



Fall 2016

BOYS REPUBLIC & Report

Della Robbia Wreath Program Creates Year-Round Student Jobs

■ Vin Scully: **Legendary sports broadcaster generously promotes Della Robbia wreath campaign.**

Like most holiday traditions, Boys Republic's are made at home. On its main Chino Hills campus, Della Robbia wreaths have been a Christmas custom since 1923. Every holiday season, disadvantaged students and the staff who supervise them fashion the merry boughs for families and friends of the agency.

Rustic seed pods, pine cones, bright lemons and ruby apples, and fresh evergreen boughs. The naturally adorned wreaths are not only a symbol of an enduring Christmas tradition but the very means by which students work and grow. Students prepare for wreath production year-round by sorting, cleaning and drilling the teasel, lotus pods, and flowering eucalyptus that decorate the wreaths. The months teenagers spend creating the natural ornaments serve them well once wreath production begins.

Just before Thanksgiving, wreath assembly starts in Boys Republic's pod barn. Industrious teens continue sorting through bins of seeds and pods while other students



(Please turn to page 2)

Historic Work Experience Program Enters its 93rd Year

(Continued from page 1)

help staff encrust the evergreen boughs with fruit for festive flair. The decorated Della Robbia wreaths are hoisted onto a conveyor belt and carried to the shipping room, where students box the wreaths and slide them to teenagers stacking the boxes in delivery trucks.

Wreath production engages students at risk for failure in the community in real-life work experiences. Whether teens pick through pine cones or work together packaging the wreaths, every student practices the habits he will need in any job. From following a supervisor's directions to reporting to their shifts on time, students learn how to work responsibly in the wreath warehouse.

As the teens prepare to serve the Boys Republic community by assembling the distinctive wreaths, community supporters ensure that the agency's largest self-help effort is successful. For over fifty years, notable Americans have publicly promoted the wreath campaign. Legendary sportscaster Vin Scully is the latest to serve as the Honorary National Della Robbia Wreath Chairman. In this role, Mr. Scully has generously appeared in literature advertising the Della Robbia Wreath program.

Vin Scully's voice has resonated in homes across the nation for sixty-seven years. The longtime Los Angeles Dodgers announcer is



BIRD'S EYE VIEW of Boys Republic's pod barn. The pod barn provides warehouse work experience for students as they fashion festive Della Robbia wreaths to sell to the community.

renowned for painting vivid word pictures of baseball for sports enthusiasts and novices alike. The 2016 Major League Baseball season marks Mr. Scully's last announcing for the Dodgers before his retirement. Known in Los Angeles as "the voice of summer," Mr. Scully's many achievements include his induction into the National Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame, his Lifetime Achievement Sports Emmy Award, and his title as the Top Sportscaster of All-Time by the American Sportscasters Association.



Alumna Makes Room for Others at Her Table

"I have a really good family," Adriana Prado Figueroa smiles. "My mom and I are close, and we get together on the weekends with our kids." Adriana discusses her tight-knit family as she sits in the restaurant they own. Cha Cha Chicken is vibrant and warm, much like Adriana's relationship with her family.

Yet Adriana hasn't always been close to them. Strained relationships with her parents and siblings led her to Girls Republic in 2001. At Girls Republic, Adriana wanted to emancipate from her family, but staff convinced her to work through her problems instead. "I owe so much to my counselors Kris and Wanda for talking me out of emancipating. I always admired how they talked openly and honestly with students, our parents, and



GIRLS REPUBLIC GRADUATE Adriana Prado Figueroa, '01-'02, successfully manages her family's restaurant, Cha Cha Chicken. She credits Girls Republic for strengthening her communication and relationships with her family members.

our teachers," Adriana confides.

Through her staff's example and daily practice, Adriana noticed that her attitudes towards her family started to shift. She points to daily

group counseling and weekly family meetings as a means of this change. Adriana learned how to communicate with her family and Girls Republic students in group counseling. "I realized that you can overcome any obstacle through effective communication," Adriana explains. "Through group, I learned how to stand up for myself, stop fighting over small disagreements, and have confidence voicing my opinions."

