

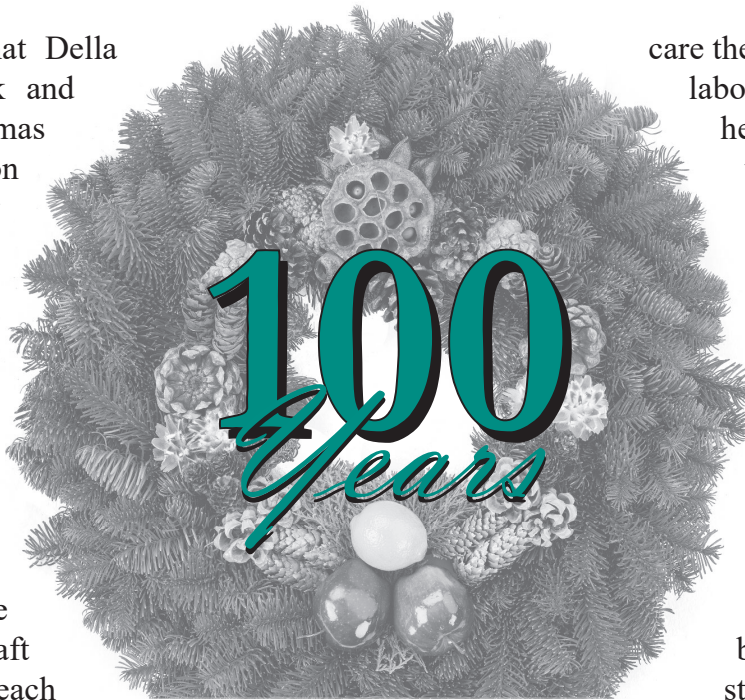


Fall 2023

BOYS REPUBLIC Report

"NOTHING WITHOUT LABOR" CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF DELLA ROBBIA

It's been said that Della Robbia wreaths look and smell like Christmas itself. The tradition began in the early 1920s when Boys Republic Founder, Margaret Fowler, was vacationing in Europe and happened to see an original Della Robbia ceramic, just at a time when she was searching for a craft project that would teach the children in her



1923 - 2023

care the value of honest labor. Once home, she helped the boys recreate the cone, pod and fruit-studded ceramic into a holiday wreath, using hefty rings of fresh California evergreen boughs, pine cones, seed pods, burrs, fresh apples and lemons. In 1923, the first few dozen fresh, Della Robbia wreaths made by Boys Republic students were sold door-to-door for \$2.50 each.

(Please turn to page 5)



HISTORIC WORK PROGRAM: Boys Republic students assemble wreaths in the 1960s.



TODAY'S WORK PROGRAM: Boxing each wreath in a timely fashion requires the teens to maintain a steady work pace.

Stefanie Powers Ushers in the 2023 Della Robbia Wreath Campaign

Boys Republic's 2023 Wreath Chairwoman is Stefanie Powers. In this role, Ms. Powers supports Boys Republic by promoting the Della Robbia wreath program and its value as a work experience project for disadvantaged young adults.

Ms. Powers successful career includes her work as a film and stage actress, a singer,

a producer, and an author. She is best known for her role as Jennifer Hart on the mystery television series *Hart to Hart*, co-starring with Robert Wagner. Her first television series, *The Girl From U.N.C.L.E.*, marked a milestone in U.S. television's history as the first hour-long series featuring a female in the leading role. Ms. Powers has

acted in over 25 television mini series and 31 motion pictures, co-starring with screen legends John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara, Lana Turner, Ava Gardner, Cliff Robertson, Elliot Gould, Roger Moore, Donald Sutherland, Bing Crosby, Glenn Ford, Lee Remick, James Caan, and Sammy Davis.

As much a part of her life as her career is, is Ms. Powers' devotion to animal preservation and protection. The accomplished actress has received numerous international awards for her grass-roots work in conservation, which she considers a life-long commitment. Her efforts include preserving and protecting the remaining herds of the North American wild horses.

She is also the founder and president of the William Holden Wildlife Foundation, established in 1982 to continue her long-time partner's conservation work in East Africa after his death.

Ms. Powers resides part of the year in Kenya.



2023 HONORARY NATIONAL DELLA ROBBIA WREATH CHAIRWOMAN Actress Stefanie Powers and students Consuelo and Drake from Boys Republic's Monrovia Day Treatment Program display a 28" diameter Della Robbia wreath.

