



Fall 2022

BOYS REPUBLIC & Report

Della Robbia Wreath: The Gift that Gives Twice

As the giving season approaches, so does the time-honored tradition of Boys Republic's Della Robbia wreaths. When you purchase a Della Robbia as a festive gift for a friend or associate or to add to your holiday decor, you also give something else. You give a second chance to a deserving child working to overcome the trauma of abuse and neglect.

The Della Robbia wreath campaign provides meaningful work experience to at-risk students producing the wreaths. In turn, wreath proceeds fund a portion of the counseling and education—literally, the second chance—the teenagers receive at Boys Republic.

The Della Robbia wreath program is a vital project for students participating in their own care and personal improvement. Every year, select students help promote the festive wreaths by appearing in campaign literature. Whether they attend a private studio or go on location with the Della Robbia wreath chair, students help generate proceeds for their school through their appearance in photos.

Though just a selection of students participate in publicizing the wreath campaign, every student takes part in wreath production. In the last couple of years, teenagers have fanned out on the main campus, affixing rings of rustic cones and seed

pods onto fresh evergreen wreaths. During their work shifts, students unload wreath bases, help deliver fresh boughs to their peers who adorn



2022 DELLA ROBBIA WREATH CHAIRWOMAN: Retired professional golfer Michelle Wie West adds luster and prestige to the Della Robbia wreath campaign. Here, Mrs. Wie West and Boys Republic student Matthew display a 22" Della Robbia wreath.

Students Set to Contribute to Della Robbia Wreath Production

them with the natural decorations, and assist with polishing the fruit that studs the wreaths.

Students also work in shipping during wreath production. In the wreath warehouse's shipping room, teens and their adult supervisors package Della Robbias that steadily stream in on a conveyor belt. Some teens hoist the wreaths off of the conveyor belt while others hold sturdy cardboard boxes in place. The students must work together to carefully package each wreath in a timely manner, then they seal and transfer the boxes to other students stacking them in FedEx trucks.

Through their labor, the teenagers gain a significant experience — working together to accomplish something greater than themselves. The hours spent following the supervisor's instructions on how to decorate each bough, maintaining a consistent work pace when boxing each order, and working with their peers to ensure each Christmas wreath is carefully stacked in the Fed Ex truck results in tens of thousands of gifts for friends of Boys Republic.

As boys and girls learn the skills that will help them in the competitive job market, they also contribute to their own education and care.



COLLABORATIVE WORK: Students in McCormick Cottage package Della Robbias. Boxing each wreath in a timely fashion requires the teens to maintain a steady work pace and cooperate with their peers.

Della Robbia wreath sales raise \$2 million dollars annually to fund Boys Republic's programs in guidance and education. By directly participating in the festive fundraising effort, troubled teenagers learn the value of earning their own way. And what a great present to receive this holiday season.



EVERGREEN BOUGHS: Students and staff unload wreath bases from Washington state.



HANDMADE: A Girls Republic student ties rings of natural seed pods and cones to each wreath.



SEASONAL SHIPMENT: Boxes of Della Robbias are loaded into FedEx trucks for delivery.

Fresh News from the Bakery: *Cake Delivery Service Raises Funds and Jobs for Youth*

The Boys Republic (BR) Teaching Bakery is enjoying a sweet success with its cake delivery service, now in its second year.

Pastry Chef and Instructor Kevin Brown says since the BR Teaching Bakery held a soft opening last year for the cake delivery service, customer feedback has been consistently positive in every respect.

The popular bundt-style cakes arrive sealed in sturdy Boys Republic bakery boxes. The shelf life of the cakes is six months to one year and they also freeze well for later enjoyment.

Two options — Sock It To Me and Chocolate Thunder — are available for shipping anywhere in the United States. Each costs \$29.99 with taxes, handling and shipping included.

Sock It to Me is a moist cream cake to be served for breakfast or dessert. It has swirls of cinnamon sugar and a chopped walnut topping. The decadent Chocolate Thunder Bundt is infused with creamy chocolate chips, perfect for chocolate lovers. Sales proceeds help fund Boys Republic's Teaching Bakery and provide work experiences for disadvantaged youth.

