often functioned as agency spokesman with the media, the general public, referral authorities and donors. We were distressed over Bruce's illness and shocked when he passed away so quickly, last month. His friends and colleagues provide us with fond memories:

"Bruce and I liked each other as soon as we met decades ago at BR. I much admired his optimistic realism and dedication to Boys Republic that so well matched his duties, and we soon became career partners each tapping from the other's differing skill sets while bettering our separate tasks supporting the successes of BR students. Just over 24 seasons ago we formed the 'Rat Face McDougalls' fly fishing group with Jim Morales, his childhood friend and true brother. Along with our other rotating members pulled into the fray, we made over 50 trips to the Owens River and logged nearly a half year of fishing days together. Those days were certainly about fishing but also about friendship, family, food and yes, BR, before the wine and movies finally sent us to bed for the evening. After I retired, our partnership lived on adding support toward his planned retirement in 2015, a missing chapter that I now must grieve for the both of us. Rest well, Laddie . . . you are in the heaven of my heart and will be with me where ere we tempt the trout to the fly . . ."

Enn "Doc" Magi

"It was a great comfort to know that the doors would stay open at BR largely because Bruce was ever vigilant, knew that BR is bigger than all of us, and most importantly and impressively just plain wouldn't let anything deny children the BR experience that he believed in unwaveringly."

Mark Hardwick

"As the Admissions Director for nearly 30 years, Bruce dubbed himself Boys Republic's 'chief watermelon thumper.' By this he acknowledged how inexact the science of determining whether a young man



Bruce Oliver

or woman was ready for the challenge of becoming a Boys Republic student. He queried them through a critical lens, as he didn't want to withhold the opportunity from anyone, but also didn't want a place in the program to be taken from another deserving student by one that was not ready to embrace the transformational possibility presented to them. He applied this same critical eye to program evaluation. He would vigilantly question standards, processes and decision making to ensure that the students that were accepted into the program were being exposed to the treatment model delivered with the utmost fidelity."

Chris Burns

"About forty years ago Bruce and I both started working at Boys Republic. Bruce started at Silverlake and I was on campus. A few years later we both became cottage supervisors, Bruce in Brewer and I was In Hunt. We were colleagues and friends; helping each other out, playing basketball on Fridays, and occasional meals off campus. I could always depend on Bruce to listen and to help. I'll miss him."

Robert Falk

"Bruce Oliver was not only a good employee at Boys Republic, he was also a mentor, a friend and a wonderful family man. I was impressed with the way

Memorials Honor Special People, Events, Through the Lives of Children

A memorial contribution to Boys Republic and Girls Republic is a meaningful way to honor a special person, a special event or the memory of a friend or loved one. Your gift will reap a second benefit as well by contributing directly to the programs of Boys and Girls Republic. In this way, the honor paid the designee will live on perpetually in the lives of the deserving young people you have helped.

The following are memorial and commemorative contributions made from July 1 through October 31, 2014.

Donor / In Memory of:

Ms. Laretta Edlund /
Bruce P. Crary
Mr. & Mrs. Mitch Allen /
Bruce Crary

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Base /
Mary E. "Betty" Graber
Jacqueline K. Ludlum /
Dorothy & Walter Hertzog
Rose S. Blennov / Louise Laub
Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Bosen /
Louise Laub
Paul A. Gangsei / Louise Laub
Dorothy Rose / Louise Laub
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bucey /
Louise Laub
Mrs. Martha J. Atwell /
Louise Laub
Max L. Scott / Louise Laub
Chris Burns / Louise Laub
Mrs. Doralyn M. Clauson /
Louise Laub
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Falk / Louise Laub
Pasadena Auxiliary of Boys
Republic / Louise Laub
Ms. Christine Paradise /
Margaret McMillan
Pasadena Auxiliary of Boys
Republic / Margaret McMillan
Richard & Maryann Williams /
Bruce Oliver
Pasadena Auxiliary of Boys
Republic / Bruce Oliver
Mr. & Mrs. Lynn R. Bosen /
Bruce Oliver