The Honorary National 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 in the fields of entertainment, sports, business, and public service since 1956.

See back page for a full list of Della Robbia wreath chairs.



2021: Jerry West



2017: Jay Leno



1984: Frank Sinatra



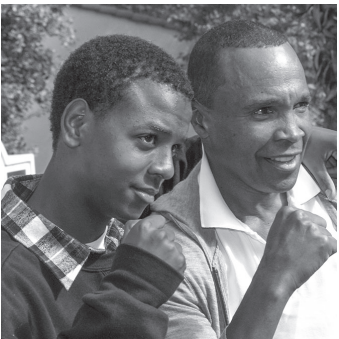
Mary Tyler Moore

100 Years

of DELLA ROBBIA SUPPORT



1983: Vin Scully



2012: Sugar Ray Leonard



1973: Nancy Reagan



1974: John Wayne



Ozzie & Harriet



1980: Bob Hope

WREATH PRODUCTION



Extra large wreath presented to a local businessman



Years ago, students collected pods from local trees



Students unload natural materials into baskets after a hard day's work



Organizing pine cones, seeds and pods for the wreath pre-fabs



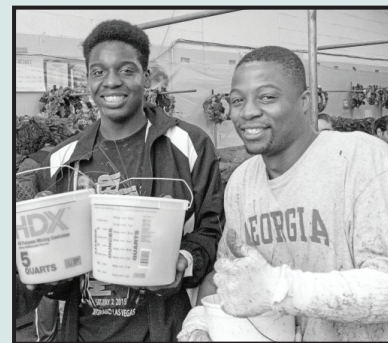
Real apples and lemons are used for wreath decorations



"All hands on deck" in production warehouse



Quality inspection stage — before packaging



Students stock supplies at wreath assembly stations



Boys work together to package the assembled wreaths



Boys stack wreath boxes inside shipping trucks



Girls Republic student hand-tyes a wreath



Wreath Department Supervisors John, Duffy and Karon

100 Years of Della Robbia

(Continued from page 1)

and after World War II, a full-scale operation was approved by the Boys Republic Board of Directors.

They converted an old, red, brick gymnasium on the main campus to a permanent wreath barn. By the early 1950s, a hanging conveyor belt system from a World War II aircraft factory had been installed to speed up production.

In 2016, Boys Republic celebrated the making of its three-millionth Della Robbia wreath. The production objective for the Della Robbia wreath program remains high with approximately 30,000 wreaths produced annually. To ensure a freshly delivered wreath is sent to customers, production takes place each year over a three-week period starting the week after Thanksgiving.

Wreath production provides training in real-life work skills to the teenage residents of Boys Republic, Girls Republic, and students from the Monrovia Day Treatment Program. Young adults in the Transitional Housing Program also work in wreath production.

The young adults work in an intensive effort of assembling, packing, and shipping thousands of the world-famous holiday decorations to customers in all 50 states and more than a dozen foreign countries.

High school students who complete the warehouse training program earn classroom credit

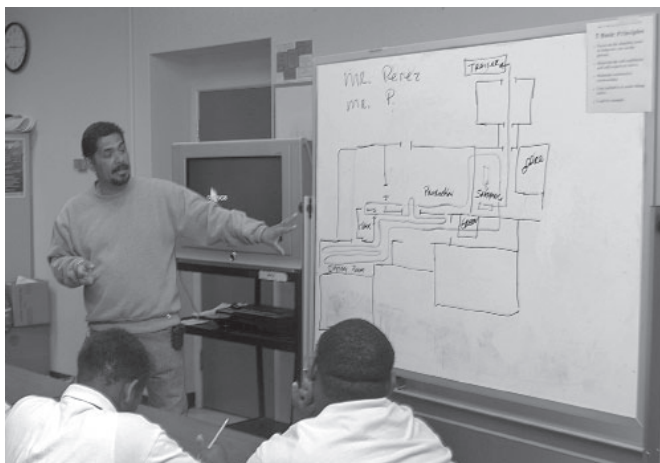


GYMNASIUM TURNED WREATH BARN: A hanging conveyor belt system from a WWII aircraft factory was installed decades ago to speed up production.

and a certificate. Boys Republic pays the young adult workers an hourly salary

Annually, wreath sales gross about \$2 million, making it a major source of supplemental funding for the agency's non-profit operations.