The bakery gives students experience working in an industrial kitchen bakery and exposure to the business side of baking. Chef Kevin notes that the bakery work teaches students to follow directions and helps them to develop people skills.

"The kids show a lot of interest in what we do here," says the instructor. "It's amazing the pride that students develop once they start building passion for the work."

Cakes and shipping orders may be placed through the website, bakery.boysrepublic.org, or by calling the BR bakery sales department (909) 628-1217 ext. 267.



STEADY WORK: Bakery students arrange cakes in sturdy boxes for FedEx delivery to customers across the United States. The new cake delivery service provides another avenue of support for Boys Republic's successful youth programs.



BATCH COOKING: Students gain experience using professional kitchen equipment and learn about commercial bakery production through hands-on work in the classroom.

Independent Living Program Preps Students for Post Graduation

Coming to Boys Republic was an opportunity for seventeen-year-old Ethan, and he has made the best of it.

He lives on campus at Combs House, one of two single-family-style residences on the main campus for older, more mature teenagers.

Combs House is full of activity with teenagers coming in and out from school and work.

Students here participate in the Independent Living Program (ILP) that teaches skills such as shopping for groceries, managing a household budget, cooking meals, and keeping the residence in good order.

The young adults must work part-time either on campus or in the local community. Students are taught to write a resume and practice interview skills.

Combs House students pay rent and utilities, with the funds being returned to them when they leave Boys Republic.

Ethan at first worked in the Boys Republic kitchen and has since been hired at a restaurant off campus. He plans to live independently from his family when he leaves Boys Republic at age eighteen.

Ethan says he understands why his mother kicked him out of the house when he was twelve years old and was hanging out with an older crowd.

He was homeless for a time, then moved out of his community to live with his father in Los Angeles.

Ethan said he had felt resentment because his mother had also kicked out his father. Ethan was six years old at the time.

He says that today he sees it “from a grown-up point of view.” His mother, he says, was looking out for the family’s best interests.

“My dad was a buddy, not a parent,” explains Ethan. His father would point to his own history of delinquency as a youth. “Just don’t be stupid and you won’t get caught,” he would tell his son.



MOVING FORWARD: Boys Republic High School Principal Carl Hampton presents a personalized graduation picture frame to 2022 BR graduate Ethan.

The teenager returned to live at his mother’s house, but he says, “I took my street mentality with me. I had to learn the hard way.”

Caseworker Damian Riley has been a mentor and is like a big brother to Ethan. He helps the teen work through struggles, stay focused, and not lose hope.

Damian says, “Ethan is easy to work with. He’s a leader at the house and tries to help his peers. His intelligence and sociability are all good qualities.”

Ethan was motivated to take college classes online while he was completing high school. He successfully managed his academics while meeting the extensive program requirements of ILP.

His plans for next year include college, work and moving to a transitional housing program, an option for BR graduates who are not returning to live with their families.

“One thing Ethan prides himself on, he is not afraid to be an individual and live by his own moral code and compass,” adds Damian.

No longer following the crowd, Ethan is thinking for himself and making decisions that are in his own best interest.

Della Robbia News

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOYS REPUBLIC DELLA ROBBIA WREATH PROGRAM

FALL 2022

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

When the first Della Robbia Christmas wreath of 2022 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 99th 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 Pacific Northwest 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 \$63.95 complete with applicable taxes, shipping and handling. A 28-inch diameter wreath is priced at \$84.95, 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 online. Orders can be placed at: store.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

(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 99 years.

Hefty rings of fresh Pacific Northwest 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

(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 FED EX 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: _____

CVV: _____

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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 @ \$63.95, COMPLETE \$ _____

_____ 28" WREATHS @ \$84.95, COMPLETE \$ _____

TOTAL ORDER \$ _____

* PRICES INCLUDE APPLICABLE TAXES, SHIPPING, AND HANDLING.

* Shipments outside of U.S. Continental limits must go Air Parcel Post 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")

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 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 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 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 conveyor 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.



PACKAGING HOLIDAY CHEER: Boys Republic students work together to box Della Robbia wreaths.

Historic Campaign Enters 99th Season

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

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.

