



Executive Director's Message

Chris Burns
Executive Director

The 2021-2022 fiscal year brought much of the same with respect to the impact of Covid-19 on program operations. We still were operating under restrictive government mandates for both staff and students, and the impact of some of the isolative activities began to become more and more apparent. We were incredibly fortunate to avoid the academic losses for our students that were experienced so prominently throughout educational systems throughout the country. The cottage staff typically responsible for treatment activities and general support of the teaching environment rolled up their sleeves, adjusted their schedules and became amazing partners to our teaching staff who were being required to teach remotely. Those cottage staff bridged the teaching divide in a way that brought results to the youth in our care. Often the recipients of less from their families or the educational systems in their neighborhoods, the young men and women in our care actually benefited relative to their peers in the community for the time spent at Boys and Girls Republic as those extra resources really paid academic dividends.

The lockdowns associated with the pandemic have reminded us all of the profound importance of relationships and human connectedness in our lives. As we emerged from the confines of isolation, we have been reminded that our social bonds play a vital role in our overall well-being, such as the ability for staff to turn off Zoom and hold meetings together, the energy that comes from dialogue among training participants in the same room, and the camaraderie among the students able to hold town meetings, play intramural sports and interact with each other on a regular basis. Rebuilding



Fiscal 2022 marked the return of in-person trainings for employees working with students. Each week, direct care and mental health staff meet for service trainings to ensure the proper guidance for Boys Republic students.

relationships post-lockdown has fostered resilience and re-established a sense of belonging in the Boys Republic community that is essential for the positive growth of our students.

Those lockdowns led to a postponement of the Friends of Steve McQueen Car and Motorcycle Show again in June after its full cancellation in 2020. However, the return of the show in October, followed just eight