Most significantly, the Della Robbia wreath program helps prepare disadvantaged young men and women to join the work force as self-reliant and self-supporting adults.



ROP WAREHOUSING CLASS: Boys Republic students take a class to learn about wreath production and safe work practices. To earn high school credit, students must attend 240 hours of classwork combined with on-the-job training.

Fowler Family Legacy Guides Boys Republic's Future

Meg Bergstrand, granddaughter of Boys Republic co-founder Kate Fowler, paid a visit in August to Boys Republic, where she joined Executive Director Chris Burns and staff for lunch and a tour.

Kate Fowler was a close collaborator with her stepmother Margaret Fowler in the development of Boys Republic. In 1907, Kate had donated the Chino Valley property that became Boys Republic's permanent home.

The Fowler name and the family's legacy of support for at-risk youth are evident throughout the residential school campus, where troubled boys and girls have benefited from Boys Republic's structured and supportive programs for more than 130 years.

Three generations of Fowler family members—including founder Margaret, her step-daughter Kate, and Meg's late father, Fowler Merle-Smith—have buildings named in their honor.

During lunch held inside the Max Scott Center for the Culinary Arts, Meg told BR staff that she was a bit taken aback when she turned into the BR campus and saw the Margaret Fowler Court street sign. She said Margaret is her given birth name, as she was named for her step-great-grandmother and Boys Republic founder.

The Fowler family members also share a passion for education, as evidenced by their philanthropic support and personal interests. Meg's father was a teacher and, with Meg's mother, Annette Merle-Smith, the family's generous support extends to several educational institutions, including Boys Republic. Meg herself a teacher, taught overseas, and contributed to academic research on early education.

Meg's said her visit to Boys Republic was enjoyable, although bittersweet, since her mother Annette had died in April, at age 92.

Once back home on the East Coast, Meg sent a note to Mr. Burns. She wrote: "I thank you so much for your time and thoughtful introduction to the school. It felt poignant, and also of course sad, to visit, now that my mother is no longer alive. There were countless times during my visit when I thought, 'Oh gosh I wish I could tell mom.' I was/am humbled by (Margaret Fowler's) devotion to the cause of young people, and her creative way of thinking about how to engage the whole of one's being—through work, play and artistic pursuits."



MISS KATE FOWLER 1907- Co-founded Boys Republic with her stepmother Margaret Fowler. She also founded the Junior League, later to become the Pasadena Auxillary.



MEG BERGSTRAND, granddaughter of Kate Fowler, visited the Boys Republic campus this summer.

Memorials Honor Special People and 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 June 12, 2023 through October 3, 2023.

Donor / In Memory of:

Mr. Billy R. Hunter / Annette O'Malley
Ms. Sherry P. Breskin / Deceased in attack on Israel on October 7, 2023
Mr. Richard Wurzer / Delores Louise Wurzer
Mrs. Patricia Hanna / Dr. Don Udall
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Burns / Frank Bushere
Mr. David Ogata / Frank Frobisher
Dr. Selma Calmes / Harry Harrison
Mrs. Janet M. Couste / Jack Couste
Ms. Yvonne Quackenbush / Jacky Teunissen /
Mr. & Mrs. R. Ken Clark / Jim & Gladys
Mahlmeister

Donor / In Honor of:

Ms. Marilyn Bohl / Chris & Connor Burns
Ms. Jo Skibby / Dr. Jim Berman & Dr. Ken Aaron
Riverside County Probation Officers / Ms. Debby
Wedell Guy
Ms. Joyce Shuford / Ron Harris
Joseph Thrash / Mrs. Gimlet M. Quijano-Sur
Darryle D. Yeater / Mrs. Bobbi L. Cantwell

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

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

In Honor of John Ritchie

Mrs. Carol Ritchie
Ms. Susan Barker
Mr. David R. Bell
Ms. Jamie Born
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Burns
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fipps
Mrs. Wanda Garcia Featherston
Ms. Lorrie Gish
Ms. Ellen Kozlowicz
Ms. Diana L. Lamphere
Ms. Sue Magee
Ms. Jane Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McCann
Mr. Ernest Reveal
Mrs. Cathie Schaeffer
Mr. and Mrs. John Starnes
Mr and Mrs. Mark Waitsman