Growing Strong and Independent in a Supportive Community

Seventeen-year-old Xavier points to three rescue animals — a sheep, a goat, and a piglet — in an open-air pen on the Boys Republic farm.

The school farm is a special place for the student who cleans the pen and feeds the animals. Those responsibilities helped Xavier through a rough patch when he first arrived four months ago to Boys Republic's main campus.

His caseworker Cynthia Pena recalls that, at first, Xavier refused to leave his room. "He came in saying he didn't care, and that he just wanted to be left alone," she says. "I told him 'no, we are going to do activities and I'm not going to let you stay in your room all day.'"

Xavier chose to take the agriculture class to help him get acclimated to the residential high school environment. For his efforts, the teenager earned high school credit and gained work experience.

Xavier holds out a handful of hay to a curly-tailed piglet named Dennis. He explains that Dennis was named after the character Dennis the Menace "because he's mischievous." The teen enjoys watching the animals and their behaviors and says he feels a connection with them.

Relationships with people have historically been more problematic for the sensitive teenager.

Xavier admits to a common struggle among the teenage population: "I used to overthink and worry about what other people thought about me," he says.

Combs House Caseworker DeShaun Houston says, "From working with Xavier and understanding who he is, we helped him to obtain some good coping skills that put him in a good headspace. The main thing was to not let him quit," he says.

Xavier says the adults told him to not pay attention to other people or their situations. They encouraged him to stay positive.

From there, he says he learned to focus on himself and now he takes things "day by day."



WELL BEING: Seventeen-year-old Xavier makes time to connect with nature on the Boys Republic farm.

Through group counseling sessions, Xavier honed his communication skills and his peer relationships improved. "We came to a common ground and gained mutual respect," he says. "We started helping each other more."

"Like night and day" is how Xavier's caseworker and mentor Cynthia describes the changes in the student. "But it didn't come quickly," she adds. "It was a process."

"Xavier used to say 'I don't want to do this.' Now he takes the initiative with his schooling, going to tutoring twice a week, getting a driver's permit, and a food handler's card," she says.

Xavier will leave the program as a graduate of Boys Republic High School with special recognition for completing all requirements of the Independent Living Program. He is currently enrolled in community college and plans to study either nursing or social work.

Taking another important step towards independence, Xavier recently started working off campus at a local fast-food restaurant.

The interpersonal skills that he has learned at Boys Republic will help him make a successful transition to the larger community.

Xavier says he is proud of how far he's come and the progress he's made. He reflects, "When you work through your issues, it just gets better as you go on."

Students Earn \$52,350 in Awards at 115th Annual Ceremony

“When I was a student, I didn’t want to be here,” Eric Hasanoff plainly stated. “It took a few years after I graduated to realize that Boys Republic taught me how to be a part of the community.”

Now a business owner, rotarian, husband, and father, Mr. Hasanoff was recognized as Alumnus of the Year at the Annual Awards Ceremony on September 15.

Mr. Hasanoff addressed current students, recent graduates, family, community members, and staff gathered in Boys Republic’s chapel. The Awards Ceremony honors young graduates with scholarship awards for their scholastic success, exemplary leadership, or overall program achievement at Boys Republic.

Scholarship awards given by generous individuals help graduates earn their way in the

community. Due to the various needs of these young men and women, award monies may be applied toward school tuition or supplies, and, just as often, graduates may use scholarship awards to purchase work tools, professional clothing, food, or an apartment deposit.

Among the awards presented were:

- Fowler Merle-Smith Family Scholarship of \$1,500 to Samara Davis;
- Delight Groves Scholarship of \$750 to Christian Hernandez;
- Max L. Scott Scholarship of \$1,500 to Alexis Martinez, \$1,000 each to Ervin Gana, Anthony Hostetler-Munoz, and Omari William, and \$750 each to Vincent Lopez and Nazeer Woodley;
- Everett and Jane Houser Scholarship of \$1,250 each to Matthew John and Elliott Kalish;
- Steve McQueen Scholarship Award of \$1,500 to Anthony Bounds;
- Neile McQueen Scholarship of \$1,500 to Yonathan Chavez;
- Terry McQueen Scholarship of \$1,500 to Bryan Sanchez;
- Don and Carol Bremer Endowed Aftercare Assistance Award of \$1,550 each to Brandon Flowers and Bryan Martinez;
- Bremer Family Endowed Aftercare Assistance Award of \$1,550 to David Torres;
- Ed Korbel Scholarship of \$1,500 to Gabriela Gonzalez;
- Dane Dixon Scholarship of \$1,000 each to Noel Mencias, Matt Flores, and Rey Cornado;
- Jon Snyder Memorial Scholarship of \$1,500 to Justin Valdavinis;
- Frank and Marianne Graves Scholarship of \$1,500 to Jacob Rosario, \$1,000 to Raymond Sanchez, and \$750 each to Abraham Bustos, Raudal Llamas, Jose Martinez, Kaylin Miller, and John Soriano;
- Elizabeth Winkler Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000 to Joci Rojas;
- Paul and Mary Ganobcick “Nothing Without Labor” Scholarship of \$1,000 to Noel Mencias;
- H.B. Bell Scholarship of \$2,000 to Matthew Bonczek;

(Please turn to page 8)



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Sharon Woo, Chief Deputy of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, delivered an inspiring main address at the ceremony.

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 11, 2022 through October 10, 2022.

Donor / In Memory of:

Ms. Connie Aguilar /
Jose Angel Aguilar
Mr. Ted Akahori /
Mrs. Umeji Akahori
Mr. Charles G. Bakaly, Jr. /
Doris C. Bakaly
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Femino /
John Watkins
Mrs. Patricia Hanna /
Leo Hanna
Mrs. Patricia Hanna /

Gene Thompson
Mr. Terrence Mahon /
Steve McQueen
Mr. Jeffrey C. Masco /
Martha Hulings Kaemmer
Mrs. Carol Ritchie /
Winfield Bill Close
Mrs. Judith Skelton /
Edward A. Amacker III

Donor / In Honor of:

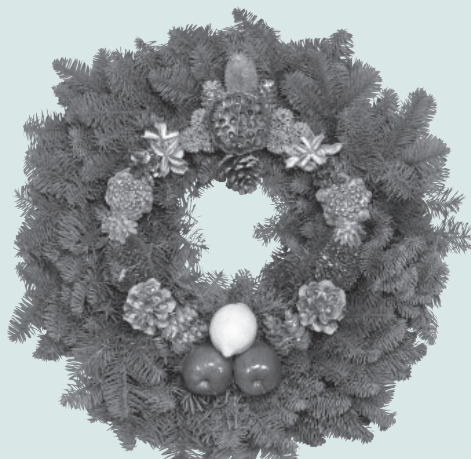
Mrs. Bobbie L. Cantwell /
Darryle D. Yeater
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Mason /
Nina M. Pulliam
Mr. Richard P. Williams /
Angel Rosales

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.

www.boysrepublic.org



HISTORIC WORK PROGRAM: Boys Republic students assemble wreaths in the 1950s.



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Chino Hills, California 91709
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Students Reap Rich Harvest at Awards Ceremony

(Continued from page 6)



Eric Hasanoff ('95) was recognized as Boys Republic's Alumnus of the Year.

- The Frances Kurilich and Dick Reichelderfer Scholarship of \$1,250 to Alonzo Markham;
- Virginia Pease Hunt Scholarship of \$3,000 to Richard Lopez;
- Pasadena Auxiliary Past Presidents Scholarship of \$1,250 to Jennifer Estrada;
- Orange County Auxiliary/Garry Hodge Scholarship of \$1,250 to Alejandro Garduno;
- Oscar Morrison Scholarship of \$500 to Fidel Martinez;
- Carmen Combs Scholarship of \$2,500 to Raymond Robinson;
- Friends of Steve McQueen Scholarship/Bruce Oliver Memorial of \$1,250 to Jerson Salazar;
- Boys Republic Staff Scholarship of \$2,700 to Kenneth Maxey;
- Citizen of the Year Scholarship Award of \$250 each to Nathan Sanchez, Andrew Zamorano, Victor Casillas, and Richard Gonzales;
- Debbie Montano Memorial Scholarship of \$1,500 to Winston Taylor;
- Rams Head Award was presented to Boys Republic High School teacher Cindy Palacios.