

Winter 2010

Produced for and about the children of Boys Republic and Girls Republic

& Report

BOYS REPUBLIC

Last-Minute Della Robbia Orders Mark Approaching Holiday Season

Della Robbia
Wreath
Order Form
Enclosed

■ Chino Hills: **Actress Carole Cook Accepts Starring Role in Annual Wreath Campaign**

It's about kids. It's about self-help. It's Della Robbia time!

While most of us are just now beginning to think about Christmas, disadvantaged students at Boys Republic are nearing the final stages of readiness for their annual holiday campaign. Boxes of seed pod clusters and pine cones are piled ceiling high, wreath assembly booths are jam-packed into the old wreath barn, and an avalanche of wreath orders guarantees a busy production schedule.

After nearly a full year of preliminary effort and planning, the 2010 Della Robbia Christmas wreath campaign will shift into high gear as students in residence at Boys Republic's main Chino Hills campus, joined by supervising staff and a crew of helpers from the surrounding community, begin approximately three weeks of intense effort assembling, packing and shipping thousands of the world-famous holiday decorations to customers in all 50 states and more than a dozen foreign countries. Production will continue until the supply of natural materials collected by student work parties since last January is depleted.

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Actress Carole Cook Stars in 2010 Della Robbia Wreath Campaign

Honorary National Chairperson of the 2010 Della Robbia wreath campaign is dynamic entertainer Carole Cook. In this role, she will help to promote public awareness of the Della Robbia program and its value as a work experience project for disadvantaged teenagers.

A versatile stage, film and television actress, Cook has starred in such Broadway hits as *42nd Street*, *Romantic Comedy*, and *Hello, Dolly!* Carole won Best Actress Awards for *The Supporting Cast*, *Patio/Porch* and *The Lion in Winter*. On television, Carole was Donna LaMar on *Cagney & Lacey*, Cora on *Dynasty* and has guest starred on most major television series, most recently on *Grey's Anatomy*.

Carole Cook is a longtime supporter of various AIDS organizations and regularly appears as a featured performer in the annual Los Angeles S.T.A.G.E. benefit. Cook, along with her actor husband, Tom Troupe, was a recipient of the 2002 Theatre Ovation Award for Lifetime Career Achievement.

Della Robbia Program Provides Meaningful After-School Work Experience for Disadvantaged Teens

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Della Robbia wreaths from Boys Republic feature clusters of pine cones, seed pods, cedar sprigs, fresh apples and lemons and other natural materials encircling a base of fresh Noble Fir boughs, patterned after the 15th century Italian ceramic wreaths created by the Della Robbia family.

An 87-Year Holiday Tradition

The Della Robbia wreath program was originated in 1923 by Boys Republic's founder, Margaret Brewer Fowler as a work-experience vehicle for the youngsters in residence. However, the popularity of the novel wreaths quickly made them a source of self-help funding for the school as well.

The campaign continues to serve this dual purpose today, providing meaningful after-school and weekend jobs to hundreds of students each year while also generating supplementary funding for the school's programs in guidance and education for troubled teenagers.



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

1. PLEASE FILL OUT FORM COMPLETELY, INCLUDE FULL ADDRESSES WITH ZIP CODES.
2. WREATH ORDERS ARE PROCESSED AND SHIPPED IN THE ORDER RECEIVED..
3. AVOID DUPLICATION. IF YOU TELEPHONE OR FAX YOUR ORDER, PLEASE DO NOT ALSO MAIL IT.
4. ONLY 24-INCH WREATHS WILL BE SHIPPED TO ADDRESSES OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND THEY GO UPS OR AIR PARCEL POST AT ADDITIONAL CUSTOMER EXPENSE.
5. NOTE: DELLA ROBBIA WREATHS CANNOT BE SHIPPED TO P.O. BOXES.