Susan Kornbacher / Bruce Oliver
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Falk / Bruce Oliver
Ms. Deborah Bancraft /
Bruce Oliver
Max L. Scott / Bruce Oliver
Mr. Chris Burns / Bruce Oliver
Genevieve R. Morales /
Bruce Oliver
Mr. & Mrs. George Homer /
Bob Size
Susan Poole / Bob Size
Marjorie Ratcliff / Bob Size
Pasadena Auxiliary of Boys Republic
/ Roger Tolbert
Mrs. Gertrude C. Fox /
Douglas E. Trucks

Donor / In Honor of:

Max L. Scott /
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Williams
Max L. Scott /
Mrs. Marie Eckstrom
Max L. Scott / Mr. Bob Falk
Max L. Scott / Mrs. Marjorie Rees
Max L. Scott /
Mrs. Mary Lou Boone
Max L. Scott / Mrs. Barbara Kittell
Max L. Scott / Mrs. Vilma Palette

he took his assignment as our Admissions Director. He would constantly have discussions with me regarding potential new admits to Boys Republic, whether they would be appropriate candidates based on interviews he had previously conducted.

I took over as a Unit Supervisor for Brewer Cottage in the latter part of the 80's. Bruce was there to assist me in my new assignment every time I called on him for help. He mentored me by opening my eyes to the various different hats I had to wear as a supervisor. He trained me how to manage my team and how to develop and maintain a healthy culture.

He worked hard but made sure his wife, his daughter and his son were his priority. We would be discussing work related matters in my back yard sometimes in the evenings and he would just stand up in the middle of our discussion and say "Gotta go, my wife and kids are expecting me". As a family, they loved going to Balboa on weekends just to walk around and

dine at the area restaurants. The one thing that he was not able to do was to take a trip with his family to Scotland as his roots are connected to that country. My life is definitely a little lonelier without Bruce. Rest in Peace my friend."

Duffy Blau

Boys Republic Report

Boys Republic Report is published three times yearly by Boys Republic, 1907 Boys Republic Drive, Chino Hills, CA 91709. (909) 628-1217.

Boys Republic and Girls Republic are private, non-profit, non-sectarian agencies helping troubled children aged 13 to 18. Rules for acceptance and participation in these programs are the same for everyone without regard for race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap.



1907 Boys Republic Drive
Chino Hills, California 91709
Phone (909)628-1217 Fax (909)627-9222

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Chino, CA

Student Work Experience Project Promotes Sustainable Agriculture

(Continued from page 4)

The boys' hydroponic farm occupies little space on Boys Republic's 200-acre, farm and campus — a telling sign of farming practices' larger changes in a world with increasingly urban landscapes. The class's resourceful GardenSoxx farm supports and transforms the agricultural traditions rooted in Boys Republic's 1907 founding. While the students continue traditionally harvesting crops, sustainable GardenSoxx farms can blanket a city's concrete surfaces, spaces the Landscape graduates will ultimately return home to. Students can continue the innovative tradition of "small farming" planted by Mr. Scott through cultivating crops hydroponically. Such sustainable organic crops leave a big impact on the dense urban communities they sprout up in.

Graduated students will return to their urban communities with sustainable work habits and values. Flourishing landscapers can produce fresh fruits and vegetables for others in a resource-efficient way, and for the first time, envision sustainable lives for themselves, complete with the rewarding experience of earning their keep. William enjoys "learning how to do all these skills and projects ourselves". Self-sufficiency is an attribute Jorge also prizes that so often stems from agricultural labor. The youngster enthusiastically volunteers why he enrolled in Landscaping class: "to help my grandma in her garden since her plants are always dying". By cultivating a "green thumb," Jorge is planting the seeds for sustainable familial relationships supported by a newfound appreciation for serving others. Of the Landscaping class' value, Mr. Scott affirms, "it is not so much the results but what the boys learn from the process that's important". The process is indeed fruitful.