



WESTVIEW
BOYS' HOME

BULLETIN

Published for the friends of the young men at Westview



Light, hope, and new beginnings

On a crisp, winter's night, young men on Westview's Ranch will often step outside just to look at the sky. Against an ebony background, the stars and planets are dazzlingly bright. The smear of the Milky Way is obvious; some boys from the city see it for the first time here. Then, there is the moon—reflecting light so brightly that no one needs a flashlight to make their way back into the house.

Inside, there is the Christmas tree, lit with hundreds of little lights, bright enough to count the buttons on the nutcracker's uniform. The stars of the night sky and the little lights on the tree give us more than a glimpse of the beauty of our world; they give us hope. God gave us light to give us hope.

Of all the gifts that Westview has given young men over sixty years, the most precious gift that we have given is hope.

**God gave us light
to give us hope.**

Hope that they can be a good person. Hope that they can succeed in school and life. Hope that someone will love them. And, most importantly, hope that God will love them and be with them forever.

At Westview, we understand the power of hope. It is the strength to carry on through the most challenging moments. It is the courage to become who you need to be. It is the boldness to approach the throne of God and pray in that time of need.

Those of us who minister at Westview understand, though, that we are only the conduit of that hope. We believe that God causes those who care for children, those who love the young men at Westview, to have high hopes for them. We believe that those friends send that hope with their prayers, their letters, their hours of volunteer work, their food for the grocery runs, and their financial gifts.

We thank all of you who so generously share hope. As we see the hope light the faces of young men gazing at the night sky, or sleeping under the Christmas tree, we know that God has begun a new thing in them because others have dared to hope with them. May knowing of that hope bless your lives in the days to come. **W**



Learning about life from our friend the pig

Every October, everyone at Westview gets excited about our newest arrivals: this year's crop of pigs. Whether Berks, Hamps, Crosses, or Durocs, they energetically bounce into their pens and, most often, into the hearts of our boys.

For most of our young men, this is one of their earliest experiences with the responsibility for the life and care of another one of God's creatures. It is an experience that none of our young men ever forgets. In fact, a number of Westview alumni are among the biggest contributors to this year's swine program.

For the young men on campus who have been a part of the program before, they know full well that the hard work

is worth the trouble. Some of them know exactly what breed of pig they want to show and they usually have good reasons for their choices. They may still be learning to read the notches on a pig's ears, but they acquire more knowledge and experience every year.

Our caregivers love this time of year because working with pigs creates wonderful opportunities to engage our young men. It's a lot easier to have a quiet conversation with a young man when you're walking a pig.

And a young man's frustration with his pig's behavior can often help them understand how their actions can cause problems.

We heartily thank everyone whose generosity continues to make this excellent program possible for our young men. **W**

I am fond of pigs. Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals.

- Winston Churchill

Westview contributes to clean-up efforts in Hollis

Hollis, Oklahoma is a community with a proud history. Home to state champion athletic teams, professional baseball players, and collegiate coaches, Hollis is proud of its history.

At the same time, civic pride in the community remains strong today. Over the last year, life-long citizens of Hollis have banded together to reclaim and rebuild downtown Hollis so that their pride in community is even more obvious.

Westview Boys' Home is proud to be a part of these efforts. We've taken good care of our downtown facilities over the years, but recently we moved up the planned repainting and restoration of the facade of our commissary as a part of our efforts to be good neighbors in our hometown.

Our young men have stepped up to help as well. Cathy Coaly, our commissary manager, has worked with the planning committee to coordinate the work of our young men in assisting with downtown clean-up efforts.

So, out with the brooms and the shovels. Bring in the trash bags and dumpsters. Out with the trash and dirt. Many hands really do make lighter work.

We at Westview are grateful for the good hearts of our young men in gladly volunteering to be a part of this work. We're also glad that our hometown sees and appreciates that these young men want to make a positive contribution to their community. **W**

The hands, feet, and heart of Jesus

God has blessed Westview Boys' Home with an extraordinary team of people to help young men who are experiencing difficult situations in their lives. The front line of this team is our crew of caregivers.

