



Fall 2013

BOYS REPUBLIC & Report

Vanessa Williams is Honorary Chair of 2013 Della Robbia® Wreath Campaign

■ Chino Hills, California:
Historic student work experience
program enters its 90th year.

Since Boys Republic's founding in 1907, its graduates have posted consistently positive outcomes. More than 30,000 troubled youth have gone through the agency's programs to acquire the qualities of educational competence, personal accountability, and self-control. This record of accomplishment would not have been possible except for a good century's worth of caring support by volunteer individuals, civic groups and support organizations.

This year, multi-faceted actress and musical recording artist Vanessa Williams has leant her support to Boys Republic's Della Robbia wreath campaign, a student work experience project for disadvantaged teenagers. Ms. Williams joins a long line of prominent Americans from the fields of the performing arts, public service,



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ADDING VALUE: *For many — if not most — of Boys Republic’s students, the annual Della Robbia wreath project is their first experience working in a production environment. On the job, they experience the satisfaction of adding value to natural materials, while also helping to earn part of their way.*



Annual Della Robbia Wreath Campaign Provides Work Experience for Disadvantaged Teens

(Continued from page 1)

professional sports and industry who have assisted the Della Robbia program by serving as its honorary chairperson over the years.

Ms. Williams’ critically acclaimed work in film, television, recordings and the Broadway stage has been recognized by every major industry award affiliation including 4 Emmy nominations, 17 Grammy nominations, a Tony nomination, 3 SAG award nominations, 6 NAACP Image Awards, 3 Satellite Awards and ultimately a Golden Globe, Grammy and an Oscar for *Best Original Song* for her platinum single “Colors of the Wind,” from the Disney film *Pocahontas*.

Her autobiography, “You Have No Idea,” co-written with her mother Helen Williams, was a New York Times Best Seller in 2012.

Ms. Williams has also built a resumé in philanthropy that is almost as impressive as her performing credits. A strong advocate for equal rights, Vanessa recently received the Human Rights Campaign “*Ally for Equality*” Award for her humanitarian contributions.



A work experience project for disadvantaged teenagers

The annual Della Robbia wreath project is first and foremost a work experience program. Troubled teens learn, perhaps for the first time in their lives, to show up for work on-time, to attend to the task at-hand, to cooperate with co-workers, and take direction from a supervisor — all good work habits that prepare teens for the world of responsible and productive adulthood.

It starts in January. Weekend work parties of boys and staff go into 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 then wired together into decorative arrays and stored in boxes and bins in an old gymnasium transformed into a wreath barn on the agency's Chino Hills campus. 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 students and the professional wreath staff that works with them.



HAND ASSEMBLY: Built one at a time, adult workers from the community help to assemble forty-thousand Della Robbia wreaths in a thirteen-day period beginning just after Thanksgiving.

FLORIST FRESH: Students ship as many as 4,000 wreaths the same day as they are produced.



In which our Northern counties aftercare worker explains how he learned that, at Boys Republic . . .

Help is a Two-Way Street

by Mark Hardwick



Mark Hardwick

I remember Antonio Robinson at age 17 in 1991 like it was yesterday. Why? Because he was one of the first four students I ever worked with as a caseworker in the Independent Living Program at Boys Republic. Antonio was an outgoing young man.

He had already accomplished much in the program when I showed up for my first day of work, including having been elected Mayor of the Student Government.

We got along just fine until he noticed that I had only an introductory grasp of the rules and structures of the program. While the training for new employees at Boys Republic was and is considered top notch in the business, it is impossible to train a new employee in every aspect of the program in a short period of time. You see, Tony thrived on that foundation of rules and structure, and it was extremely difficult for him to tolerate a new staff person who had yet to master all of the ins and outs of the program.

