



DJ playing basketball at church camp

Catching your breath

There are some things one can only achieve by a deliberate leap in the opposite direction.
- Franz Kafka

Life is hard. As young people take more and more responsibility for their own lives, they soon discover that there is no clear, easy path to their goals. Life seems to be full of obstacles. This challenge can be even greater for young men who come from hard places. It's hardly surprising that many teens are tempted to stop trying.

At Westview Boys' Home, we help young men understand that obstacles are a part of life and that pursuing a goal requires us to consider our options. Sometimes we need to buckle down, address each problem one at a time, and keep plugging on. Sometimes, though, we have to catch our breath, get a glimpse of the bigger picture, and then take a different and wiser path to our goal.

In a way, it's like DJ playing basketball at church camp. It could be that he needs to press forward and drive past his opposition to the goal. Or, it might be that, with a quick move in an unexpected direction, he can smoothly move around his opponent.

The summer has given our young men the opportunity to "catch their breath" and take a look at the big picture. Some of them now see that there are some ways forward that—because they can act on them themselves—are much more likely to succeed. They are setting aside magical thinking about futures that never will happen. Now they can go after a future that, with God's help, they can achieve. Thank you for giving them the space and guidance to find their way.



Derek at work in the kitchen

Life skills matter at Westview

There is hardly any skill more important in day-to-day life than the ability to cook a tasty and nutritious meal, whether for your family, your friends, or yourself.

At Saunders House, Robbie and Angelene Garrett work with our young men to help them practice those critical life skills. Each week a different young man is empowered to create a meal for the entire house and to share that meal with invited guests. This kind of hospitality is an important social skill and a biblical virtue.

Derek, for example, prepared a meal of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and macaroni and cheese. His guests, the youth ministry team from church, enjoyed the meal and the conversation.

Cooking is just one of several important life skills young men acquire at Westview. We want them ready for life on their own.



Fun on the lake

A summer vacation

This summer, the Church of Christ in Bonner Springs, KS sponsored a summer vacation for Overstreet House. Steve and Tammy Young, with six of their young men embarked on a six-day trip to Missouri and Kansas.

On day one, they spent the night in Springfield MO, where they visited the largest Bass Pro Shop in the world.

Day two brought a visit to the Dame's cabin on Lake of the Ozarks in Stover, MO. The crew enjoyed several water activities, including swimming, fishing, kayaking, and boating.

On day three they returned to the lake, enjoying more water sports. After a great lunch, they headed for Bonner Springs.

Day four was filled with worship and praise to God at services at Bonner Springs. They spent the afternoon playing games and having fun.

Day five was spent at Worlds of Fun in Kansas City, riding rides, playing hard, and eating well.

Day six was spent returning home to Hollis and remembering all the fun that they had.

The crew at Overstreet send a special thank you to Jordan Edwards for his work in putting this trip together.

Restoration, reconciliation, and reunification

What does success look like? There are many small goals that a young man at Westview might achieve in their time with us. The team at Westview, though, has three overarching goals for each young man: restoration, reconciliation, and reunification.

First, we empower young men to restore their lives to a better level of functioning. Since they have experienced layers of trouble and trauma, this is hard

work. Second, we help our young men find peace in their relationships. Reconciling them to family and friends helps them move on with their lives. Finally, whenever it is possible, we seek to reunite each young man with his family of origin. We work with each family and young man to make this sustainable.

Over the past three months, four of our young men—Chance, Jason, Josh, and Kris—have completed their plans

of care and have been reunited with their families. We are so proud of the work that they have put into their lives and the success they have found on the way. They still have much to learn in life but so do we! We launch each of them with our love and blessing.



Jason watches the judge in the show ring

Service awards earned

At the annual board - staff dinner in July, the Westview board of directors honored several Westview team members for their years of service to the young men at the Home.

Josh Birney, manager of social services, joined the Westview team ten years ago, first as a caregiver at Overstreet and, more recently, in his current role.

Terry and Adrienne Owens have also served our young men for ten years. They have worked as caregivers and transitional living program mentors. Terry is currently Westview's campus manager;



Donnie and Bev Leigh

Adrienne is administrative assistant to Westview's executive director.

Donnie and Bev Leigh are celebrating five years as caregivers at Mitchell House. They continue to show long-term commitment to the young men who have been, and are, in their care.

