



Summer 2019

BOYS REPUBLIC & Report

Day Treatment a Success with At-Risk Youth

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Costing only one-fourth as much as out-of-home placement, day treatment consistently posts some of Boys Republic's best student outcomes. What makes the cost-effective program so successful with disadvantaged youth?

The Monrovia Day Treatment Program is intended for boys and girls at-risk for school failure or deepening involvement in the juvenile justice system but who can still live at home. An average of 20 students spend weekdays in a highly structured school setting.

The program emphasizes clear expectations, accountability, and parental involvement. Teens are encouraged to develop appropriate behavior and take responsibility for their own actions.

Our overall goals are simple: we want to prevent students from being placed outside of their homes and return them to grade level so they can continue their education in their home communities.

More than 80% of students completing our day treatment program either earn a high school diploma or return to their neighborhood school academically at grade level while continuing to live at home and remain arrest free.



*THE GROUP IS THE MODE OF CHANGE:
Before a museum visit, Monrovia Day students convene in a group. The teens discuss behavioral expectations and provide critical feedback to their peers to ensure a successful outing.*

Masonry Class Helps Culinary Arts Center with Waste Management

Boys Republic's Masonry class, led by Steve Perez, quietly assembles in the early morning ready to work. Together, they mix the cement and smooth it onto the cinderblocks so they can stack more cinderblocks on top, repeating the process until it is time to go to their next class. The boys are building a trash containment unit that will help with the waste management for the Culinary Arts and Student Bakery programs.

When the structure is built and the course is over, the Masonry students will receive an ROP certificate stating that they have successfully completed the program and have the skills necessary for an entry level job. These work experiences will give the students an edge in the job market that they would otherwise not have had.



BUILDING A SKILL SET: In addition to supporting the other programs on campus by building functional structures, the Masonry students practice the construction techniques they learn in the classroom.

Landscaping Class Encourages Plant and Personal Growth

The gravelly sound of rakes being pulled over dirt and students chattering greet passersby on a bright, sunny day on Boys Republic's main campus. ROP Landscaping instructor Derek Scott strolls around, giving direction and advice to the students of Monrovia Day Program and Girls Republic.

The students sweat in the heat as they landscape the west side of the new Culinary Arts Center. They've already put in boulders and trees, and now they're preparing the ground to install the sod. Working in pairs the students unroll the grass and trim it to fit the cement borders. Other students dig holes to put in small plants and spread mulch.

When the students are done, they stand back and admire their hard work, proud that their efforts have produced visible results. Their work around the Culinary Arts Center provides them with an opportunity to make a lasting impact on the school through their labor.



WORKING TOGETHER: Students help beautify the school through landscaping. Above two Girls Republic students install sod. This project will tie the Max L. Scott Culinary Arts Center into the rest of the Boys Republic campus.

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For Successful Graduate, Structure is Key

Confident and friendly, John Zimmer can easily carry on an hours-long conversation about past experiences or solve a problem with a level-head and courage. Yet the 22 year-old, well-adjusted as he is now, had a shaky start. He grew up with a slew of family members and long stretches of time without supervision. Dysfunction and neglect ultimately supported an environment in which John had too much time on his hands and not enough guidance. He got into trouble and arrived at Boys Republic in 2013.

As a social teenager, John adjusted well to his new environment, Brewer cottage, where he lived with about twenty other teenagers. Yet when John left to spend weekends with his dad, he got back into trouble. “No one was ever home, so I would just go off with friends and create problems,” John recalls. When he returned to campus, John’s behavior changed. “I never got in trouble at BR,” he says.

Boys Republic provided the structure that John needed to change his own behavior. Former staff recall that John was an outstanding student. Whether he prevented a potential fight or offered advice to some other struggling teen, John always helped his fellow students. John attributes his success with others to his background. “I grew up around people from different backgrounds, and I knew how to relate to them,” John explains. His

strong interpersonal skills and ability to “work with people where they are at” were able to grow at Boys Republic, where students are expected to care for one another.

At Boys Republic, John was also expected to extend the care he showed others to himself. Since he had stopped attending school, John was significantly behind in his coursework. “When I got to BR, I had 25 high school credits,” John says. “I was already 17 and needed 170 to graduate.” John was discouraged, but “my staff told me to enroll in Boys Republic’s GED program,” he recounts. With guidance, John applied himself in the program and quickly caught up. He graduated with his GED without which, he says, “I know I wouldn’t do as well in the world.”

Once he was out in the world, John was determined to make a life for himself. He worked to support himself with a variety of warehouse jobs that were low paying and physically demanding. Yet John viewed them as experiences that taught him important work skills. “It’s like when I was at Boys Republic,” he reasons. “I did everything—masonry, welding, culinary arts...I took the opportunity to learn the specific skills each class had to offer.” The difficult jobs John had were not just means to feeding, clothing, and housing himself, but the mode of becoming an employable worker.