**WREATH
SIZE**

SHIP TO:

(PRINT NAMES AND FULL ADDRESSES INCLUDING ZIP CODES)

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*

_____ 24" WREATHS @ \$46.95, COMPLETE \$_____

_____ 32" WREATHS @ \$69.95, COMPLETE \$_____

TOTAL ORDER \$_____

* PRICES INCLUDE APPLICABLE TAXES, SHIPPING, AND HANDLING.

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

TO SEND BY MAIL OR FAX, CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

Planning Underway for 4th Annual Friends of Steve McQueen Car Show

On Saturday, June 4, 2011, Boys Republic will host the 4th Annual 'Friends of Steve McQueen Car Show', at its spacious Chino Hills campus. The show has already been popular with car owners and enthusiasts, but with actor and racer Chad McQueen chairing the event's planning committee, you can expect things to kick into high gear. At the suggestion of committee participant Freeman Thomas, each annual show will create a theme that would celebrate a different McQueen film or aspect of his life.

For more information and updates, please visit www.friendsofstevemcqueen.com.



Photo: Sterling Scott



Chris Burns, Ph.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Chris Burns has hit the ground running as he guides the agency through the busy Della Robbia wreath season.

Board of Directors Identifies Successor for Executive Director Position

After an exhaustive search, Boys Republic's Board of Directors has appointed Chris Burns, Ph.D. as Executive Director, effective October 1. Burns will replace Max L. Scott, whose retirement coincides with the New Year.

Mr. Burns is a 17-year veteran of Boys Republic; his assignments have progressed from Caseworker through Associate Director. He has distinguished himself as an adept administrator, most recently as a key negotiator in a service fee rate modification that has brought the agency an additional \$3 million annually.

Burns earned a doctorate from Rosemead School of Psychology and became licensed as a Clinical Psychologist in 1996.

He and his wife, Brandy, live in Chino with their two children, Alec and Connor. He is a member of the Rancho Del Chino Rotary.

So I Understand You'd Like to Work at Boys Republic?

Article by Jeff Johansson



Jeff Johansson

Come in then. Please. Sit down. Let's talk about it.

First off, it is a job! A good job; one for which you will be paid; of course, not what you thought you were worth when you were gnashing your teeth in college or grad-school waiting for final exam grades — no! But you will be paid.

OK, I see you're laughing. That's good. So I can rest assured that you're not here for the money. If you were, I would tell you to carry on and not waste our time together.

I'm sorry, though. I have to laugh too. Once you're working here for a while, the kids will say exactly that: "Oh, you're just here to collect a paycheck." When you hear this, just smile at the young man or lady. Sooner or later, they'll know the truth.

And yes. It is a job like any other job. There's politics! There are struggles with others to gain the advantage, get the promotions, you know the drill. You'll probably get written-up a time or two. But don't get caught up in that! Take heart in knowing you have important work to do.

It does get hard sometimes though. You'll work one day till 10:30 p.m. and have to be back at 8 am. If the 'night-man' (or woman) has sick kids or something else happens, and they can't find someone to relieve you; well, you'll stay all

night. Don't worry. It almost never happens that way; but it does happen! You need to be ready if it does.

Oh, and you'll be put on the spot. You'll field some tough questions from your supervisor getting out of bed some mornings — on what you did and why the night before. Administrators and parents: they will grill you; and when you go to court, judges and court officials; and you'll grow from it. But none of that will even compare to what the boys and girls will put you through as you go to group each day. They're sharp. They're relentless! But I promise you: you'll grow!

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GROUP ACCOUNTABILITY: *Caseworkers provide a role of guidance in daily group sessions but, paradoxically, are subject to the same expectations of honesty and accountability for behavior.*



So You'd Like to Work at Boys Republic?

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There will be times when you think, "I can't do this!" You'll be overwhelmed by the pure enormity of the task of putting back together young lives where there was little hope before you came on the scene. There will be those other times when you think you're better than the boys, girls and parents you work for. You'll think you're smarter, more sophisticated, better bred.... Whatever?!?... You know how ego's work.

