



Fall 2020

BOYS REPUBLIC & Report

Race Car Driver Alexander Rossi is 2020 Della Robbia Wreath Chair

The Honorary Della Robbia Wreath Chairperson is a time-honored tradition at Boys Republic. It is an annual role that is filled by notable and accomplished Americans. Every year, the Honorary Wreath Chairperson helps to promote the Della Robbia wreath program and its value as a work experience project for disadvantaged teenagers.

This year, Alexander Rossi, acclaimed racecar driver and avid fan of Boys Republic alumnus Steve McQueen, has generously agreed to serve as the 2020 Honorary Della Robbia Wreath Chairman. In this role, he will lend his support by appearing in literature promoting the annual sale of Della Robbia wreaths.

Mr. Rossi is a multi-talented driver. He participates in several different styles of driving: from his full-time job on the racetrack in the IndyCar series to off-road courses in the legendary Baja 1000. He was the winner of the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500 in 2016 and is the youngest open-wheel racing champion in U.S. history. His career accomplishments include seven wins and 28 top-finishes in his four IndyCar seasons, third place in the 2019 Championship, and he was the winner of the 2019 Grand Prix of Road America.



BORN TO RACE: Alexander Rossi began racing go-karts at the young age of 10. By the time he was 17, Mr. Rossi became the youngest open-wheel racing champion in U.S. history.

Wreath Campaign Puts Student Success in Focus

A cornerstone of Boys Republic's approach to working with troubled teenagers is the insistence that students are involved in their own care and personal improvement. Every project is a learning opportunity for students, and the annual Della Robbia wreath program is no exception. Students grow from their involvement in the work experience project—from assembling and shipping the Christmas decorations to raising proceeds from sales that are applied toward their own education. The teenagers also take a central role in promoting Boys Republic's annual Della Robbia wreath campaign.

Every year, Boys Republic and Girls Republic students grace the brochure cover and newsletter pages that announce the school's festive wreath sale. Their appearances in promotional materials shows friends of Boys Republic the

students that they support when they purchase a wreath for a decoration or as a gift for friends.

Student models also benefit from helping raise funds for their own guidance and education through a new experience, whether they pose with the year's wreath chairperson on location or by themselves in a professional studio. This year, two Boys Republic students took on this role. Hunter and D., both residents of the main campus, will have their images appear in upcoming years after they have graduated from Boys Republic.

While D. had eagerly anticipated the shoot weeks before, double checking with staff regarding the clothing he should wear and inquiring about the details of the photo shoot, his cottage mate Hunter was more reserved. Hunter shyly agreed to model only if there was lunch involved afterward.

Yet Hunter and D. were both quiet during the drive to photographer Ryan Beck's studio. Once they met Mr. Beck and he showed them around his impressive studio, they became more comfortable in the new environment. Mr. Beck provided snacks, had Hunter and D. choose a playlist that

boomed over the speakers, and established a rapport with the teenagers before they modeled the wreath.

After Hunter posed with the 22" inch wreath, it was D.'s turn. Like they did with Hunter, Mr. Beck and Boys Republic staff showed D. how to hold the wreath that clearly displayed its natural cones and seed pods, bright yellow lemons, and ruby Winesap apple.

Once D. knew how to hold the wreath, he started smiling for photos. "Great! Fantastic smile. You're doing great D.," Mr. Beck encouraged as he snapped the student's picture on his digital camera. Once he finished posing, D. perused the photographs on Mr. Beck's computer. D. laughed at the

shots of his eyes half-closed from twitching under the bright lights. "I really like those ones," D.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!: D., a Boys Republic student, poses for professional photographer Ryan Beck in his Rancho Cucamonga studio.

says, pointing to the images that show his natural smile.

"I felt like a celebrity!" D. exclaimed in the car ride back to the main campus. Hunter smiled as they discussed their experience at Mr. Beck's studio. When D. received his 8"x10" photos, he proclaimed, "See! I'm just a natural." D. gives one of his portraits to his favorite staff member. "I'll give my other picture to my mom the next time I go on my home pass," D. explains.

Like student models from previous years, D. was excited to receive his photos and share the prints with adults he knows will be proud of his participation in the festive fundraiser. For one morning, D. experienced what it was like modeling in a professional studio. In all his future endeavors, he can take with him the lesson that self-esteem comes from earning his own way.



Above, D. is shown how to hold a Della Robbia wreath in photos. As a wreath model, the teenager earns part of his way by promoting his school's fundraising campaign.



BOYS REPUBLIC'S POD BARN: In the assembly room, referred to on the main campus as the pod barn, teenagers and staff work together to assemble Della Robbia wreaths. From sorting, polishing, and preparing decorative fruit to affixing the fruit, pods, and cones to the Evergreen boughs, students experience the rewards of realistic work experience.



