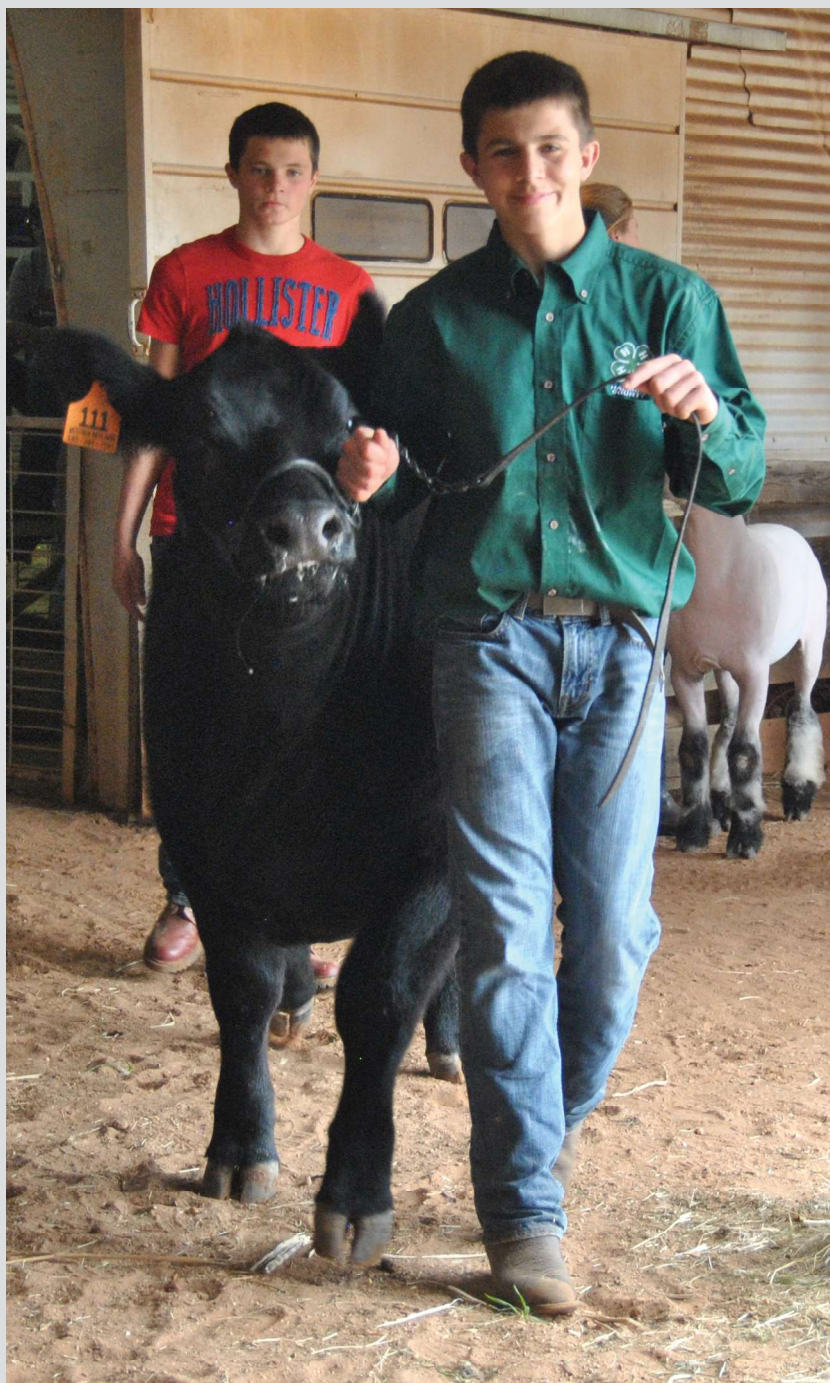




BULLETIN

Published for the friends of the young men at Westview

Walking alongside friends . . .



Every good picture tells a story, and it seems the more that you know the person in the frame, the deeper is your understanding of that moment. On the surface, this picture of Elijah tells us much: this is a young man—comfortable in his own skin—who is at ease with the animal he is leading and confident in the show ring he has just left.

The deeper part of the story—making this an even more enjoyable photo—is that Elijah is walking away from the ring having just won the Grand Champion Heifer with his animal at the Harmon County Livestock Show. Success is sweet!

It's obvious that Elijah has a great relationship with his heifer. One of the important things that our livestock programs teach our young men is the importance of other creatures in God's creation and our intended relationship to them. Elijah treats his animal with care and respect.

At the same time, the calf program (and other Westview programs) teach our young men the value of other relationships. Their peers at the Home can be friends

**A friend is one who walks in
when the rest of the world
walks out.**

who walk into their lives and speak words of praise and accountability. Each young man's caregivers step into their lives and build relationships in hopes of teaching the young men in their care how to build and maintain connections.

At Westview, one of our aims is to help our young men restore relationships from which they may have walked away. This work takes much time and effort. Their skill at reconciliation is greatly enhanced as they begin to see that God is working to teach them the patience and forgiveness it takes to restore that which is broken.

This work is important and challenging, and we are thankful for the visionary and devoted friends who continue to come alongside our young men to offer help and hope when it seems the rest of the world has walked away. May God continue to bless the many friends of our young men who are so persistently present in their lives. **W**

Learning to lead in the church

One event that always gets the young men at Westview Boys' Home excited each year is Leadership Training for Christ.

Starting in January the guys begin preparing with their teams to be ready for the gathering of young people from Churches of Christ all over the southwest United States on Easter weekend.

The young men at Westview participate with the youth group at their church in Childress, Texas. The Childress Church of Christ sent 171 people—parents, coaches, and students—to be a part of LTC at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, TX.