Boys Republic

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 Chino Hills, California 91709
 Phone (909)628-1217 Fax (909)627-9222

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*INAUGURAL WREATH CHAIR 1956:
 Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower (First Lady Mamie)
 holds the distinction of being the first Honorary
 National Della Robbia Wreath Chairperson.
 Here a student helps send a fresh, decorative
 wreath on its way to the White House.*

Cont. from story on page 2

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1956 Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower, | 1993 James Garner |
| 1963 Jack Bailey & Admiral Nimitz | 1994 Bob Newhart |
| 1964 Art Linkletter | 1995 Jack Klugman |
| 1965 Col. John Glenn, Jr. | 1996 Mac Davis |
| 1966 Steve McQueen | 1997 Kirk Douglas |
| 1967 Milton Eisenhower | 1998 Robert Stack |
| 1968 Steve Allen & R. H. Mulford | 1999 Tom Bosley |
| 1969 Jack Webb | 2000 Diahann Carroll |
| 1970 Red Skelton | 2001 James Coburn |
| 1971 Donald Wright | 2002 Neile (Adams) McQueen |
| 1972 Doris Day | 2003 Michael Madsen |
| 1973 Nancy Reagan | 2004 Willard Scott |
| 1974 John Wayne | 2005 Suzanne Pleshette &
Tom Poston |
| 1975 Steve McQueen | 2006 Laila Ali |
| 1976 Paul Lynde | 2007 Pete Carroll |
| 1977 Harry Cheshire | 2008 Joel Grey |
| 1978 V. J. Skutt | 2009 Ali McGraw |
| 1979 John McKay | 2010 Carole Cook |
| 1980 Bob Hope | 2011 Chad McQueen |
| 1981 Gene Autry | 2012 Sugar Ray Leonard |
| 1982 Admiral J. D. Watkins | 2013 Vanessa Williams |
| 1983 Vin Scully | 2014 LeAnn Rimes &
Eddie Cibrian |
| 1984 Frank Sinatra | 2015 Don Baylor |
| 1985 Tom Selleck | 2016 Vin Scully |
| 1987 Peter Ueberroth | 2017 Jay Leno |
| 1989 Pearl Bailey | 2018 Dennis Kuhl |
| 1990 Orel Hershiser | 2020 Alexander Rossi |
| 1991 Barbara Bush | 2021 Jerry West |
| 1992 Chad and Terry McQueen | 2022 Michelle Wie West |

Della Robbia News

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOYS REPUBLIC DELLA ROBBIA WREATH PROGRAM

FALL 2023

Wreath Customers Spread Holiday Cheer

Bill Draper ordered 117 large wreaths last year. After receiving a Boys Republic wreath from very dear friends Franklin P. “Pitch” and Cathie Johnson, Bill with his late wife Phyllis started their own holiday tradition by gifting the holiday wreaths to their family, friends, and employees.

The two couples met in Chicago, IL in the mid-1950s. In 1959, the Drapers moved to California. Then, in 1962, they convinced their friends, the Johnson’s, to move out west. That same year Bill and Pitch started one of the founding venture capital firms together.

Linda Rheem, who has worked with Mr. Draper for 45 years, says “Bill and Phyllis loved the wreaths so much that they began giving them, each year, to family and very close friends. As their family has grown and the friendships grew far and wide, more loved ones were added to their annual wreath list.”

Linda says Bill enjoys his wreath so much, he keeps it hanging on his front door all year long until the new one arrives!

John Reaves, owner of Asphalt & Fuel Supply and Lone Star Specialties LLC, located in Tulsa, OK, purchased 234 wreaths in 2022. John was first introduced to Della Robbia wreaths by his assistant Chelley Wallack. When Chelley had the idea to send the fresh, hand-crafted wreaths to their customers and suppliers for holiday gifts, John was on board. “It’s a universally appealing gift. Who doesn’t or wouldn’t enjoy a wreath for the holidays?” He says.

Since he started giving out wreaths during the holiday season of 2007, John feels the Della Robbia wreath program “Checks all the boxes, from a Christmas perspective. It’s a high-quality product that people enjoy and get excited about, and it generates funds for a great cause. It’s a win-win!!!!”

As a side note: John’s last name is Reaves, ergo he refers to the holiday wreaths as “John Wreaths”.

