



Summer 2017

BOYS REPUBLIC Report

Kitchen Replacement Project Breaks New Ground

Della Robbia
Wreath
Order Form
Enclosed

■ **Chino Hills:** Agency prepares for construction activities for state-of-the-art culinary center.

Although the photo shoot was a symbolic activity, it didn't dampen the enthusiasm students had for the real Max Scott Culinary Arts Center. Students "breaking ground" in the photograph helped publicize the groundbreaking vocational training center from which they will soon benefit.

Two years into a three year campaign, the Kitchen Replacement Project has occupied the time and energy of Boys Republic students, staff, and consultants. Numerous meetings with architects, engineers, and consultants, familiarizing select students with the capital project, and developing materials for the capital campaign are now drawing to a close.

Boys Republic is just days away from obtaining building permits for the new Max Scott Culinary Arts Center. Once the mobile kitchens are set up, demolition of the existing production kitchen can begin. Construction activities will occur in phases to replace the production kitchen, build a permanent Culinary Arts classroom and attached bistro, and expand the Teaching Bakery. The new Max Scott Culinary Arts Center is scheduled to be ready for move-in by June 2018.



Photo: Ryan Beck Photography

Plans Written for New Campus Reading Room



“A book is not paper and ink; it’s a world full of dreams, imaginations, knowledge, awakening, emboldening, and a lot, lot more invaluable treasures”—Jyoti Arora

Many quotes describe the significance of reading not only for learned adults but for developing minds. Young minds need creativity, stimulation, and challenge. That’s

why Boys Republic is opening a reading room.

Since the campus library is used as a classroom, students at Boys Republic need a room of their own where they can slay dragons, wander the streets of foreign cities, and experience a life different from theirs. The reading room, dubbed “The Lounge” on campus, will offer a dedicated after-school space stocked with popular classics and contemporary books that pique the teenagers’ interest. Students will be able to get comfortable with their books on bean bag chairs, soft sofas, and spacious tables where they can spread out.

A committee for The Lounge has formed of interested students and key members of the staff, with input from Director Emeritus Vilma K. Palette. As students and staff continue to solidify plans for an inviting campus reading room, young minds at Boys Republic are sure to benefit in the future from The Lounge.

BR Students Visit Jay Leno’s Garage for 2017 Della Robbia Campaign Photo Shoot

“The cars were awesome, but what struck me the most was how approachable and humble Jay Leno was,” said former student Brian Coulter. He and Girls Republic graduate Karen Villa were chosen to appear in photos with Mr. Leno at his famous “Jay Leno’s Garage” as part of Boys Republic’s annual campaign to promote the sale of Della Robbia Christmas wreaths, nationwide.

Smiling on demand is a learned skill and the kids were understandably apprehensive in this high-stakes experience. However, both students proved themselves undaunted in front of the camera and performed like professionals.

“The photo shoot was scary,” recalled Brian. “But Mr. Leno told one joke after another and made it fun. I want him to invite me back!”

Acclaimed late-night show host and stand-up comedian Jay Leno has graciously agreed to serve as Honorary Chairman of Boys Republic’s 2017 Della Robbia wreath campaign, helping to bring



public attention to the youth-serving agency’s annual fund-raising effort.

Della Robbia wreaths are produced by Boys Republic students through a year-long work experience program that gives disadvantaged teenagers an opportunity to earn part of their own way while also learning important work habits.

At-Risk Teens Get Crafty with Monrovia Senior Citizens

By: Claudia Palma

Brookdale Monrovia resident Gayle Roth crafted a colorful card of paper, scraps, pearls and paper doilies for her grandson-in-law.

“He’s in the Air Force, stationed in Italy,” said the 78-year-old.

One of the newest residents of the assisted living community, Roth joined a group of fellow residents Wednesday afternoon as teens from the Boys Republic helped them create the cards.

The youth are part of the nonprofit day program for at-risk boys and girls to help them achieve their maximum potential.

“My grandson-in-law was in the Boys Republic when he was young too,” said Roth. “He turned out alright. He and my granddaughter are living in Italy. I think he’ll like it when I tell him who helped me make it.”

Roth said she enjoyed the visit and help from the Republic youth and thinks the program is good for giving the teens a second chance.

“It’s a good experience,” said 17-year-old Julian Benitez. “This is something I should have been doing more of, instead of what I had been doing before.”

The partnership with Boys Republic and Brookdale began a couple years ago when the teens performed some music from their holiday show for the residents. Then, more and more activities were planned for the teens to visit the facility and spend time with the residents.

“This is a great inter-generational program,” said Nidia Delgado, resident programs coordinator at Brookdale. “The



ARTS AND CRAFTS: Monrovia Day students and senior citizens work together at Brookdale Monrovia on April 5, 2017. The teenagers and Brookdale residents make get-well cards for hospitalized elders at an assisted living community. Photograph by Walt Mancini for The Pasadena Star-News.

residents love it. You could see them smiling; they enjoy spending time with the younger generation, sharing their stories and seeing what the world looks like through the eyes of the kids.”

Boys Republic programs coordinator Jessica Ruiz said they have been trying to do a few visits a year to the community.

“The kids love it,” she said. “It teaches our kids patience and understanding.”

A big part of Boys Republic is keeping the teens engaged and off the streets, noted Ruiz.