This year our young men participated in puppets, drama, song leading, chorus, speech, and Bible reading. Their hard work was recognized and awarded by the judges of their events.

The relationships that our young men build and the spiritual lessons that they learn are invaluable.

Three of our young men chose to tell the congregation at Childress about their experience at LTC this year. In a Sunday afternoon service, Trey Morgan--the pulpit minister at Childress--interviewed Micah, Noah, and Elijah about their LTC experiences.

These three young men did a wonderful job talking about the impact that LTC had on their lives this year. They talked about how it has strengthened them in their walk with God and others, and about how much they want to go back to participate next year.

We are grateful to the many people at the Childress church who make such spiritual opportunities available to our young men; you are making a difference! [W](#)



Micah delivers his speech at LTC in Dallas

Zayne earns an award at the Technology Center

One of the many opportunities that our young men have access to is attending the Southwest Technology Center for vocational training. As part of their regular school day, Hollis High School transports some students to SWTC in Altus, Oklahoma so they can attend classes.

One of our young men from Westview, Zayne, started classes at SWTC this past August. His classes are construction trades. He has done well and really shown a great understanding of the things he has been learning.

The Westview team was pleased to learn that Zayne had earned acceptance into the National Technical Honor Society for the 2017-18 school year. His induction ceremony took place February 14th.

Several team members were pleased to be able to attend this event and celebrate this wonderful achievement in Zayne's life. Zayne has been, and continues to be, a wonderful example to our other young men on campus; his success shows that hard work and dedication produce well deserved recognition. [W](#)



Zayne receives recognition at SWTC

A great day at the lake

For 18 years, Burl Butler has organized the annual Westview Fishing Tournament. The entire campus participates, and Burl works with local businesses and friends of our young men to get loads of prizes (fishing equipment) to be given away each year. Every young man walks away with something that will make going fishing this summer more fun.

This year the competition took place on a beautiful spring day at Lake Hall, in North Harmon County. The fish were biting early and often this year, making it one of the most successful tournaments in memorable history.

Two of our young men caught monster bass this year! Wiley started the day off with a huge 16 inch, 4½ pound fish, only to be outdone near the end of the day by Elijah. Elijah's bass came in at 5½ pounds and was just short of 20 inches.

This day is not all about catching fish, of course, but about building great relationships with each other.

Just before lunch, the guys played a game of Hacky Sack—keeping a sand filled ball off the ground using only your feet—and they enjoyed it. They had the opportunity to play with and interact with some of the staff they do not see as often.

After a wonderful cook out, Burl handed out prizes for all of our guys: new fishing poles, tackle boxes, lures, and even a few gift cards.

A huge thanks goes out to the local businesses and individuals who help to make this day possible. Their generosity empowers normal life experiences and opportunities to grow and strengthen new and existing relationships. [W](#)



Wiley proudly displays his catch

If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles.

- Doug Larson



Elijah shows his best catch for the day



Unhooking the fish is always the tricky part



Nathan gathers his prizes from the contest



The hacky sack hangs in mid-air




Doug and Burl wait to measure fish

A well-trained team

The state of Oklahoma is in the process of changing its caregiver requirements from an old curriculum to the National Resource Center for Youth Services (NRCYS) certification: Residential Child and Youth Care Professional (RCYCP). The NRCYS is located at the University of Oklahoma.

Westview was the first residential child care facility in Oklahoma to have trainers certified in teaching this curriculum; now all of our caregivers are certified RCYCP professionals. The RCYCP becomes the regulatory standard throughout Oklahoma in November of this year.

The RCYCP training dovetails well with the Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) model that is currently the standard on Westview's campus. Westview is one of a handful of agencies in Oklahoma with the credentials to teach TBRI.

Being well-trained in evidence-based methods means that the young men at Westview are treated with quality, Christian care to help them find personal restoration, reconciliation of broken relationships, and reunification with their families. 




A new look for Overstreet House

A healthy ranch

From its early days, Westview has been grounded in its farm and ranch operations. The ranch provides food for our table, experience and employment for our young men, and helps provide show animals for our livestock program.

The Westview Foundation helps with funds that help keep our working ranch viable. It empowers the purchase of animals to keep our herd diverse; it also helps with the purchase of equipment that improves the quality of our herd management.

Donors interested in providing funding or resources to strengthen our ranch should contact the Westview Foundation to discuss ways to make this possible.

The Westview Foundation
P.O. Box 714
Hollis, OK 73550
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BIRTHDAYS

Nathan Beall	5/12
Kanyon Bradford	6/2
Jason Lowery	6/16
Zayne Jimenez	6/30
Chance Maples	7/10
Colt Norton	7/25
Anthony Buckley	8/12
Sam Taylor	8/20



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



A MESSAGE FROM HOME

When houses become outdated, you have a choice: build something new or remodel what you have. Good stewards carefully weigh the possibilities.

The homes our young men live in were built in the 1960s and 70s. They were well-used and in need of attention. Utility and maintenance bills were uncomfortably high.

After careful discernment, the Westview team worked with friends of the Home to start our Restoration Project. For the cost of one and a half new homes, we've remodeled six.

Over the last few years, we have updated our kitchens and restrooms. We replaced windows with energy-efficient ones. We've updated electrical systems and fire alarms and deepened attic insulation.

Most recently, we've replaced all the exterior trim on our houses and repainted the brick and trim. To make each house look inviting, we've installed landscaping (and irrigation to keep the plants alive).

The photo on the left shows the new and improved Overstreet, with the landscaping beginning to bloom. Thanks to the vision of our friends, these old houses are once again beautiful, functional, and ready to serve the next generation of young men at Westview Boys' Home.

May God bless you and yours,



Ron Bruner
Executive Director