



**WESTVIEW**  
BOYS' HOME

# BULLETIN

Published for the friends of the young men at Westview



*Brian*



*Kaden*



## Begin with the end in mind

To begin with the end in mind is to start—whatever you're about—with a clear vision of how things will look at your destination. For three of our young seniors in high school this year, that means imagining what it will look like to wear those graduation robes in May of 2018.

This last year two of our young men started their year with that vision in mind. They tried on new school clothes, practiced with the football team, rehearsed with the band, and started their classes. All of those efforts led to a clear objective: graduate from high school.

In May, for example, two outstanding young men from Westview graduated from Hollis High School: Brian Dibrell and Kaden Richardson. Both of them had successful careers with the football team and the concert band. Both took classes at Southwest Technology Center: Brian

in auto mechanics and Kaden in aircraft maintenance.

This fall Brian plans to stay with us so that he can finish his studies in auto mechanics. Once he has completed that course, he plans to work for a dealership so that he can put himself through college.

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### Begin with the end in mind.

*- Dr. Stephen R. Covey*

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He plans to prepare for a career in sports journalism at Oklahoma State University.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University has accepted Kaden into their pre-pharmacy program. He will work at Westview through the summer and begin classes in Weatherford this fall.

We hope that you can visualize how you might be an ongoing part of helping young

men from Westview put on their cap and gown. With your help, our seniors will walk down the halls into the auditorium for their last awards assembly; there they'll pick up their trophies and scholarships. They'll wear their tuxes to the Senior Banquet and join in the skits that are the heart of the Senior Assembly. Finally, they will come to graduation itself. One by one, our red-robed students will line up to collect their diplomas—take the diploma with the left hand and shake hands with the right—and take their first steps as independent adults in this world. You will have prepared them!

We're honored that so many of you have chosen to work with us in the lives of our young men and to help them launch successfully into the future. We remain thankful to everyone who makes these success stories possible. [W](#)

# Old acquaintances are not forgotten



DC Brown with Burl and Y'Vonne Butler at Red River Family Encampment

Years ago Darryl (DC) Brown was a young man at Westview Boys' Home when Burl and Y'Vonne Butler were caregivers at Sweetwater House. The relationships they formed have changed all of their lives. Eventually, after DC left Westview, they lost track of each other and what was happening in each other's lives.

After decades apart, God brought DC and Burl and Y'Vonne back together at the Red River Family Encampment in Red River, New Mexico. DC found the Butlers at the Westview booth, and there was a joyful reunion. They retold old stories and celebrated DC's long career of service to the church.

Most recently, after ministering for 19 years at a congregation in Pearland, Texas, DC now preaches at the Magnolia Church of Christ in Magnolia, Texas. Since his

grandchildren were with him at Red River, he was proud to introduce them to Burl and Y'Vonne. Burl and Y'Vonne were glad to meet his grandchildren and very proud to hear of DC's dedicated and extensive service to the church.

At Westview, we're proud of so many of our young men and their choices to make a difference in this world. Only God knows all of the good that they do on any given day at work, in ministry, and with their families. We thank God for the blessings they are in this world from day to day.

We also thank God for the special people who work to change the lives of our young men. Often it takes years for the fruit of their loving labor to become apparent. Nonetheless, God richly blesses Westview's caregivers—special servants of God—for their care for these young men. [W](#)

## Westview continues to lead with TBRI

Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)<sup>®</sup> has achieved world-wide recognition as an evidence-based method of working with children. Westview began working with TBRI early in TBRI's history; today we keep growing with the program.

In 2007, Dr. Purvis and her peers at Texas Christian University published *The Connected Child*. This book laid out clear strategies to help cope with challenging parenting issues. Westview bought a copy for every Westview caregiver.

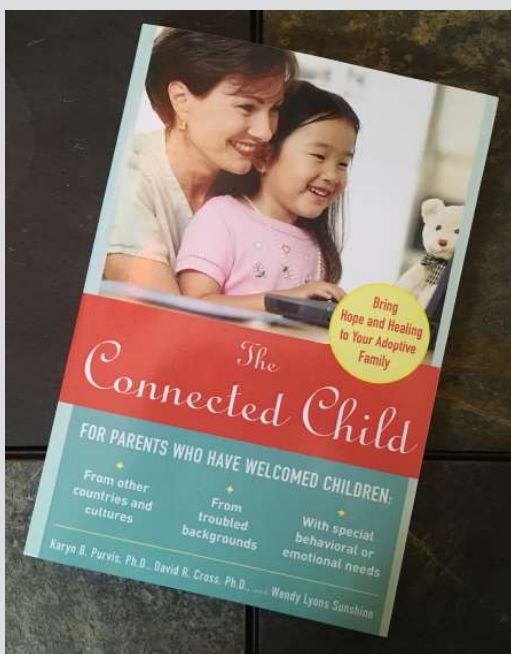
TBRI empowers: better and trustful bonding between child and parent (and other adults), improved management of learning and behavioral issues, loving discipline that avoids the child perceiving the adult to be threatening or unsafe.

In 2011, TCU offered training for trainers of TBRI and Westview sent Terry Owens and

Shiann Metheny. They immediately began training Westview team members in this method. It has powerfully affected our work. Since TBRI is often counter-intuitive to how many understand parenting, it is a gradual shift of culture and practice. Every Westview caregiver since has received ongoing TBRI training.

In 2016 Dr. Purvis passed away but her peers and students have continued her research. TBRI has become an increasingly helpful tool for counselors, teachers, parents, foster parents and caregivers.

