



WESTVIEW
BOYS' HOME

BULLETIN



Thinking through the possibilities

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Thinking about the future

Years ago, when I was beginning High School, my dad and I had a disagreement about whether I would take Typing. I lost the argument but I gained an upright Olympia typewriter to practice with so the course wouldn't tank my GPA.

Years later, Dad's judgment proved correct. I was spending hours on a computer with a much greater proficiency than my peers because of that typing course. Dad, someone who had worked with computers since the early 1960s, had foreseen the need and wanted to make certain that I had the needed skills.

At Westview Boys' Home, we work hard to discover the things our young men do well and to round out their skill set in areas where they might want to do better. Sometimes these are skills we can measure, like typing, cooking, or welding. Some, though, are not so readily measured.

Critical thinking is the most important factor with chess. As it is in life, you need to think before you make decisions.

- Hikaru Nakamura

Two of the most important intangibles that our young men need are thinking and relationship skills.

We want our young men to see that thinking is more than recalling memories or reciting facts. Thinking will make use of memories and facts but it is actually the mental work of sorting out where one is and where things will go if I do A, B, or C.

Like a chess game, for example. The chess player thinks through the complex relationships on the board and imagines what might happen—good or bad—after each possible move. Both action and inaction have consequences, as it turns out.

Once our young men see that the relationships between the chess

pieces are complex, it's easier for them to understand that the relationships between human beings are even more so. There are thirty-two pieces on a chess board but only six different kinds: king, queen, bishop, knight, rook, pawn. Most teenagers have many more than thirty-two people in their lives, and every one of those is unique in character and action. Chess may seem difficult, but life is harder.

That's why our caregivers and counselors spend so much time on the basics underneath the school work, the basics of thinking and relationship skills. These skills are hard to learn but powerful in the life of one who uses them well.

We are grateful for the thinking and relationship skills of the friends of our young men. We thank you for deciding to have an empowering, life-changing relationship with our young men that will bring a bright and hopeful future..

New members of the Westview team

Angela and Daniel McCord

return to Westview as caregivers after a decade of service to the Greenwood Church of Christ in Midland, Texas. Daniel was the pulpit minister there. They previously served at Westview from 2006 to 2010. They now care for young men at Sweetwater House.



Daniel has served local congregations as a youth minister and a pulpit minister in Oklahoma and Texas. He also has experience in managing small businesses. Angela has served as a teacher of small children in several after-school programs.

Angela has a degree in child development from Midland College. Daniel studied at the Sunset International Bible Institute. Angela and Daniel have two children.



Eric Brandell has joined the Westview team as Manager of Programs in Central Oklahoma. He is based in our Westview Family Services Oklahoma City office.

Eric oversees the various training programs and opportunities we present to professionals, families, and congregations in the central Oklahoma area. He also

coordinates our relationships with churches in that area.

Eric grew up in Duncan, Oklahoma, and went to Oklahoma State University, where he earned a BS in Accounting. He is currently pursuing a Master's degree at the Harding School of Theology. After a brief business career, Eric and his wife, Shawnda, prepared to serve as missionaries in the Republic of Vanuatu. They served the people there from 2005 to 2020. The Brandells have three children.

Potatoes and partnership

The best kinds of friendships—and partnerships—are the ones that last a long time. For over two decades, Bruce and Cindy Barrett have been friends of the young men at Westview Boys' Home. Through their company—Springlake Potatoes—they have provided Westview Boys' Home with a steady supply of potatoes. Those donated spuds have empowered the caregivers at Westview to provide appetizing, nutritious, and filling meals for our young men.

Since 1909, the Barrett family has been raising potatoes, first in Idaho and then in Texas. Potato farming is financially risky and technically challenging, yet five generations of the family have successfully raised reliable, high-quality

crops. They raise their potatoes in an unexpected location—Springlake, Texas—using cutting-edge technology.

Every summer, the Westview team gets in touch with our friend, Cliff Black, who handles this partnership for the Barretts. We set a date and send a crew to Springlake to pick up our potatoes. Most often, the Barretts give Westview red potatoes, which can be used in almost any kind of recipe requiring potatoes. Our young men help us unload at our commissary, where we keep the potatoes cool and dry until needed.

We remain grateful to these friends for their faithful care for and generosity to our young men. We celebrate this enduring partnership!



Teamwork at the commissary



How I spent my summer . . .

We've all had the assignment when we went back to school: "Class, write an essay about what you did this summer." For the young men at Westview, that won't be a difficult assignment! They will have many experiences to choose from.

They could talk about their time at the lake, fishing or splashing. Or it could be the trip to the alligator farm to encounter small versions of these ancient lizards.

They might write about the minor league baseball game or the excursion deep down into a cave to see stalagmites and stalagmites. Some could talk about ascending a fourteener in Colorado.

As is usual, some fun was closer to home: Thursday nights at the Hollis pool, or an evening spent getting very good at cornhole. We thank God and our friends for filling our summer with adventures.



Reaching out to alumni

One year ago, Westview Boys' Home began reaching out to our alumni. These men mattered to us years ago and they remain important to us. Douglas Gonzalez, an alumnus of the Home and a Westview team member for twenty-five years, volunteered to work on this project.

Because of Douglas's thoughtful work in connecting with our alumni, the administrative team recently chose him to be our Director of Alumni Relations. We'll be giving him space in our bulletin to share alumni news, so we encourage you to call to give him an update.

Most recently, Douglas went on a four state tour—New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Texas—to meet with

some of our alumni. We were proud to hear how well these men have found success in their spiritual, familial, and professional lives.

Douglas has established a Westview Boys' Home Alumni page for alumni only on Facebook. It has already begun to engage alumni. We continue to work to develop an Alumni group membership and welcome those interested to be involved.

Future updates should include officer assignments and our first meeting arrangements. If interested, you can call Douglas at (580) 688-9281 or contact him via the Westview Alumni page on Facebook.



Tall cotton on Molloy Farm

Westview - A working ranch

Not only does Westview have 1,500 acres of ranch and farm land, we have 60 cows, three bulls, and dozens of calves on those green pastures. Keeping that herd strong has been one of the key interests of the Westview Foundation. New bulls bring new bloodlines. Replacement heifers guarantee that we will have calves for our livestock programs, younger cows in the herd, and—eventually—food on the table for our young men.

For decades, the Westview Foundation has empowered thoughtful and timely purchases of animals to keep our herd healthy and profitable. To find out more about the part you might play, contact the Foundation at: The Westview Foundation, P.O. Box 714, Hollis, OK 73550; (580) 688-3608.

BIRTHDAYS

A. J. Brown9/11
Landon Frye.....9/23
Kaden Hogan.....9/23
Brezlyn Johnson..... 11/21

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



A Message from Home

In my reading this week, I found this Irish blessing. This is my hope for our young men and you who give so generously to care for them.

*May you always have walls
for the winds,
A roof for the rain, tea beside
the fire,
Laughter to cheer you, those
you love near you,
And all your heart might
desire.*

*May joy and peace surround
you,
Contentment latch your
door,
And happiness be with you
now,
And bless you evermore.*

*Bless you and yours
As well as the cottage you
live in.
May the roof overhead be
well-thatched
And those inside be well
matched.*

*May your neighbors respect
you,
Trouble neglect you,
The angels protect you,
And heaven accept you.*



Dr. Ron Bruner
Executive Director