“I like talking to the residents, learning about their lives,” said 17-year-old Samuel Perez. “It teaches me to appreciate my life.”

This article was written by Claudia Palma for The Pasadena Star-News. It was published on April 6, 2017 on www.pasadenastarnews.com.

Nautical Themed Car Show Sails to Success

This year's Friends of Steve McQueen Car Show was special: not only was it the tenth annual show organized by an all-volunteer committee, but it drew a dizzying array of Boys Republic alumni.

Graduates from the 1940s up to the 2010s attended the June 2 dinner. As honored guests and key participants, alumni helped kick off the nautical themed *The Sand Pebbles* car show events.

Among the dinner guests, two men were students in the 1940s. John Cropper and Arnold Linde lived at Boys Republic the same decade Steve McQueen did, and both graduates told the audience about how the facility served them as disadvantaged students. A more recent graduate, Michael Salgado, also attended the dinner as a guest of an aviation group. As an aviation mechanics student, Michael was invited to join the group of professionals to network and enjoy the festivities.

Graduates also had more active roles in the event. Brian Coulter, a Journeyman Baker in Boys Republic's Teaching Bakery,

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John Cropper, '50

John Cropper: A Closer Look

Born in the Philippines to a native mother and an American father, John Cropper experienced hardship early on like many Boys Republic students. John's mother died when he was two, and his father was imprisoned by Japanese forces during

Japan's occupation of the Philippines in 1941.

When John's father was liberated in 1945, the family moved to California. Shortly after, John's father died from Beriberi disease caused by malnutrition. Orphaned, John went to live with a couple in the California desert. By day he performed the dangerous and gruelling work of harvesting dates, and at night he slept in a small, corrugated metal shack.

In 1947, John and his brother were placed at Boys Republic. They milked cows and pasteurized the milk. John also raised pigs, milk cows, and heifers for beef and helped grow livestock feed.

John graduated in 1950 and was soon drafted into

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ALUMNUS, nutritionist, and personal trainer Tommy Kayachith speaks at the Friday night dinner.



HAPPY WINNERS accept their car show award. Boys Republic wood shop students craft the awards from spare car parts.



STUDENTS SERVE a three-course Asian cuisine to 500 guests at The Sand Pebbles dinner.

Boys Republic Welcomes New Volunteer Leadership

Author, speaker, and professor Jeff Goodman joins Boys Republic's Board of Directors. As the Chairman of the Children's Bureau and writer of *Poverty, Welfare, Child Abuse and the Juvenile Delinquent Syndrome*, Mr. Goodman describes Boys Republic as a "100% fit with my personal philosophy of helping youth take responsibility for their lives." He is excited to volunteer for a "unique and outstanding non-profit."

For two decades, Mr. Goodman worked in corporate finance until he decided to seek more personally meaningful endeavors. His search resulted in serving as chairman of Goodwill Industries in Los Angeles, where he helped develop a strategic plan. Eventually, Mr. Goodman worked as a strategic planning consultant for agencies including The Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, and American Red Cross.



Jeff Goodman

In his free time, Mr. Goodman plays tennis and works on his physical conditioning. Mr. Goodman is a frequent speaker at community service organizations, such as Rotary and at the Economic Round Table.



Teenagers Enjoy a Private Shopping Spree

The expansive store was empty except for a special group of students. Teenagers from Boys Republic and its satellite programs perused racks of clothing and aisles of footwear. As they picked out sweatshirts, sneakers, and jackets, students enjoyed browsing JCPenney's merchandise before the doors opened to the public.

Their unique shopping trip on October 3 was made possible by Chino's JCPenney. The store's general manager, Kelsey Cook, presented ten deserving students with \$100 gift certificates each. Students were selected by their staff based on their achievements and progress in the program. Ms. Cook invited the boys and girls to JCPenney so they could enjoy breakfast and shop with the store to themselves.

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 March 1, 2017 through July 31, 2017.

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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.

www.boysrepublic.org



Alumni Return for 10th Annual Car Show

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helped students make the desserts. Boys Republic supervisors and alums Jayson Moore and Michelle Martinez assisted the students serving guests a three-course meal. Two alumni were also featured during the dinner program: Joseph Fordjour, who will begin law school in the fall, and Tommy Kayachith, a chef and nutritionist who volunteers his free time in the Teaching Bakery.

The dinner and car show raised \$335,233. These proceeds will be applied toward the Kitchen Replacement Project, which will replace the aging campus kitchen with a structure that meets modern health and safety standards and provides better vocational training. Thus, students will learn the skills and attitudes they need to be responsible and productive adults, just like the alumni who returned for the charity event.

John Cropper: A Special Graduate

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the Army. Shipped to the front lines of the Korean War, John was supposed to fight for seven months, but with no recruits for rotation, he spent eleven long months on the front line. He doesn't know how he survived, let alone escaped, without injury.

Upon his return, John worked at a plating company. He later started his own company, Cropper Plating, which he operated for over thirty years.

John and his wife had three sons, and the couple enjoyed many trips and cruises together. Eventually, John moved into assisted living and now enjoys playing poker and bingo with friends.

Boys Republic was a highlight of John's life because it helped shape his future. It didn't just provide him with food, shelter, and education, but served as a home when he didn't have one.