So we did what students and staff do at Boys Republic – We agreed to help each other out. He would bring me up to speed on everything Boys Republic, and I would help him learn about living on his own, and how to maintain his football uniform and equipment, since he was the first Boys Republic student to ever play Varsity football at another high school away from our main campus. The arrangement worked for both of us, and I carry the memory of mutual respect and help between

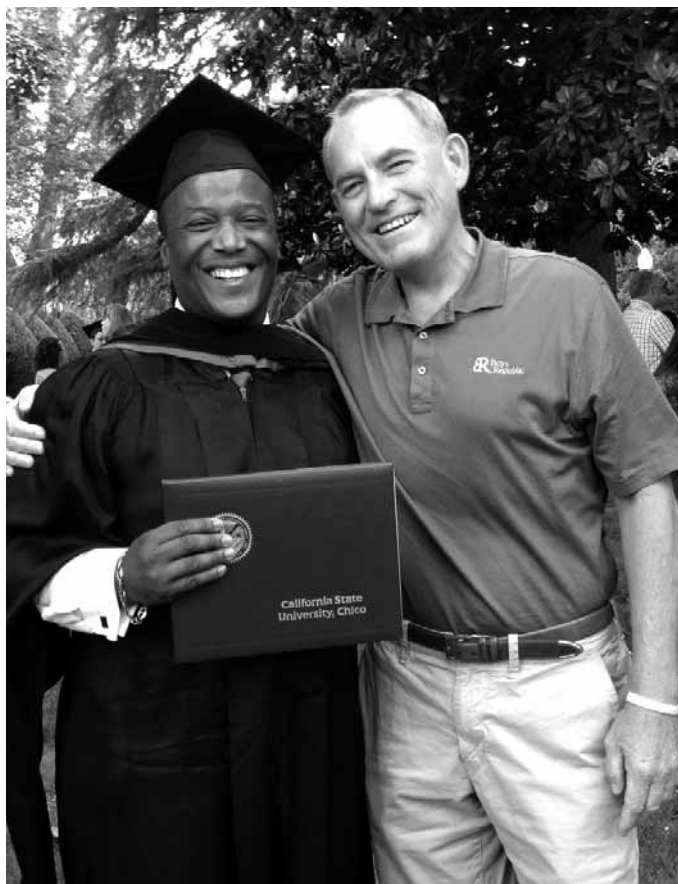
staff and students forward with me to this day.

Fast forward to June 2013, almost 22 years to the day after Antonio and I met. I had the immense privilege of sitting next to Antonio's family, including his 16 year old son Marquis, and

watching Antonio receive his Masters in Business Administration from California State

University Chico. It was the first time we had seen each other since he was 18 and had returned to Boys Republic briefly to receive a scholarship. It was one of the most reflective and emotional moments in my 2 decades plus of working here. Antonio still had that easy way with people, although at age 39, now went from professor to advisor, and friend to family member interacting as a polished, accomplished man. He manages the optical department at Costco now, and has designs

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HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS:
Antonio Robinson earned the Masters in Business Administration degree from California State University, Chico.

Della Robbia® News

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOYS REPUBLIC DELLA ROBBIA WREATH PROGRAM

FALL, 2013

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

When the first Della Robbia Christmas wreath of 2013 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 90th 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 \$46.95 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 1-(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, using the Internet. 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



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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 90 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

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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 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