In our view, they are the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus in service to these young men from hard places.

These godly people come to Westview from many walks of life, with many different skills: they are cabinet builders, computer technicians, firefighters, teachers, oil field workers, retail managers, painters, musicians, preachers, and youth workers. Over the years, many of our caregivers have been veterans from all four branches of the military.

Every single one of them could make more money somewhere else doing something easier than their work at Westview. They will never be famous or wealthy because of their work here.

So why are they here? Simply put: they love kids and they believe that they are on a mission from God to reach out to the outcast and seemingly unloveable child. They are vastly different people with one purpose: to love and care for children.

And they do care for our young men in extraordinary ways. When our boys need help with schoolwork, they are there. When they need medical care, they take them to the doctor and when, heaven forbid, they need to go to the hospital, you can count on a caregiver being there 24/7. When boys have a dark night of the soul, our caregivers are there to listen and help make sense out of the mess.

Our caregivers are an imitation of the love of God present in human flesh. Sometimes they struggle to be that, and sometimes our young men struggle to see that, but they do their best.

Over the years, getting to be a caregiver has become more difficult because we carefully choose godly people with the right hearts. To join the Westview caregiver team now, the caregivers have to choose you.

Our request is that you lift up these wonderful servants of God in prayer. If you remember and pray for them in your thoughts and prayers, they will be deeply thankful for those prayers. As they encourage young men, we hope that you will encourage them in their challenging work. [W](#)



Donnie hams it up for the camera



Tammy explains the task at hand



Randall gets everybody off to a good start

Our caregivers at Westview

Mitchell House

Beverly and Donnie Leigh

Overstreet House

Steve and Tammy Young

Saunders House

Randall and Ashley Burnley

Sweetwater House

Geneva and Ray Owens



Ray talks with Sam about his pig

Doing more with less . . .

Westview's Molloy Farm has always produced good cotton crops, but a change to drip irrigation gives increasing yields with much less water. The benefits? Better profitability to care for our young men while they learn sustainable, ecologically sound practices.

Since drip irrigation applies the water at the root of the plant, there is much less waste and evaporation of water. Less watering reduces the strain on our aquifer and lowers the power cost of operating our pumps. Better watered plants produce more cotton.



This year's crop is so promising because of the effectiveness of this system and the excellent cotton weather we have experienced this year. We may be able to pay off the irrigation system after just one year. This means that—in future years—there will be more revenues to help care for young men.

Although the farm will never produce enough revenue to fund the operations of the Home, every nickel counts. We plan to wisely use that nickel and keep this land sustainably productive. **W**

Care for the land

For over sixty years, friends of the young men at Westview Boys' Home have given land and invested in our stewardship of that land so that we can have the valuable facilities and resources we have today.

Care for the land is one of the three core missions of the Westview Foundation. The other two missions are: support for the Westview livestock programs and assistance for Westview alumni in their work toward gaining a college degree.

Donors who are interested in providing endowment for these efforts should contact the Westview Foundation to discuss helpful ways to make this possible. For more information, please contact us at:

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

BIRTHDAYS

Tristan Watkins 12/5
Landon Daniels 1/27
Noah Meyer 3/1
Tavin Blevins 3/14



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



A MESSAGE FROM HOME

God is up to exciting things at Westview Boys' Home. Over the course of this year, we've been blessed with new, talented and godly members for our ministry team. We're privileged to have new young men on our campus who are now thriving in this safe environment. We're also excited about the highly positive results from our continuing efforts to improve each one of our programs for our boys, so that our work with each young man can be more and more effective.

God has also blessed us with caring friends who are helping us move forward with long hoped-for work on each of our houses on campus. These homes, mostly built in the 1960s and 70s, needed the loving attention they are getting now. We'll be excited to report on this work in the near future.

God, though, is not done with us yet. We are currently working on plans that will help us serve more families with a broader range of tools. We hope that, like the generous souls who are rebuilding our campus, you can help us continue to broaden and deepen our ministry to children and families in need. Please let us know if God has blessed you in such a way that you feel you might be able to help.

May God bless you and yours,



Ron Bruner
Executive Director