As Adriana continued to talk through problems with family, she found they were critical in her transition from Girls Republic to the community. Adriana wanted to be independent when she graduated in 2002. After she enrolled in college and started working full time, Adriana struggled to make rent. "When I asked my mom for help, she reminded me that independence also means financial independence," Adriana reveals. "It was definitely tough love, but I learned adult lessons because my mom wouldn't bail me out of difficult situations." Adriana chose work over school, and she says her decision made her understand and appreciate her mom's hard work to support herself and her family.

Adriana's parents introduced lessons of self-reliance and hard work to her early on. Before Girls Republic, Adriana learned that if she wanted something, she would have to work for it. "If I needed money to buy shoes I would have to peel buckets of potatoes, which I didn't like at the time," Adriana laughs. When her family opened the first Cha Cha Chicken location in 1996, Adriana recalls how she, her parents, and her siblings worked together to prepare the restaurant for its grand opening. Each family member worked on different art projects like painting murals on the walls, building tables by hand, and creating centerpieces for each booth.

At the time, Adriana didn't want to go into the family business. Now, she chooses to manage Cha Cha Chicken in Northridge. Adriana is in charge of the Caribbean Latin fusion restaurant. Her responsibilities include bookkeeping, payroll, scheduling, and training new staff. Since the restaurant is currently understaffed, Adriana also waits tables. The industrious graduate appreciates

(Please turn to page 6)

New El Monte Day Program Serves Local Teenagers

It is with great pleasure that we report the opening, last month, of Boys Republic's El Monte Day Treatment Program. The collaborative effort among Boys Republic, Los Angeles County Probation Department and Los Angeles County Office of Education is housed in the Jeff Seymour Family Services Center in El Monte, California. We are especially excited to undertake the El Monte project because it is designed to replicate, as nearly as possible, our highly successful Monrovia Day Treatment Program.

Like our program in Monrovia, the El Monte Day Treatment Program is intended for boys and girls at-risk of school failure or deepening juvenile justice system involvement, but who can still live at home. The El Monte program has an enrollment capacity of 25 students. Students spend weekdays, 10 hours per day, in a highly-structured school setting.

The school emphasizes clear expectations, accountability, and parental involvement. Students are expected to encourage each other to take responsibility for their behavior.

Our overall goals for day treatment are simple:



PEERS and ACCOUNTABILITY:

In all Boys Republic programs, students meet daily in group counseling where they learn responsible behavior through interaction with their peers.



ALTERNATIVE TO PLACEMENT:

Community-based program integrates school, family and peer relations for better results at much lower cost.

We want to prevent students from being placed outside of their homes, and we want to return them to grade level so they can continue their education at local schools.

Using this model, we've operated the Monrovia program since 1978, and its success has been dramatic. Of the students completing our day treatment programs, more than 90% either earn a high school diploma or return to their neighborhood school academically at grade level, while continuing to live at home and remaining arrest-free.

When compared to the cost of residential placement, intensive day treatment presents a very attractive alternative. During fiscal 2015, the total operating budget for our Monrovia program was \$293,747, or \$2,464 per student per month. By comparison, the approximate cost to the taxpayer to treat a teenager in a typical California group home was \$7,746 — more than three times the cost of day treatment.

The Boys Republic model for intensive day treatment is a real bargain, especially when you consider the need and potential savings to the

(Please turn to page 8)

Students Earn \$40,150 in Awards at 109th Annual Ceremony

“Eighteen years ago I made a decision I didn’t think was a big deal, but it ended up changing my life: continue on the path I was on or change and use my experience at Boys Republic to do good,” 2016 Alumnus-of-the-Year Guy Montoya asserts. “The more I decided to do good, the more good things happened to me. Keep practicing doing good and good things will come to you too.”

Mr. Montoya addressed parents, staff, community members, and students in Boys Republic’s chapel. His speech set the tone for the Annual Awards Ceremony on September 22, where he accepted the Alumnus-of-the-Year Award.

The ceremony honors graduates who excelled at Boys Republic. Boys and girls receive scholarship awards for their scholastic success, leadership or overall program achievement. Scholarship funds may pay for school tuition or a deposit on an apartment. Students may also use scholarship awards to purchase food, vocational training, work tools, or professional clothing to help qualify for a job.