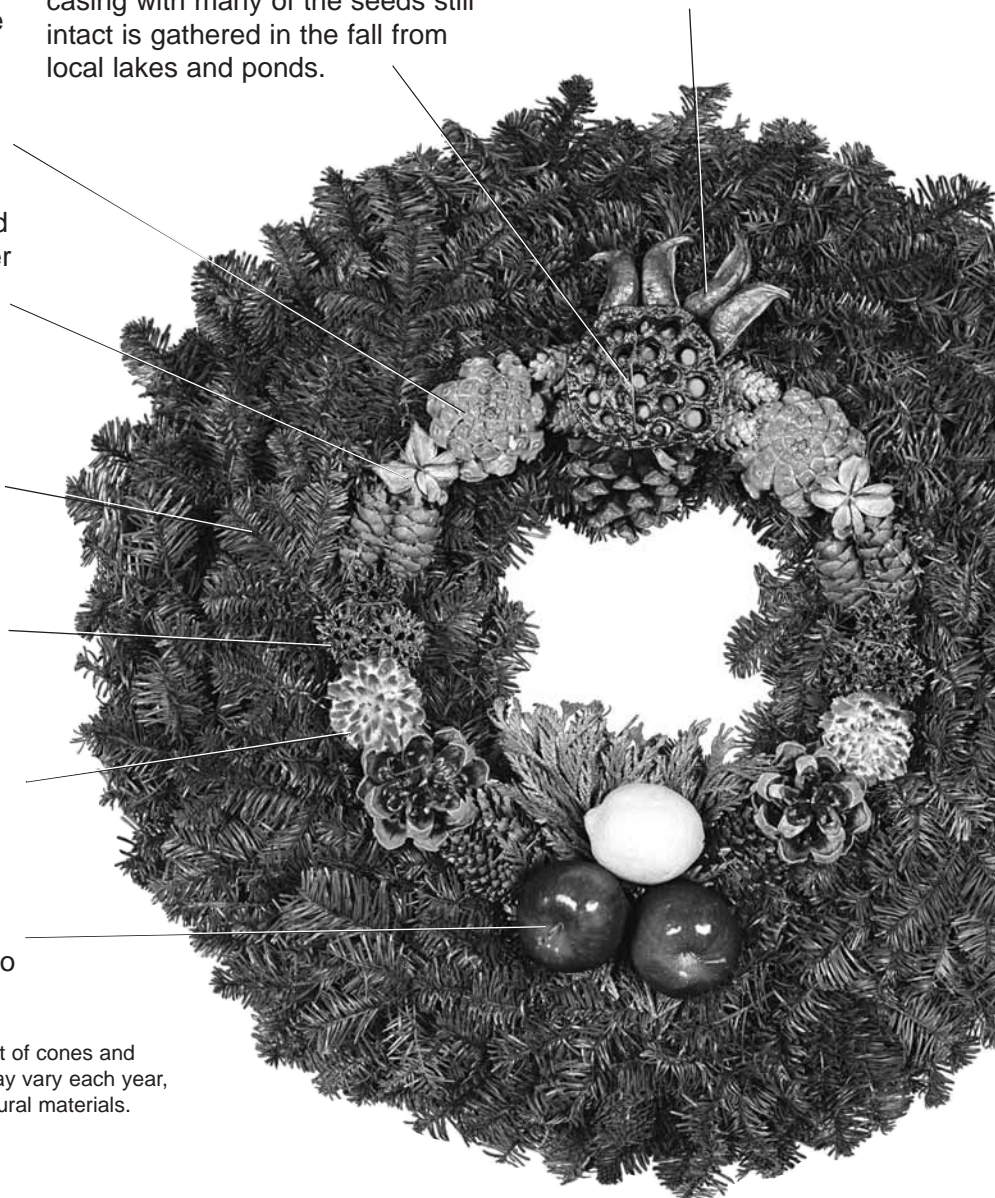
Hand-rubbed in alcohol and then lacquered to keep them colorful and plump.

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

1. PLEASE FILL OUT FORM COMPLETELY, INCLUDE FULL ADDRESSES WITH ZIP CODES.
2. WREATH ORDERS ARE PROCESSED AND SHIPPED IN THE ORDER RECEIVED..
3. WREATHS SHIPPED TO ARIZONA CONTAIN NO FRUIT; HOWEVER, THEY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PODS AND A RED BOW.
4. 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.
5. NOTE: DELLA ROBBIA WREATHS CANNOT BE SHIPPED TO P.O. BOXES.
6. AVOID DUPLICATION. IF YOU TELEPHONE OR FAX YOUR ORDER, PLEASE DO NOT ALSO MAIL IT.

**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 @ \$46.95, COMPLETE \$ _____

_____ 28" 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

Della Robbias Evoke Holiday Charm and Joy

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

the professional wreath staff that works 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 then 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 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.

Historic Campaign Enters 90th Season

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

weekend work for hundreds of students a year and helping Boys Republic raise nearly one-quarter of its own annual operating budget. Proceeds from wreath sales and other self-help activities and donations represent a savings to taxpayers of nearly \$4 million a year.



WREATH MEDIA DAY: Last year, Boys Republic invited local media to view, first hand, the Della Robbia wreath production at the agency's main campus in Chino Hills, California. Boys Republic students, staff and local civic leaders raised a gigantic door mounted with a five-foot diameter Della Robbia.