Then one day, one kid will say something that makes you blink, makes your heart skip. You suddenly realize you won't have to look too deep inside yourself, your own family or circle of friends to know we all have the same problems. Yes! Human problems!

Another day or late one night, you'll sit with a



RELATIONSHIP BUILDING: *Trusting relationships are the foundation of individual growth and healing. Staff at Boys Republic grow personally as much as do students.*

boy while he tells you about his father. He'll tell you how much he loves him. He'll start to cry while telling you what it was like to see him 'strung-out' on methamphetamine: dazed, soiled and sleeping in his clothes. You'll know what to say and do when this happens, the people around you will have prepared you for it; in time, you'll learn to listen to your heart and speak from it.

Yet another time, a boy will tell you that his 'street-gang' is his real 'family', and you'll understand completely! He'll explain to you how, when he was 11 years old, they looked after him when his parents couldn't. You'll tell him to keep talking about it—to go to group and talk with the others when he's ready to. One day he will, and you might then hear about the time he walked into his house when he was 10 and found his family brutally murdered, his little sister raped. You'll stop wondering why kids get into trouble and why they learn to do stupid things for attention. And you won't have to work here 10 or 20 years to hear these stories either. I'd give you ... maybe, six months.

But let me say a little more about being paid. I think I implied that you will not be well-paid, but that's not exactly true. Indeed, you may become very rich doing this job.

I was sitting in the office a few days ago, catching up on some paperwork when the phone rang. It was Mrs. Churchill. I had long since forgotten about her and her son, whom I had known and worked with some 15 years earlier. She had just called to thank me.

"For what", I asked?

"Well", she beamed. "I just wanted to tell you that Thomas has his own parish now. He is ordained."

"That's fantastic," I said. "How exciting! You must be so proud!"

We talked for a few more minutes until we ran out of things to say.

Before she hung up, she said, "You know you gave my son back to me, don't you?"

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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 September 1, 2010 through November 15, 2010.

Donor / In Memory of:

Ms. Helen Allen/
Larry Allen
Mrs. Shirley Bickley/
Virgil Bickley
Ms. Sally J. Coons/
Christopher Coons
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Weckerly/
Carolyn Coppess
Mrs. Arlette Crandall/
Alan Crandall
Dr. Dennis Evangelatos/
William Evangelatos
Mrs. Roberta A. Hay/
David Hay
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Eva Nell Laschober
Mrs. Louise M. Laub/
Herman Laub

Pasadena Auxiliary of Boys Republic/
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Stephen Melnyk
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Helen & John Wilfong
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Brisco/
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Donor / In Honor of:

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Mike Arakelian
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Bremer/
Don Bremer
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Williams/
Max L. Scott
Mrs. Bobbi Cantwell/
Darryle Yeater

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.

Our Mission

Boys Republic is a nonprofit organization which seeks to give adolescent youth with behavioral, educational, and emotional difficulties an opportunity to achieve their maximum potential for responsible, self-directed life within the community.

So You'd Like to Work at Boys Republic?

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I must admit: I don't remember what I said in response. Do you think you would have known what to say? Never mind. That's really a rhetorical question. And for that kind of thing to happen to you, you'll probably have to wait a few years; in that time, however, you'll find out what a privilege it is to work at Boys Republic.

Now, don't come in here thinking you are going to change people! Heaven knows you've got enough changing to do yourself, on your own. People change by themselves, as they are ready to; you just have to give them the time, substance and the environment that allows them to do it.

As I said when you came in, it's a job, a good job. But more than that, it's work! It's hard work. It's *God's* work.

Welcome to Boys Republic!



Jeff Johansson currently works as caseworker at McCormick Cottage. He has served Boys Republic for 33 years; twice as Director at Silverlake and three times as Unit Supervisor. He was Treatment Director from 1989 to 1994. He writes professionally in his spare time.