In April of 2017, Josh Birney and Chase Thompson underwent the new and rigorous training necessary to become TBRI Practitioners. Their practice of TBRI will connect with caregivers and the young men at Westview, and improve our work with families and the young men in our care. [W](#)



# With a little help from our friends

Every summer Westview is blessed by visits from friends who want to come be a part of this vibrant work. We've enjoyed visits from two old friends so far this summer.

For years, the Church of Christ at Oakdale (top photo) has been a vital part of our work. Led by our friend, Richard Yahola; the pulpit minister, Darrel Sears; the youth minister, John T. Langley; and one of the church's shepherds, Larry Zeller—our friends from Oakdale worked hard in our vegetable garden. With two acres in our garden, clearing out weeds and the remnants of the previous crop was a hefty job. The crew from Oakdale got our young men off to a good start.

As this garden matures, it will provide fresh vegetables—squash, cucumbers, black-eyed peas, tomatoes, corn, and okra—to the young men that live at Westview.

The North Garland Church of Christ from Enid, Oklahoma, (second photo) also recently came to help with our annual campus cleanup. Led by youth minister, Adam Smith; elder, Brent Dittmeyer; and deacon, Michael Manley, these long-time friends have often provided special items that our guys needed, participated in our grocery drives, and given financial resources as well.

This year they wanted to come and see in person the ministry they help make possible. For several days our friends worked hard to clean up our campus and trimming old trees that needed special attention.

Both groups also had time to share meals, games, conversations and worship with our young men. They were a blessing to our young men, and we believe that our young men were a blessing to them. [W](#)



# Paying our respects

When you live in the country, your neighbors have often been there for a good while. Our west campus is near one of the oldest cemeteries in Harmon County, Number 2 Cemetery. Recently our young men had a service project to get this historic cemetery in good shape.

In the normal course of events, the cemetery association takes good care of these grave sites. Every year they contract with a young person to keep the grounds clean, mowed, and in order. Occasionally, though, early rains cause the grass to get tall and thick before local students are out of their classes and available to do the work.

Because the grass did get tall and unruly this year, our young men were glad to pay their respects by stepping up to do the hard work of getting the cemetery in good shape. Westview team members worked alongside our young men for hours.

They picked up trash, mowed grass, worked weed eaters, and raked clippings until these historic grounds were back in good shape. Now the regular maintenance worker will be able to keep these grave sites in order once again.

Our young men were glad for this opportunity to show their respect to the memory of some of the earliest settlers of Harmon County. May they rest in God's peace. [W](#)


# Owens completes nonprofit program

The Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits has announced that 28 students have been awarded certificates for Nonprofit Management through the Nonprofit Management Certification Program. Among the graduates was Terry Owens, Campus Manager at Westview Boys' Home. As a participant in this six-month professional development program, Terry accumulated 36 hours of Continuing Professional Education in the following content areas: Leadership Essentials, Managing Support for the Organization, Managing Budgets and Leading Meetings, Human Resources, Conflict

Management and Diversity, and Coaching as Supervision.

Ron Bruner, executive director of Westview, noted that "Terry Owens is a vital part of Westview's dynamic leadership team. His willingness to continue to learn and grow contributes to our team's success. The Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits continues to provide affordable training opportunities of the highest quality for nonprofits that seek to successfully engage their mission."

The Nonprofit Management Certification program is a six-month, cohort model professional development program, organized around building practical knowledge for managing the everyday life of a nonprofit. Content in six core areas is designed to advance participants' careers and build effectiveness in their current positions.

The Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits is a nonprofit organization equipping and strengthening the Oklahoma nonprofit sector through training, consulting, advocacy, membership, networking and recognition. 



## A MESSAGE FROM HOME

"What makes Westview unique?" Over several bulletins, I've given several answers to this question, but here is another important difference.

**In as many ways as possible, we work to provide normalcy for our young charges.**

There are no bars on the windows or locks on the doors at Westview. Young men can go hunting, fishing, or kayaking. They can take drivers education, get their driver's license, and earn the opportunity to have a car on campus. Since they are mainstreamed in public schools, our young men often choose to play football, basketball, or baseball; some go out for track. We encourage learning and playing musical instruments.

Beyond all of that, Westview has an award-winning livestock program that offers our young men the opportunity to learn how to show cattle or pigs. These opportunities are fun, but they also empower growth.

For the hard-working young men at Westview, I thank you, the gracious people whose caring generosity empowers these young people to find love, hope, and meaning in their lives.

May God bless you and yours,

Ron Bruner  
Executive Director



## Tending fences

Maintaining a farm and a ranch while being good stewards of the land is not cheap. These tasks require a steady investment of capital to maintain the property that makes the work of Westview possible.

The Foundation helps fund much of this important investment on our farm and ranch. Over the last year, the Foundation has helped rebuild fences, purchase replacement heifers, and buy a hay baler.

A number of donors work through the Westview Foundation to empower these necessary investments. For more information, please contact us at:

**The Westview Foundation**  
P.O. Box 714  
Hollis, OK 73550  
(580) 688-3608 

## BIRTHDAYS

Sam Taylor . . . . . 8/20  
River Adkins . . . . . 9/22  
Mark Beasley . . . . . 9/26  
Nathan Godwin . . . . . 9/26  
Kaden Richardson . . . . . 10/02



*Westview is supported by its many friends and local congregations of the Churches of Christ*