Teaching Bakery Draws Generous Lead Gift

■ Chino Hills, CA: **Boone Family Foundation to name food services training facility after former executive director, Max L. Scott.**

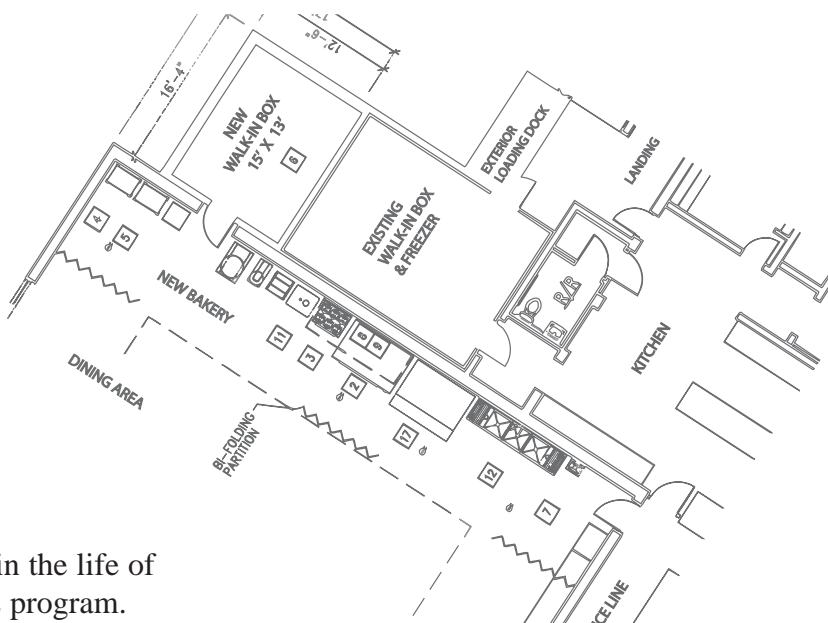
July 23, 2013 was an important day in the life of Boys Republic's evolving food services program. For, it was on this day that Mrs. Mary Lou Boone and her son Nick, of the Boone Family Foundation, toured the future home of the agency's newest vocational training site — the Teaching Bakery.

Nutritional consultant Frank Frobisher walked the Boones and a group of administrators through the existing cafeteria space that will be converted to a full-fledged bakery. Frobisher conveyed his vision, "This will nearly double the enrollment capacity of our Food Services Class. Students will receive school credit learning fundamentals of the bakery trade, while working on the same commercial appliances they would encounter in the job market. We serve three meals per day, here, and our bakery students will provide all of the baked goods, actually lowering our overall food cost!"

Frobisher's excitement was apparently contagious. The Boones generously offered support in the amount of \$200,000 to fund one-half the project cost. They will name the new facility after their good friend, former Boys Republic Executive Director Max L. Scott.

"The Boone family has contributed generously to Boys Republic over the years," said executive director Chris Burns, "not only financially, but with their time and knowledge, as well."

Mary Lou Boone served as a member of Boys Republic's Board of Directors from 1984-1990. She continues as Director Emeritus and, in 2007 took a leadership role in planning Boys Republic's 100th Anniversary event.



STUDENT POWER: A masonry class work crew digs footings to support the bakery's new walk-in refrigerator.



PHILANTHROPIC FRIENDS: (from left) Max Scott, Mrs. Mary Lou Boone, Nick Boone, Executive Director Chris Burns.

Boys Republic Welcomes New Volunteer Leadership

The primary governing body of Boys Republic is a Board of Directors which, by tradition, is made up entirely of volunteer citizens from communities served by the agency. The Board is self-perpetuating, electing its members from the ranks of Southern California's leaders in business, professional and civic life. Three recently elected Directors bring the panel's membership to nineteen members.



Jay Davis

Attorney Jay Davis comes to Boys Republic with a career background in banking and finance. Among several posts, he served as general counsel for Manufacturers Bank and, later, as partner at Baker and McKenzie. In addition, Mr. Davis represented lenders and borrowers in commercial transactions, acquiring a wealth of experience in finance. He is already putting his knowledge to productive use as Chairman of the Finance Committee on Boys Republic's Board of Directors.