SHIPPING OUT HOLIDAY CHEER: Boys Republic students and a staff member stack boxes of Della Robbia wreaths into a delivery truck. In order to ship approximately 3,000 wreaths per day, teenagers must work together to complete the task at hand, maintain a steady work pace, and take direction from their supervisor.

Boys Republic Welcomes New Volunteer Leadership

It is with much delight that Boys Republic welcomes Mrs. Marie McDonald to its Board of Directors. Mrs. McDonald comes to Boys Republic through her role as President of the Pasadena Auxiliary, an all-volunteer organization founded in 1911, that continues to provide support to Boys Republic students.

Mrs. McDonald is an outstandingly active member of the community. In addition to the Pasadena Auxiliary, she also volunteers with the Urban League, the Red Cross, and mentors and houses young mothers who are at risk of homelessness.

In her short time as President of the Pasadena Auxiliary, Mrs. McDonald has already contributed greatly to the Boys Republic Thrift Shop. Most notably, she has had wifi and a credit card reader installed in the shop, which gives customers more options for payment.

Mrs. McDonald looks forward to serving as President of the Pasadena Auxiliary and a member of the Board of Directors.



Marie McDonald

Auxiliary Updates Thrift Shop

The Boys Republic Thrift Shop temporarily closed in March, but this has not dampened the efforts of its all-volunteer staff. Since then, Pasadena Auxiliary members and volunteers have regularly worked to update the store's interior.

Their charitable work was further supported by another dedicated volunteer, Jon Snyder, who left a generous bequest to the Auxiliary in February. After donating the majority of his gift to Boys Republic, the Auxiliary chose to apply the remaining funds towards renovating the Thrift Shop.

With Mr. Snyder's gift, the volunteers purchased new electrical and plumbing, an air conditioning unit, and new carpeting a volunteer installed. They also remodeled the layout of the cash register and clothing racks and stocked merchandise on newly donated display cases and shelving.



HELPING HANDS: Volunteers stock the newly redesigned Boys Republic's Thrift Shop with merchandise. To learn more about the store, please visit boysrepublic.org/auxiliary-thrift-shop.

Culinary Arts Students Add To-Go Meals to Menu

What began as a modest service to staff has developed into a student-run restaurant operation in the Culinary Arts Classroom. In April, Boys Republic kitchen staff began to sell discounted groceries to staff. By July, pay crew students were preparing reasonably priced to-go dinners in the Culinary Arts Classroom for staff members.

The Family Meals Program provides realistic work experience for the students responsible for preparing quality dinners to paying customers. Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Boys Republic employees can order dinner from a set menu that varies week by week. “The students are pretty self-sufficient,” Culinary Arts teacher Kelly Roth explains, who supervises the operation. “My former Culinary Arts student Carlos makes sure the new students are trained and helps keep us on schedule with people’s orders.”

When Chef Roth needed students experienced



Chef Kelly Roth supervises a new student pay crew worker as he cooks a meal for a Boys Republic employee.



REALISTIC WORK: A student reviews the dinner order he is preparing. The Family Meals Program requires student workers to fulfill the duties they would have in any restaurant kitchen, from preparing ingredients from scratch to ensuring the correct order of quality food is ready for each customer.

in cooking and asked Carlos if he would like to work in the Family Meals Program, the student readily agreed. “I like working here. I like learning how to cook new dishes and making money,” Carlos says as he packages a four-person meal of angel hair pasta and grilled chicken breast, dinner rolls, and Caesar salad. “It also makes the time go by faster because I get bored easily.”

Every work day, Carlos and his teenage co-workers scratch cook the individual ingredients required for the meal on the menu. Then, they prepare and keep track of each order to ensure it is freshly prepared and packaged by the time the customer’s pickup time. “I teach them what Chef Kelly taught me,”

Carlos says, nodding towards two other students weighing to-go containers of pasta. And Carlos’ instruction has clearly been successful, since the students continue to operate the popular program much to the delight of staff.

Boys Republic Graduates Earn Scholarships and Recognition

“You are at a critical time in your life and you get to set your path. Own it, dream big, get ready, build a plan, and work hard. Just don’t quit.” Tina Javid, president of Boys Republic’s Board of Directors, addressed students in a videotaped message playing on the project screen in Boys Republic’s bistro. The motivating message kicked off a series of private awards ceremonies.



APPLAUSE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT: Boys Republic’s current students watch graduates receive scholarship awards on the projector screen. This year, the Annual Awards Ceremony is being held in smaller ceremonies for each cottage, off campus residence, and the day treatment center to meet social distancing guidelines.

Traditionally in the fall, Boys Republic holds the Annual Awards Ceremony to honor the exceptional achievements of its recent graduates. However, the events of the past year have changed the way the students at Boys Republic and the community interact with each other. Usually, the ceremony brings together graduates, their families, supporters, volunteers, and current Boys Republic students.