The Automobile Club of Southern California has been averaging 125 Della Robbia wreath purchases, per year, since 1997. This brings their contribution to approximately 3,375 wreaths throughout the years!

Wreath Volunteers Fill Much-Needed Gaps



Volunteers from Hillside Community Church in Rancho Cucamonga.

Boys Republic’s annual 30,000 Della Robbia wreath orders would be difficult to fill without the volunteers who give selflessly of their time each year. From retired individuals to large church groups, some have been helping out every year since 1980.

Regardless of how many hours they spend, or how often they come, the agency is grateful for every individual, family, church group, school group, and business who helps with our wreath assembly and shipping process.

The agency expects more than 250 community volunteers to assist with this year’s wreath production, ensuring a fresh wreath will be delivered to each customer.

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 100 years.

Hefty rings of fresh Pacific Northwest evergreen boughs decorated with pine cones, seed pods and burrs and then highlighted with fresh apples and lemons, Della Robbia wreaths look and smell like Christmas itself.

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

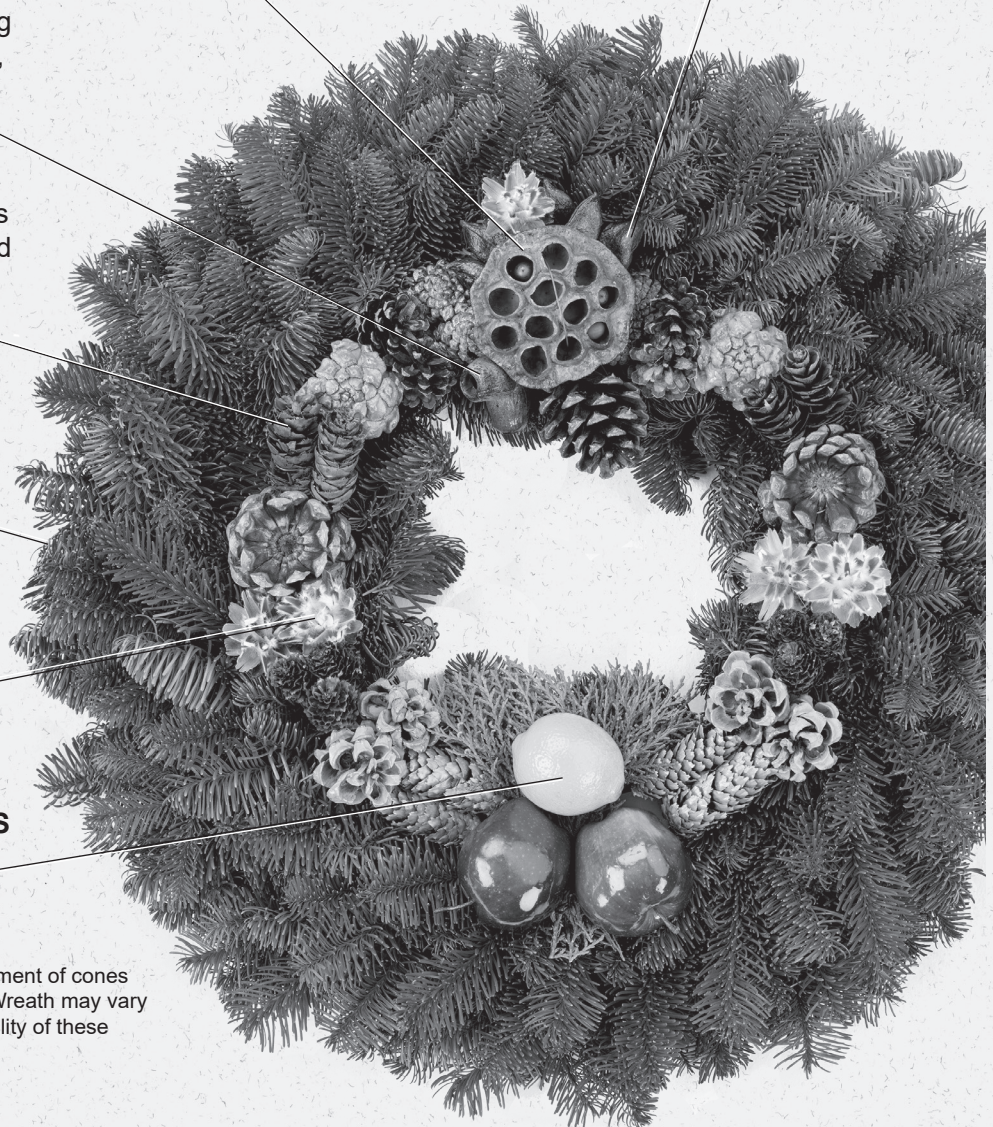
Hand-rubbed in alcohol and then lacquered to keep them colorful and plump.