Davis is an avid golfer. He and his wife, Christine, live in Pasadena. They have a son, Byron, and two grandchildren.



Joe Mendoza

Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation Joe Mendoza has more than 35 years of experience in the field of recreation services. His work in building and maintaining community recreational resources brings him into frequent contact with the same diverse population that Boys Republic serves — disadvantaged teenagers and their families. Mr. Mendoza serves upon Boys Republic's Program Planning and Development Committees.

Mr. Mendoza enjoys leisure-time activities with church and family. He resides in Whittier with his wife, Pam. They have three children.



Miles Petroff

Community volunteer Miles Petroff retired from a 33-year career as a data technician with Verizon. He devotes his abundant energy to a life-long pursuit of serving others, currently as District Governor (District 5300) of Rotary International. Through his Rotary involvement, Petroff developed and implemented a reading program in Chino-area elementary schools, which was recognized by the San Bernardino County School District with a Medal of Honor Excellence Award. He serves upon Boys Republic's Program Planning and Development Committees.

Miles and his wife Teresa enjoy camping. They live in Chino.

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 January 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013.

Donor / In Memory of:

Mrs. Mary R. Fuller /
Dr. Jene Aitchison
Mrs. Beverly Daugherty /
Sara Clark
Pasadena Auxiliary of Boys
Republic / Betty Brady
Mr. & Mrs. Raoul J. Buron /
Dr. Theresa Jean Buron
Mrs. Louise Laub /
Eileen Donohoe
Mrs. Philippe Hammerness /
John Evans
Mrs. Louise M. Laub /
Eleanor Foster
Max L. Scott /
Marianne Graves
Friends of Boys Republic Auxiliary
/ Joyce Hart
Mrs. Louise M. Laub /
Dean Justice

Mr. Max L. Scott /
Warren Kittell
Mrs. Pat Hanna /
Frank McAuliffe
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Vincent Thomas
Pasadena Auxiliary of Boys
Republic /
Edna Mae Tolbert
Toomey & Associates, Inc. /
Joan C. Toomey
Mrs. Nadine Bosen /
Garry Hodge's mother

Donor / In Honor of:

Peter & Mary Ann Abate /
The Abate/Frazier Wedding
Mrs. Barbara Blackman /
Odette Anderson
Mr. Max L. Scott /
Marjorie Rees
Mr. Max L. Scott /
Wesie Laub
Mr. John M. Montgomery /
Chad McQueen
Mr. Max L. Scott /
Barbara Kittell
Mr. Max L. Scott /
Marie Eckstrom
Mr. Max L. Scott /
Claude A. Gammel

Mr. Max L. Scott /
Annette Merle-Smith
In Memory of John Spalenka
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Johnson
Mrs. Mary Johnson
Mrs. Louise Laub
Pasadena Auxiliary of Boys
Republic
J B D Partnership
Mr. Chris Burns
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Sollman

In Memory of Robert Tanklage

Mr. Thomas F. Reed
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Family
Ms. Marlene Roberts and Family
Mrs. Patricia Uhrmann
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Parrish
Mr. & Mrs. George Chumo
Mrs. Jeanie Gibson
Mr. Doug Wetton

In Memory of William Tilley

Mr. Chris Burns
Mr. Stephen T. Pettise
Montebello Class of 57
The Whip'R Snappers
Mr. David G. Elmore
Mr. David Geraty
Mr. Al Baldwin
Mr. & Mrs. Mark DeBernardi
Ms. Joanne Lee
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Gelson's Markets



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Chino Hills, California 91709
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At Boys Republic, Help is a Two-Way Street

(Continued from page 4)

on the front office, and you can bet they have identified him as an important person in their future.

I was asked by family and faculty if we were surprised as staff members of Boys Republic at Antonio's success? The answer was simple – not one bit surprised, we all saw the potential, and Antonio left Boys Republic and never looked back. We welcome him back to the family after all of these years, especially this old caseworker, who once was taught by an accomplished teenager that help was a two-way street at Boys Republic.

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.