



Summer 2018

BOYS REPUBLIC & Report

Angels' Executive Dennis Kuhl is 2018 Della Robbia Wreath Chair

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The Los Angeles Angels' Dennis Kuhl will serve as the Honorary Chairman of the 2018 Della Robbia wreath campaign. Mr. Kuhl joins the 66-year tradition of notable Americans in public services and the performing arts who have helped promote the annual wreath sale by appearing in campaign literature.

Mr. Kuhl has served as the Club Chairman of the Major League Baseball's Los Angeles Angels since 2009. As the Club Chairman, Mr. Kuhl's central focus is renewing the Angels' efforts of local community outreach and engagement in civic affairs.

A champion of community involvement, Mr. Kuhl's personal involvement with many Southern California charities is impressive. He serves as president of the "Light the Night" event which supports the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and is a founding board member of the Pacific Club IMPACT Foundation/Lott Trophy. Mr. Kuhl is also on the Board of Directors for organizations including the Susan G. Komen for the Cure's Orange County Affiliate, The Children's Education Foundation of Orange County, the Boys and Girls Club of Anaheim, the Literacy Project Foundation, and the Alzheimer's Association of Newport Beach & Co.



Margaret B. Fowler Auditorium to Receive Renovation and Upgrading

Community engagement is a good thing, especially for at-risk teenagers who are trying their hardest to become responsible, productive adults. The Margaret B. Fowler Auditorium, constructed at Boys Republic's Chino Hills campus in 1939, serves as an integral part of preparing at-risk students for responsible adulthood. Weekly Town Meetings and other events held there by Boys Republic's student mayor and council members help reinforce the kind of socially-responsible behavior that produces good citizens.

The auditorium is structurally sound. However, due to constant use and normal wear and tear, it's in need of renovation, upgrading and repair. Improved lighting, seating repair, interior paint and new stage drapes will go a long way to ensuring that the building will provide many more years of service to disadvantaged youth.



*TOWN MEETING IN THE AUDITORIUM:
Seated on the auditorium stage, Boys
Republic's elected student mayor and
council members conduct a weekly
campus-wide Town Meeting.*



*READING STUDENTS' CURIOSITY:
Boys Republic High School English teacher
Cindy Palacios shows her student a book. Mrs.
Palacios was integral to creating the Lounge
and cultivating an impressive collection of
books.*

The Lounge is a Welcome Space for Students

Last November, Boys Republic students got a room of their own. The Lounge, a space furnished with bean bag chairs and soft sofas, opened as a dedicated reading room for teenagers on the main campus.

The Lounge is tucked between four campus cottages, easily accessible to residential students eager to read after school. Here, the teenagers can choose from a collection of non-fiction, fantasy, memoir, science fiction, young adult fiction, and comics. The books are color-coded by genre, thanks to Boys Republic High School teacher Cindy Palacios and student volunteers.

Mrs. Palacios, select staff, and students formed the Lounge Committee with input from Director Emeritus Vilma K. Palette. The committee helped collect and organize books, refurbish the room as a welcoming after-school space, and determine behavior norms for the Lounge.

Boys Republic continues to gratefully accept new and used books appropriate for teenage boys.

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Graduate Earns Aftercare to Build a Successful Life

The front door of a modest white house opens, and a teenager appears with a sheepish smile. Although he can easily pass for sixteen, Martin Cabrera is eighteen. The recent Boys Republic graduate resides in his family's home in Fontana, California, which is shared by a couple of families. Martin has completed high school and currently holds a full time job in the construction trade. The friendly graduate is working one-on-one with Boys Republic's Aftercare counselor Mike Perry to successfully transition from student to responsible adult.

Today, Mike visits Martin with a folder full of resources. Mike carefully reviews each page in the folder with Martin. Among the resources are papers explaining financial aid and a contact number for Boys Republic's Academic Advisor, phone numbers for free family and youth counseling, information on Los Angeles County Probation's application for transportation funds, and a form for Martin to fill out for help from the county to pay his utility bills.

After thoroughly explaining each resource, Mike walks over to the box and bags that he brought with him and turns towards Martin. He presents the box to Martin, who lifts the lid to reveal the steel-toed work boots they had shopped for the previous week. Martin also finds new work pants and utility knife blades in the bags that he needs for his construction job. Then Mike hands him an envelope with cash for gas, which Martin will use to drive himself to various construction sites during the work week.

The materials Mike proudly gives to Martin are common of the support Boys Republic's Aftercare Program offers. Although each graduate's needs may vary, they all find that essential resources are available through the program. Aftercare provides a wide array of services for graduates, which are critical in their transition to responsible, productive adulthood. When disadvantaged students return to the community, they face many challenges including finding employment or a suitable and safe living



THOROUGH ASSISTANCE: Mike Perry, Boys Republic's Aftercare worker assigned to helping graduates who live in San Bernardino County, reviews available social services with Martin Cabrera, right. As a graduate, Martin is provided with the resources he needs to thrive as a young adult.

arrangement, enrolling in school, or working through family problems.

That's why every graduate is assigned an Aftercare worker. There are three Aftercare workers who cover Los Angeles County, San Bernardino County, and Northern California, where a small portion of graduates reside. Services available to former students include help with school enrollment, reasonable support with expenses such as transportation, utilities, and work equipment, and vital information on available resources that will increase the likelihood of the graduate's success.