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.

Submit by Phone, Mail, or visit Online:
Last-Minute Wreath Orders

Internet: www.boysrepublic.org/wreaths

Phone: (909) 591-9122 - or - (800) 833-7769

Mail: Boys Republic, 1907 Boys Republic Dr., Chino Hills, CA 91709

WREATH ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM COMPLETELY. INCLUDE FULL ADDRESSES WITH ZIP CODES.
- WREATH ORDERS ARE PROCESSED AND SHIPPED IN THE ORDER RECEIVED.
- WREATHS SHIPPED TO ARIZONA CONTAIN NO FRUIT; HOWEVER, THEY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PODS AND A RED BOW.
- ONLY 22-INCH WREATHS WILL BE SHIPPED TO ADDRESSES OUTSIDE THE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND THEY WILL BE SENT FED-EX AIR PARCEL POST AT AN ADDITIONAL CUSTOMER EXPENSE.
- NOTE: DELLA ROBBIA WREATHS CANNOT BE SHIPPED TO P.O. BOXES.
- AVOID DUPLICATION. IF YOU ORDER ONLINE OR BY PHONE, PLEASE DO NOT ALSO MAIL IT.

TO SEND BY MAIL, CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

Wreath Size	SHIP TO: (Print names & 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 @ \$64.95, COMPLETE \$ _____

_____ 28" WREATHS @ \$85.95, 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: _____

Exceptional Work “Behind-The-Scenes”

For the Wreath Sales Department staff, work starts months before wreath production begins. After mailing order forms to customers, staff processes wreath orders sent via mail, phone, or placed online at boysrepublic.org



(Back) Karon, Ernie, Sylvia (Center) Christy, Marlene, Elnor, Shirley (Front) Nancie & Liz

“We really, really try to cater to our customers,” says Karon Rios, the Wreath Sales Department supervisor. Mrs. Rios, a seasoned Boys Republic employee of 16 years, and her staff of seasonal employees take pride in the customer service they provide, such as handling large business orders, and helping repeat customers, including many multi-generational clients who have become “like family”.

Inside the Wreath Sales Office a giant wall map, covered with pins, shows all the different areas in the world where Della Robbia wreaths have been shipped to over the years.

Mrs. Rios notes that even during the last few years of the pandemic, her department staff were on site to assist customers with their orders.

“Nothing can stop this tradition, not even Covid. We still got our wreaths out on time,” says the supervisor.

“Don’t underestimate what goes on in this little office,” jokes Mrs. Rios. She and her team will process orders for customers right up until the fresh wreath bases – and the supplies needed to decorate them – run out.

233 Years of Dedication From Seven Employees!

Each Della Robbia wreath represents a full year of effort by John Lemieux and his crew of six full-time employees; Socorro, Maria, Teresa, Ofelia, Estela & Maribel. Every January these dedicated ladies start making 30,000 pre-fabs, with cones, seeds and pods, that will adorn the wreaths.

Hundreds of sacks full of seed pods and pine cones for the Della Robbias are sorted, cleaned, drilled, and wired by staff and students.

The cones and pods are painstakingly fastened together into decorative arrays and then stored in boxes and bins on our Chino Hills campus until the fresh wreaths arrive.

The pre-fabs are wired onto the fresh greenery, before the fresh fruit is attached. The finished wreaths are sprayed with a protective coating,



*FULL-TIME WREATH CREW:
Socorro, Maria, Teresa, John, Ofelia, Estela, Maribel.*

then boxed and shipped for delivery. John’s group has been working, collectively, for 233 years, to create these beautiful, hand-crafted pre-fabs!

Socorro-33 yrs, Maria-33 yrs, Teresa-39 yrs, John-43 yrs, Ofelia-36 yrs, Estela-26 yrs and Maribel-23 yrs.