Executive Director’s Message

Chris Burns
Executive Director

The new year has been dominated by several of the same areas of focus as was the last. The continuum of care reform effort brought about by AB 403 and AB 1997 has remained a primary focus for Boys and Girls Republic this fiscal year and has proven to be a far more complicated endeavor for our State and County partners than they had initially anticipated. Boys Republic and all similar youth serving agencies were instructed to be ready for implementation as of January 1st of 2017, however the review and approval process for the changes being required from all of these organizations has been incredibly time consuming and thus far only a handful have completed the entire process. Boys Republic is very close to completing this process having already obtained nationwide accreditation and County mental health certification and is using the delay to enhance the training of newly acquired direct care staff and clinicians so that the full implementation will occur as seamlessly as possible. The Board of Directors has been incredibly supportive in allowing the endowment to support the enhanced operational costs in the form of staff salaries during this delay, so that an experienced and well-trained professional staff will be in place and already delivering services when the State grants approval.

Similarly, this year has seen continued focus on the fund-raising and preparation for the kitchen replacement and Culinary Arts Center to be dedicated in honor of our previous Executive Director, Max Scott. We are in the latter part of the campaign and have been blessed with tremendous generosity from our longstanding friends, foundations, new supporters, Pasadena Auxiliary and our own Board of Directors. One of our newest groups of friends, the Steve McQueen Car Show supporters, has been dedicated from the beginning of the campaign to the present.

The Friends of Steve McQueen Car Show celebrated its 10th anniversary in June and has grown in every capacity including its ability to generate the much-needed funds to support projects like the kitchen replacement. The committee has generously pledged to place all proceeds for the last three years (minus three student scholarships) to this campaign and their investment of nearly one million dollars is staggering.

Boys Republic is fortunate to have friends and supporters who invest years, often decades, getting to know us and appreciating a philosophy of accountability and personal responsibility that has been improving the lives of at-risk youth for over 110 years. The cornerstone of the agency’s strength is its diverse and dedicated staff whose commitment allows the students to tackle the difficult work ahead of them in a consistent, safe and supportive environment. Caseworkers, teachers, vocational instructors and clinicians who remain involved with students from day one in the program, throughout the day-to-day challenges and during their transition home, are the ambassadors of the core philosophy and treatment model. It should be no surprise that one of those longstanding friends gave to the agency in a manner reflective of his understanding of how those life changing developments are facilitated in the first place. Lyle A. Parks’ gift of one million dollars with the specific intent...
of honoring and rewarding staff commitment and tenure was the first of its kind in the agency’s history. However, it demonstrated a keen insight on his part that one of the best ways to ensure that Boys Republic continues to deliver life-changing opportunities to the students we serve is to invest in retaining the dedicated employees who are the facilitators of that process.

Boys Republic has much to be grateful for: a Board of Directors devoted to improving the lives of the youth in our care, a dedicated and tenured workforce who are on the front lines with those youth and families on a daily basis, and an incredible donor community that invests in the students, staff and programs that provide those life-changing opportunities. For all these things, I express my sincere gratitude.

Friends of Steve McQueen Car Show

IF THE DRIVING FORCE behind the Friends of Steve McQueen Car Show is its all-volunteer organizing committee, the three gentlemen above (Ron Harris, Chad McQueen, and Peter Dunkel) are the creative and hard-working engine that makes it purr along efficiently year after year.

Max Scott Center for the Culinary Arts

FOOD SERVICES TRAINING: The Kitchen Replacement Project creates a dedicated culinary arts classroom, expands the successful student bakery and builds a new production kitchen, bringing the facility up to modern health and safety standards.

The food services training site will prepare disadvantaged students to leave Boys Republic with the specific knowledge they will need to be successful in a competitive job market.