This year, graduates and students are celebrating in a different way. Small ceremonies for one residential student cottage are being held once per week over a two-month period. Each week, Boys Republic students gather to watch recent graduates receive scholarship awards in prerecorded videos in the bistro. While select students receive awards themselves, every cottage resident learns that Boys Republic’s scholarships are available for them to earn just like the recent graduates they see on the screen.

Since Boys Republic graduates frequently lack a traditional support structure, scholarship awards may be applied to schooling as well as other expenses. Carefully monitored scholarship awards may be applied towards appropriate work attire, transportation, or even a down payment on an apartment. Each option can greatly help set young men and women up for success in the community.

The awards ceremonies will continue until November 18. To date, the recipients of scholarships include:

- Fowler Merle-Smith Family Scholarship of \$1,500 to Skyler Delaney;
- Max L. Scott Scholarship of \$1,500 to Kaveon Montgomery and \$750 to Crystal Gonzales;
- Everett and Jane Houser Scholarship of \$1,250 to Marvin Velasquez;
- Steve McQueen Scholarship Award of \$1,500 to Keshawn Evans;
- Neile McQueen Scholarship of \$1,500 to Gustavo Miranda;
- Don and Carol Bremer Endowed Aftercare Assistance Award of \$1,750 to Miguel Campos;
- Jon Snyder Memorial Scholarship of \$1,500 to Tea Tarpey;

(Please turn to page 8)

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 to the designee will live on perpetually in the lives of the deserving young people you have helped.

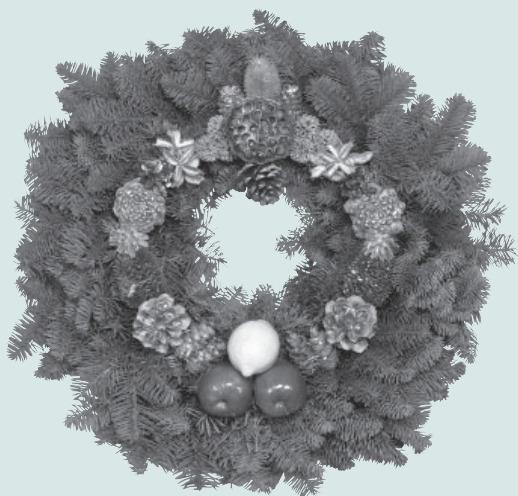
The following are memorial contributions made from August 1, 2020 through October 15, 2020.

Donor / In Memory of:

Mrs. Patricia Z. Hanna /
Bill Waite
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Anderson /
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Mrs. Sharon Neely /
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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. If you would prefer an electronic copy of the Boys Republic Report, please notify egoldhammer@boysrepublic.org.

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.

www.boysrepublic.org



Scholarship Awards Honor Student Achievements

(Continued from page 6)



- Frank and Marianne Graves Scholarship of \$1,000 to Elias Tinoco;
- Elizabeth Winkler Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000 to David Morales;
- Virginia Pease Hunt Scholarship of \$3,000 to Jassiel Mejia;
- Debbie Montano Memorial Scholarship of \$1,500 to Robert Huerta;
- Dick Reichelderfer and Frances Kurilich Scholarship of \$1,250 to Michael Medina;
- Rams Head Award was presented to employee Kenneth Cervantes.

A JOB WELL DONE: Pictured at left, Kenneth Cervantes addresses the students after he receives the Rams Head Award. Every year, students present the Rams Head Award to a staff member who has been outstanding in helping the students achieve their goals.

Della Robbia News

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOYS REPUBLIC DELLA ROBBIA WREATH PROGRAM

FALL 2020

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

When the first Della Robbia Christmas wreath of 2020 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 97th 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 \$56.95 complete with applicable taxes, shipping and handling. A 28-inch diameter wreath is priced at \$79.95, 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 (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

(Continued on last page of "Della Robbia News")



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 97 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

(Continued on last page of “Della Robbia News”)

Anatomy of a Della Robbia

FLOWERING EUCALYPTUS

These “fat thimbles” come from blooming eucalyptus trees in Ventura and Whittier, California.

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.

EVERGREEN BOUGHS

Supple noble fir evergreens are harvested in the forests of Oregon and Washington. No trees are harmed in the pruning process.

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: 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: _____

CCV#

Cardholder: _____

PERSONAL & BUSINESS CHECK PURCHASES

Please make checks payable to Boys Republic

SENDER INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone No: _____

WREATH PRICES*

_____ 22" WREATHS @ \$56.95, COMPLETE \$ _____

_____ 28" WREATHS @ \$79.95, 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.

Email: _____

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")

Della Robbia wreath represents a full year of effort by Boys Republic and Girls Republic students and the professional wreath staff that works with them.

Beginning each January, sacks full of seed pods and pine cones used to adorn the Della Robbias are sorted, cleaned, drilled and wired. The cones and pods are then fastened 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's 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 97th Season

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

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 Boys Republic contribute significantly to 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.



WORK EXPERIENCE: *The Della Robbia wreath program provides year-round work experience for teenagers preparing for responsible adulthood.*