Ultimately, John decided to continue growing as a worker in commercial plumbing. He was familiar with the business because his uncle is

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Farming Tradition Yields Student Growth

Boys Republic's founders wanted to create a wholesome small farm and school environment where students could develop confidence in their abilities through meaningful work. That's why, in 1909, staff and children relocated from the school's original location in a San Fernando Valley hotel to Chino. The move provided a permanent rural location that the school's founders envisioned.

Since then, the school's agricultural roots have grounded thousands of students in honest work. Of their many duties, students operated a prize-winning dairy herd. The cows were milked twice a day, no exceptions. Students tested and pasteurized the milk, then supplied it to the campus.

The dairy was discontinued in 1972, but students still train in the agricultural program. Today, teenagers care for a herd of 200 beef cattle. With the farmer, students carry out the daily operations required to maintain a healthy herd. They help cultivate the crops for the cattle, shovel food into feeding troughs, and assist with providing special care for the calves.

The hands-on work experience program teaches students—the majority of whom have never visited a farm nor seen a cow in person—the demands of running a farm. They must take direction from the farmer and work together, at a



TASTY TREAT: A boy bottle-feeds a calf. Students in the agricultural program regularly feed and care for the animals on Boys Republic's 200-acre farm.

steady pace, to complete the day's duties. While they are held accountable for their own work, the teens are also responsible for the farm animals that are completely dependent upon them. As students develop their work skills to provide such care, their self-esteem grows through their work for the animals and the greater environment that sustains them.



12th Annual Car Show Continues Legacy of Care

The Friends of Steve McQueen Car Show unites the namesake actor's influence on car culture with the caring commitment he had to at-risk teenagers. Boys Republic's famous alum frequently returned to his former school to visit its students. Steve's legacy of support for the students continues through the popular event held annually on the main Chino Hills campus.

A volunteer committee plans the show year-round to honor Steve McQueen and benefit the students. Joining in the effort, the students help make the event a smashing success. Teenagers fashion trophies for the show out of donated car parts and creative fabrication in the campus wood shop. Under adult supervision, they weld disparate parts together and attach their creations to wood bases. The unique trophies served as centerpieces at the May 31st Commemorative dinner and were



AWARD-WINNING CREATIVITY: Students craft unique awards from pistons, cylinders, and automotive emblems. Their creations are affixed to solid bases in the campus wood shop.



FOOD SERVICE TRAINING: Boys and girls await guests at the May 31st Commemorative dinner. Nearly 600 guests attended and were served a formal three-course meal by the students.

awarded to winners at the June 1 show.

While students crafted trophies behind the scenes and assisted adults setting up for the show, they took center stage at the Commemorative dinner. Boys and girls prepared hors d'oeuvres for the reception and assisted the chefs who made the three course meal. Then the students served nearly 600 guests dinner and dessert. Their involvement provides them with work experience in fine dining and the opportunity to give back to the community that supports them.

Students continued their involvement in the main event the next day, where they sold their baked goods and helped adults maintain the grounds. In turn, countless automotive and McQueen enthusiasts became familiar with Steve's alma mater and the students' efforts to turn their lives toward a bright future. Thanks to generous community support, net proceeds from the events totaled \$400,249. These funds are being applied toward an all-weather running track on the Chino Hills campus.

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.

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Boys Republic Report

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Alumnus Builds His Own Success

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general foreman but, more importantly, the job interested him. "Commercial plumbing appealed to me because it's a stable profession, and it's definitely not stinky," John smiles. He decided to seek a union job. "I needed to start as an apprentice," he explains. "I was ready to enroll in the program, but I couldn't get my birth certificate mailed to me to complete my application." After a series of unsuccessful phone calls, John took matters into his own hands. He got in his car on Friday and drove to Arizona. He returned on Sunday with his birth certificate. John began his apprenticeship the next day.

Now he continues to thrive on his work. Almost one year into the five-year apprenticeship program with the 582 Santa Ana Plumbers Union, John works full-time and, every other month, takes four full days of courses. His rigorous schedule

hasn't affected his enthusiasm for his work. He's enjoying the coursework and applying his knowledge on the job site.

Work takes John all over the city of Los Angeles, in which he relies on his old used Honda for transportation. But John even takes pride in this. John keeps his means of transportation parked close when he works in schools and public buildings in certain parts of the city. "When I work in areas of higher crime I need to make sure people don't steal the parts," John says.

John plans to buy a more reliable used car with his savings for transporting himself to school and work. His goal will allow him to continue to be an accountable worker—not just for himself but for the people he loves. He and his girlfriend are expecting their first baby together, and as he excitedly anticipates fatherhood, John will thrive in his new circumstances since the structure he has built for himself will help him adapt to these changes. Indeed, John has set himself and his young family up for success.