Among the awards presented were:

- Fowler Merle-Smith Family Scholarship of \$1,000 to Nicole Dunn;
- Frank and Marianne Graves Scholarship of \$250 to Emilio Zaragosa; \$500 each to Maria Elizabeth Ardon, Fernando Asebedo, Juan Mendosa, and Ulysses Plascencia; \$1,000 to Deshawn Allen
- Delight Groves Scholarship of \$750 to Emilio Zaragosa;
- Mark M. Davids Leadership Award of \$200 to Alex Guerrero;
- Everett and Jane Houser Scholarship of \$1,000 each to Bobby Norris and Alfredo Garcia;
- Steve McQueen Scholarship Award of \$1,000 to Samuel Perez;
- Neile McQueen Scholarship of \$1,000 to Steve Molina;



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Senator Bob Huff delivered an enthusiastic address at the Annual Awards Ceremony. Mr. Huff serves California’s 29th Senate District.

- Terry McQueen Scholarship of \$1,000 to Marc Gomez;
- Carmen Combs Scholarship of \$1,500 each to Joshawn Tupuola and Steve Espitia;
- Don and Carol Bremer Endowed Aftercare Assistance Award of \$1,000 to Francisco Alvarez;
- Ed Korbel Scholarship of \$1,000 to Bryan Morales;
- Max L. Scott Scholarship of \$1,500 to Michael Hatten and \$1,000 each to Brendon Collins, Kenneth Hamilin, Donovan Hogan, Palani Holoana, Kalob Riddle, and Michael Salgado;
- Joan C. Toomey Scholarship of \$750 to Ernest Ramariez;
- Klein Family Scholarship of \$1,000 to Oswaldo Guzman;
- Elizabeth Winkler Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000 to Forrestt Callum;
- Paul and Mary Ganobcik “Nothing Without Labor” Scholarship of \$1,000 to Xavier Scott;
- Dane Dixon Scholarship of \$1,000 each to

(Please turn to page 8)

Boys Republic Mourns Loss of Volunteer Director

Bruce Eisenhower freely gave his time and caring support to Boys Republic since 1999. As a Board member, Bruce offered his knowledge of finance acquired from owning his own investment banking firm, Eisenhower & Co. Bruce passed away tragically and unexpectedly on September 5, 2016. He is survived by his daughter Gaylin, his son-in-law Josh, and his grandson Jace.

Executive Director Chris Burns wrote:

“Bruce’s dedication to Boys Republic was demonstrated in his 17 year tenure on the Board of Directors. What was even more impressive was his unshakable optimism regarding the future of Boys Republic and its students. As a man of deep faith, Bruce viewed the mission of the agency being so completely congruent with ‘God’s will’ that he never felt anxiety about issues or obstacles in its path. He steadfastly believed that we would weather the storms of governmental change or Wall Street instability and emerge stronger in



Bruce Eisenhower

our dedication to serving at-risk boys and girls. Perhaps our 109 years engaged in this endeavor is a great testament to his wisdom.

Boys Republic will miss Bruce’s passion and commitment and will be forever in his debt.”

Girls Republic Grad Serves Her Community

(Continued from page 3)

the challenges and rewards of managing the restaurant. “A family-owned business is different than a corporate chain,” Adriana declares. “You can call the corporate office to report issues at a chain, but you have to problem solve yourself at a family-owned business.” Even on her busiest days, though, Adriana says she is blessed with her job.

Adriana shares her gratitude with the local community. She serves the community by donating restaurant gift certificates to fund-raisers and encouraging staff to volunteer with her at local events. In her limited free time, Adriana helps in the Parent Center at her twin boys’ school and volunteers on the P.T.A.

Adriana appreciates the dedication needed to be responsible, fulfilled, and raise a family like her mother did. Eventually, Adriana plans to return to school to study business and accounting. “I want to learn more about what I already do and refine my knowledge and skills,” she says. She and her husband would also like to have a third child. What’s for certain for Adriana, who considers herself lucky to have an amazing family, is that she “will never turn my back on them.” Whether the ambitious graduate continues to manage the restaurant, goes back to school, or even opens up her own business with her husband and children, Adriana will undoubtedly continue to serve her family and the community.

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 6, 2016 through October 15, 2016.