As for Martin, he continues to build on the success he had as a student. At Boys Republic, "I learned how to do time management, be clean, and how to communicate better, like how to ask for help," Martin says. And, five months after graduation, Martin continues to communicate

with Mike and reach out for assistance when he needs it. Funds for transportation to the job site and materials needed to maintain his position are available to him, and Martin uses the assistance to be a good employee. As a full time construction worker, Martin has a passion for working on projects “when there’s a before and after.” Martin finds fulfillment in having had a hand in the creative process when he works on a task from start to finish and can see the results of his labor.

The young graduate plans to continue pursuing creative work. Due to logistics, Martin is looking

into a career change. “Right now, Martin will drive to a construction site and on most days, his employers will send him to a different site about forty-five miles away,” Mike says. Gas expenses are becoming a burden for Martin, which is partly why he wants to learn landscaping. “With a Landscaping company, Martin can drive with other workers to different sites in a company vehicle,” Mike clarifies.

So Mike is also helping Martin become a competitive candidate for a new job. “I can set you up with Derek Scott,” Mike informs him, referring to Boys Republic’s Landscaping instructor. “When you start working for him, he will see if you can report to work on time and work without additional supervision,” he tells Martin. Martin nods in agreement, “I can do that. Just tell me when.”

Mike does not foresee any problems with Martin training and working with Mr. Scott on Boys Republic’s 200-acre campus. “Martin is a go-getter, and he hates to be down,” Mike explains, “he is good and focused.” The initiative and discipline Martin shows in his work and other areas of his personal life help him establish himself as a responsible young adult. These qualities also greatly assist him in qualifying for Aftercare support.

Aftercare is available to all of Boys Republic’s graduates, yet additional assistance is offered to former students who are actively making an effort to earn their own way in the community. Mike says that if “they help themselves, we help more.” Because of Martin’s solid work performance, Mike has received permission from the agency to assist him financially with money for transportation. Mike tells all the graduates he works with that “you ultimately end up with what you put in.” His advice clearly applies to the additional help motivated graduates receive from the Aftercare program, but it is also a guideline for disadvantaged young adults establishing themselves in their communities. And for Martin, who continues to work closely with Mike as he builds a successful life for himself, his dedicated efforts are already being rewarded.



SHOPPING EXCURSION: Martin poses with his new construction work boots. On a recent shopping trip with Mike, he picked out apparel required for his construction job. Martin’s ability to continue to work hard in his industry partly relies on having the necessary tools and clothing for work. These resources are available through Aftercare, a program that is made possible through generous private support.

Boys Republic Mourns Loss of Former Principal

Former Boys Republic High School principal and Boys Republic donor Donald Bremer passed away earlier this year. Mr. Bremer had served in that role from 1978 to 1992, a period during which the campus enrolled more than 4,600 students.

“Don had personal concern and interest in all students,” recalls former Executive Director Max Scott. “He was always approachable. [As a mediator over conflict] he would attempt to arrive at a mutually agreed-upon solution between the student, BR staff and program objectives. It almost always ended in a positive way.”

In retirement, Mr. Bremer continued his involvement with Boys Republic, leaving a thoughtful legacy of support for disadvantaged students. He and his wife, Carol, established a substantial scholarship: The Don and Carol Bremer Family Endowed Aftercare Assistance Award.



Bullitt-Themed Car Show Drives Major Support

This year’s annual Friends of Steve McQueen Car Show quickly raced to success. Not only did the car show draw a record number of spectators with its *Bullitt* theme, the events provided vocational training opportunities for Boys and Girls Republic students.

The car show and dinner commemorated the 50th anniversary of Steve McQueen’s *Bullitt* release. Large crowds flocked to see rows of forest green Bullitt Mustangs flanked by a variety of sports cars and motorcycles. 15,000 spectators enjoyed recreations of Chinatown and Fisherman’s Wharf—decorations inspired by *Bullitt*’s San Francisco setting.

The booming popularity of the car show events required the June 1 dinner to be held outdoors in a marquee tent. This allowed forty-two students ample space to serve nearly 800 guests

(Please turn to page 8)



NOTHING WITHOUT LABOR: One of forty-two Boys and Girls Republic students serves a dinner guest a soup bread bowl appetizer. Students engaged in hands-on training in food services at the annual car show dinner.

Memorials Honor Special People 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 to 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, 2018 through July 31, 2018.

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Boys Republic Report

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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.

11th Annual Show Provides Student Work Opportunities

(Continued from page 6)

dinner. Students from the main campus, Girls Republic, day treatment programs, and off-campus residences got hands-on training in food services as they greeted guests, served each one a three-course meal, and waited on tables.

Students continued their involvement at the main event the following day. While some teenagers sold cookies and pastries at the bakery booth, others assisted staff who served spectators root beer floats. A select group of students also aided employees with maintaining Boys Republic's fields to ensure the show operated smoothly.

Net proceeds from the dinner and the car show were \$600,363. These proceeds will be applied toward the Kitchen Replacement Project, which replaces the aging campus kitchen with a structure that is up to date with modern health and



A VEHICLE TO SUCCESS: The year's Friends of Steve McQueen Car Show drew inspiration from the 1968 classic film Bullitt. Bullitt Mustangs' wide appeal drew in a total of 15,000 spectators.

safety standards while providing better vocational training to students.