



Executive Director's Message

Chris Burns
Executive Director

This past year was spent continuing the work of the last few. Most of the agency's focus has been dedicated to implementing the newly enacted regulations brought forth from the State's Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). The State and Counties were not prepared for the amount of work this reform had created and what was intended to come online in January of 2017 took until December of last year for us to eventually receive our license under the new STRTP (short term residential therapeutic program) category. With license in hand, many of the goals of CCR were already components of Boys Republic's model of care. Involving family throughout the treatment process, prioritizing student involvement in decision making, and preparing youth for success in the adult world through the teaching of independent living and vocational skills have always been cornerstones of our approach. Our County partners have struggled with implementation of the Aftercare and Mental Health components as contracting for these services at the scale required has proven to be a very difficult task and will most likely occur in the next fiscal year.

In 2018, The Friends of Steve McQueen Car Show celebrated the 50th anniversary of the iconic McQueen film *Bullitt* in grand fashion. In doing so; the Car Show Rally added an additional night, the singular showing of the movie at any US Theatre in 2018 was held locally two days before the show with Neile McQueen sharing "behind the scenes" anecdotes from the set, the Friday Night Dinner hosted nearly 800 guests which sent the culinary staff and students into overdrive, and the show brought more registered cars and spectators than ever before. The pinnacle of the celebration occurred a few months earlier when Ford auctioned VIN #1 of its



DINNER UNDER THE BIG TENT: Attendance at the 2018 Friends of Steve McQueen Car Show Friday Night Dinner was so great that the event was moved from the gymnasium to a large capacity tent nearby. In the photo above, a Boys Republic student practices the fine art of waiting on tables.

2019 Bullitt Mustang with all proceeds coming to Boys Republic. Steve McQueen would be proud to know that his legacy is alive and is bringing greater awareness and support to the program that helped guide him into legendary success.

The kitchen replacement campaign continued this



year as it is the largest in scope of any single project in our 111 year history. We broke ground in January and have progressed steadily through various phases looking forward to completion sometime next year. The eventual grand opening will provide the fitting opportunity to pay tribute to the man in whose honor the culinary center is named, Mr. Max Scott. While the vision for this center came several years after Max's retirement, it represents so much of what Max stood for.

Good food was always important to Max. He fundamentally believed that the most basic way to communicate to newly enrolling students that Boys Republic was a good place and that they would be taken care of while they were here was by providing excellent food and plenty of it. There were never restrictions on the food budget, only an eye toward not being wasteful. Max recruited our Food Services Director, and he and his team slowly expanded the production kitchen into an operation that focused on giving students an educational opportunity around food service as well. Those early years provided a foundation and demonstrated how much the students enjoyed learning those skills and

how it expanded their options for employment upon graduation. That foundation led to the construction of our Teaching Bakery in 2014. The incredible success it has experienced helped guide us toward the vision of the soon to be finished Culinary Center.



PHILANTHROPIC FRIENDS: Mary Lou Boone and son, Nick Boone, long-time friends of former Executive Director Max Scott (on left, above), made the generous lead gift to the new Culinary Arts Center.

Even the naming of the center in Max's honor reflects principles that were at the core of Max's treatment philosophy. He emphasized that each student undertakes an individualized treatment plan to help guide them toward success in their communities, but helping other students and serving the BR community provides the cement for the foundation of positive change. Mary Lou Boone and her son Nick exemplified that selflessness when they provided a gift toward the project significant enough to create a naming opportunity, but insisted that they would do so in the name of Max Scott. We look forward to the completion of the center in the next year and the chance to

celebrate a man who dedicated 46 years to the lives of students and Boys and Girls Republic.