Donor / In Memory of:

Mr. Ted Akahori / Mr. and Mrs. Mitsuo Akahori
 Ms. Rebecca Brown Thompson / J. B. Brown
 Richard P. and Maryann Williams / Toby Capalbo
 Kelly and Karen Donohue / James and Eileen Donohue
 Mr. Jessie Duffy / Richard Duffy
 Ms. Marj Stoddard / Mike Dunn
 Mr. Chris Burns / Bruce Eisenhauer
 Pasadena Auxiliary of Boys Republic / Bruce Eisenhauer
 Ms. Roberta Faria / Stanley Norman Faria
 Ms. Irene Tupman / Betty Giannini
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Williams / Lawrence Grossman

Ms. Holly Chabre / Elizabeth Hoffine
 Charles De Ran / Steve McQueen
 Ms. Pauline Szturma / Bonnie Otto
 Mr. John Clark / Bruce Oliver
 Pasadena Auxiliary of Boys Republic / Lyle Parks, Jr.
 Mr. Eugene Plunkett / Gaylen Dare Plunkett
 Ms. Julie Goodell / Houston Rehrig
 Mr. Alan Hergott / Hank Salvatori
 Mr. William Ross / Hank Salvatori
 Ms. Carol Size / Bob Size
 Mr. Stephen Jaros / Lenore Welborn
 Ms. Kitty Willers / Rosemary Willers
 Ms. Shirley Wolcott Gard / Oliver E. Wolcott

In Memory of Paul Irwin:

Mr. Chris Burns
 Mrs. Brandy Burns

Mr. Sean Irwin
 Mr. and Mrs. Terry Reeser

Donor / In Honor of:

Ms. Ellen Breslin-Ponce / The Bakery Program
 Mr. Brian Gildner / R. Barboa
 Ms. Betsy Bogue / Tays Bogue
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Williams / Adela Corral
 Ms. Christina Miller / Jack Franklin
 Mr. John Frech / Margaret Frech
 Mr. Mike Nelson / Ron Harris
 Jacqueline Ludlum / Dorothy and Walter Hertzog
 Ms. Patricia Graham / Steve McQueen
 Ms. Lucille Lindburg / Steve McQueen
 Ms. Lucille Lindburg / Steve McQueen
 Mr. Mitchell Riolo / Richard Meyer
 Ms. Lola Love / The Students
 Mr. Armand Jackson / Mr. and Mrs. Leon Williams

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.



Students Reap Rich Harvest at the Annual Awards Ceremony

(Continued from page 5)

Oscar Segura, Jonathan Altamirano, and Randy Villegas;

- Friends of Steve McQueen Car Show Scholarship/Bruce Oliver Memorial of \$1,000 to Fabian Martinez;
- Pasadena Auxiliary Past Presidents Scholarship of \$1,000 to Samson Gonzalez;
- Boys Republic Staff Scholarship of \$2,200 to Dominic Cottini;
- Virginia Pease Hunt Scholarship of \$2,500 to Lauryn Turner;
- Debbie Montano Memorial Scholarship of \$1,500 to Markell Hill;
- Boys Republic Board of Directors/Advisory Board Scholarship of \$1,500 to Damien Reyes;
- Orange County Auxiliary/Garry Hodge Scholarship of \$1,000 to Omari Anderson;
- Rams Head Award was presented to employee Erin Barilla.

New Intensive Day Treatment Program to Serve El Monte Teenagers

(Continued from page 4)

taxpayer. As of April 1, 2016, there were 2,286 probation youth in placement, statewide. We estimate that roughly one-fourth of those youth could be appropriately served in day treatment programs, were they available.

Until recently, California's child care system has been slow to adopt the day treatment model, primarily because there is, as yet, no stable funding stream. There are indications that may change.

The recent passage in California of Assembly Bill 403 realigns the State's child welfare system toward services provided within the youth's community. Programs like our intensive day treatment in El Monte provide a viable solution for youth who need a highly-structured program of services that integrates school, family and positive peer relations.

