



WESTVIEW
BOYS' HOME

BULLETIN



Three of our young men celebrate life in an evening out

The hero of the story

Our executive director, Ron Bruner, has said more than once, "I am blessed to work with my heroes!" It is true, that so many people on the Westview team give so much of themselves in service to our young men that it truly rises to the level of the heroic.

And yet, if you were to sit down and talk with members of the Westview team about their work, none of them would claim to be the hero of our story. They would, instead, almost unanimously tell you that the work at Westview is not about them.

The heroes in Westview stories are the young men who do the hard work that it takes to move forward with life. When our young men see their godly caregivers dealing with the challenges of everyday life, they learn the skills of functioning and resilience that strengthen them for the path ahead.

As they walk alongside the wise mentors on their journey, they learn the essential relationship skills that empower them to build new, positive relationships and to rebuild older, broken ones.

When our young men put more and more days between their failures and keep getting back up when they do fail, many of them make the hope of family reunification real. We can celebrate the victory of those returns.

There are, though, those youth who will never be able to return to their family of origin. They, too, become heroes when they—alongside their Westview mentors, imagine new pathways that lead them to futures where they can live lives of gratitude. Thankful for gifts from God and God's people, they often become the most generous people you might know.

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Blessed to do what he loves

As a result of his studies at Murray State College, Westview alumnus Elijah Turner has earned his veterinary assistant certification. He has now found work with a local veterinarian doing work that he loves.



Westview at work and play this summer



Mitchell House goes bowling with the Brandells

Reworking the planter at Lincoln House



Every Thursday, we rent the Hollis pool to escape from the heat

Cleaning up damage from an 80-mph windstorm



What is summer without a little baseball?

Waste not, want not; cleaning up brick to reuse



There's nothing like a walk in the cool of the day!

1,500 acres - much of what the cows don't eat, we get to mow



Making the most of a camp experience

By Eric Brandell



What comes to mind when you think back to summertime as a teenager? Our young men here at Westview appreciate the change of pace and perspective that the summer season brings, and for the first time in a couple of years the schedule of activities is looking a little more “normal.” I had the pleasure of attending Burnt Cabin Christian Camp with the caregivers and residents from one of our houses in June. Our Westview team included a Junior Boys (3-5th grade) cabin counselor, an Intermediate Boys (6-8th grade) cabin counselor, a cook’s helper, and six campers.

The session theme was “Chosen.” This is an important reminder for everyone, especially our guys—each of whom has been dealt a difficult hand in life. We desperately want them to know their unique value in our eyes and in God’s. Like most summer camps, our days were filled with early morning devos at the flag pole, noisy meals in the mess hall, Bible classes, and application activities, memory work, sports, swimming, team games, a talent show, lots of sugar, and lots of praise. By virtue of their being in the Senior Boys cabin (9-12th grade), four of our guys were called upon to serve as team leaders for the week—an important role they each took seriously.

We were proud of the way all of our young men participated. They were able to strengthen bonds with each other, as well as make new friends from other parts of the state.

Westview’s young men were challenged to think about what Jesus meant when he said “many are called, but few are chosen.” Two of them were selected as Spike Award winners, which is a recognition awarded at the end of each day by a group of counselors to an individual that is seen manifesting the sacrificial nature of Jesus (the “spike” represents the nails in Jesus’ hands and feet). One of our campers was given the overall Sportsmanship Award for exhibiting great leadership on and off the field. In part, he earned this award because the Sports Director saw him cleaning up the ball fields one day when his team wasn’t even playing.

Personally, I enjoyed the week because it gave me a chance to get to know these six young men on a deeper level. We continue to operate under five ethical principles: Respect for God, for others, for self, for property, and for nature. This summer’s camp afforded our young men the opportunity to practice all five in a new setting, and they did very well.

Young men at Westview in your will or trust.

The best parent can be better . . .

At Westview Boys' Home, we've long believed that the best of parents can learn ideas and practices that shape them into a better parent. That's one of the reasons we've founded Westview Family Services.

At the heart of our work with families is one of the strongest evidence-based methodologies we know: Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI). Over the last decade, Westview has invested in

this program to the extent that we now have four TBRI practitioners: Terry Owens, Josh Birney, Chase Thompson, and most recently, Eric Brandell.

Westview Family Services is glad to share what we know with churches, schools, and nonprofits who work with children and adolescents. For more information, please contact Eric Brandell (ebrandell@wbh.email) or Josh Birney (jbirney@wbh.email).



Eric Brandell (top row, fourth from left) with his TBRI cohort

A profitable ranch

Over the last decade, Westview's farm and ranch has provided excellent programming for our young men and put the best of beef on Westview's tables. Under the management of Ranch Managers Doug Gonzalez and now, Jake Carter, the ranch has also produced revenues that help take care of our young men.

Both Ranch Managers have been able to work hand-in-hand with the Westview Foundation to empower every aspect of the ongoing development of the farm, the ranch, our equipment, and our herd. To find out how you might join along in this effort, please contact the Foundation at: The Westview Foundation, P.O. Box 714, Hollis, OK 73550; (580) 688-3608.

BIRTHDAYS

A. J. Brown	9/11
Christian Flowers	10/10
James Greasley	11/19

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



A Message from Home

The Westview Boys' Home Board of Directors is hard-working. Over the past twenty years, they have searched for ways to make caregiving a more positive experience and to retain our caregivers for a longer time.

They have been very successful! Twenty years ago, the average tenure of caregivers was eighteen months. Now, the average is close to eight years. As is true with almost any work, the longer you do it, the better you are at it.

We are now at one of those unusual moments in time when we are seeking a caregiver couple to join our ministry team. The advantage of our family-style approach to youth care is that we provide a depth of resources and support that couples cannot find in foster care. At Westview, your ministry to youth is empowered by a community of like-minded Christians who care for one another and the children of God.

If you know someone with the right heart and skills, please send them our way.



Dr. Ron Bruner
Executive Director