Upward and onward

Zayne Jimenez has reached an incredible milestone in his life. On May 17th, 2019, Zayne graduated from Hollis High School.

This is the culmination of a journey that started for him in 2013. As a 13-year-old, Zayne first came to live at Overstreet, one of the homes on Westview's north



Zayne Jimenez

campus. Over the past 6 years, he has grown into a fine young man who is ready to begin the next journey of his life.

Zayne has been active over the years in FFA, raising several different hogs in the Westview livestock program. Zayne was also a member of the Hollis Tiger Football team (a 2-year starter).

In spiritual matters, Zayne has participated in Leadership Training for Christ. He has also built strong spiritual relationships at summer camps and through youth group participation.

Donnie and Beverly Leigh, his caregivers at Mitchell, have helped him to become the man he is today through all of these different activities and in his relationships with others. Although his time at Westview Boys' Home is ending, we are excited about his future. We are proud of Zayne and his time spent with us and look forward to our partnership continuing into the future.



Noah celebrates his award

Connected to the land

We're always proud of our young men and their accomplishments but we're especially proud when their work connects them with nature and the land! FFA is one place where scientific knowledge connects with the experiences of our young men in ways that can be life-changing. The work of our guys has been solid and it has been recognized by the FFA here in Hollis.

These 8th Graders were awarded the Discovery FFA Degree:

Elijah Robinson
Noah Meyer
Chance Maples
Kaden Hogan

These freshmen were awarded the Greenhand FFA Degree:

Josh Reed
D.J. Blomgren

Additionally, Noah Meyer received an Excellence Award for his participation in Land Judging.

We're proud of these young men and look forward to seeing their futures unfold in days to come.

A time to celebrate

If there is any one thing we enjoy doing at Westview, it is celebrating the victories in the lives of our young men and in the lives of our alumni. When they do well, we do well.

In early June, one of our alumni, Romas, married the love of his life, Kathryn. It was a beautiful wedding, with friends and family from all over the country present.

Westview team members—both current team members and team alumni—showed up in numbers to show their support. All of us were glad to be present for this beautiful and memorable day in



Westview people in Romas's life

Romas's life. We were also happy to see Romas's family again and have the opportunity to catch up with them.

Romas will always have his birth family for love and support, and he will always have his Westview family as well. Our prayer is that God will bless Romas and Kathryn, and that they will bless the world in their life together.

Did you know?

Did you know that you could avoid paying income tax on your required minimum distribution (RMD) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA)? How, you ask? You can avoid those taxes by making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA to the Westview Boys' Home endowment at the Okla-

homa City Community Foundation! By doing so, you can make a contribution to a charity you care about, avoid taxation on the withdrawal from the IRA, and satisfy your required minimum distribution. For more information, please contact Ron Bruner or John Moore at 580-688-9281.



Great times at church camp this summer

Taking care of the ranch

The Westview Foundation uses its endowments to serve the young men at Westview—and the farm and ranch on which they live—in important ways. Here are some recent projects:

- Paying tuition for Westview alumni
- Rebuilding old fences
- Purchasing needed farm equipment
- Investing in new animals for our herd
- Providing animals for the calf program
- Helping fund a new livestock facility
- Backing livestock program trips
- Drilling and maintaining water wells

To find out more about how you can help, contact them at: The Westview Foundation, P.O. Box 714, Hollis, OK 73550, (580) 688-3608.

BIRTHDAYS

Dylan Van Horn	8/2
Jess Campbell	8/7
Sam Taylor	8/20
Kaden Hogan	9/23
Joshua Davis Tallman	10/27
Tyson Storie	10/28
Elijah Robinson	11/28

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



A Message from Home

God is blessing the work at Westview Boys' Home! We see signs of this blessing every day.

We see success in the lives of our young men, who are more frequently than ever doing the hard work of getting their lives in order and finding their real stride in life.

We see progress in the families we serve, who are more diligently than ever preparing for the return of their young men home. This is largely due to the work of Westview Family Services.

We see strength in the team at Westview. They continue to get better at what they do and stay on the job longer than in years past.

We see a campus that is in the best shape it has ever been, thanks to the generosity of friends who wish to go unnamed.

When we see the gifts from the friends of our young men, we feel hopeful that we will be able to keep making Westview better. Whatever the economy, whatever tax laws change, your faithfulness and compassion strengthen our work.