Della Robbia® News

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOYS REPUBLIC DELLA ROBBIA WREATH PROGRAM

FALL 2016

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

When the first Della Robbia Christmas wreath of 2016 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 93rd 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, Discover, or American Express 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 weekend work for hundreds of students a year and helping



(Please turn to back page of this special section)

Distinctive Della Robbia Wreaths Called 'The Very Image of Holiday Celebrating'

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 92 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 Oregon and Washington. 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

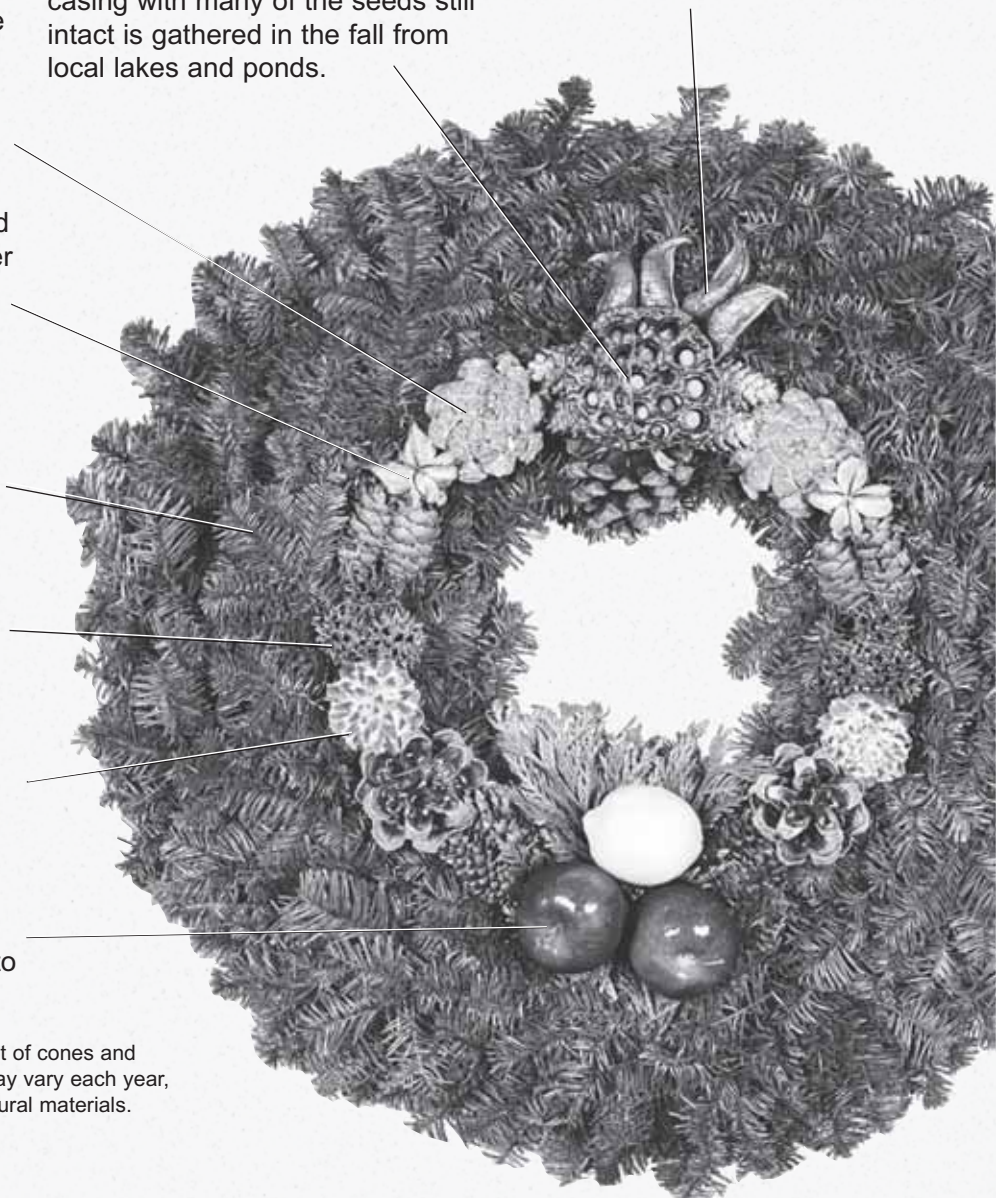
Hand-rubbed in alcohol and then lacquered to keep them colorful and plump.

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: _____

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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 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 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 93rd Season

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

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.



HAND-MADE: Della Robbia wreath production spans a 13-day period following Thanksgiving each year — that's about 3,000 wreaths per day. But despite that large volume, the wreaths are made as they always have been made, carefully hand-tied, one at a time.