



A safe place for dreams

Have you ever slept under the Christmas tree? We have a decades-old tradition here at Westview Boys' Home—our young men can take turns sleeping under the Christmas tree.

Have you watched a child sleep under the tree? When they first get comfortable, you can see the lights shining in their eyes. Then gradually, as they settle in, they drift off to sleep. Eventually, they dream.

Have you ever wondered what children dream about at Christmas? Maybe they dream about Miss Ann's chocolate chip cookies, or the ham that's in the oven. Or, maybe they dream about the present already under the tree with their name on it, and getting to open it.

Whatever they dream about, we hope that they have sweet dreams, the

dreams that come from feeling safe and loved—the kind of dreams that fill their hearts with peace.

We thank God that Westview is a place where our extraordinary team can help children feel safe and loved. We thank God for the many friends of our young men—our partners in our work—who make this safe place and our work possible.

The Westview Team is also grateful to the many friends from churches across Oklahoma and Texas who generously give Christmas presents to our young men! Now that their stockings are full and their smiles are big, we hope that others will continue to provide the resources for food on the table and a warm home around them. May each of you celebrate the holidays knowing that you make a difference.

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Fall is busy, busy, busy . . .

For the young men at Westview Boys' Home, fall is a lot more than back-to-school. There are all sorts of events that our young men enjoy that round out their life experiences.

The Rodeo in Altus is an annual favorite. For many of our guys, this is their first rodeo! The entry parade and the many events are fast and exciting. If you want to see the best working horses in top-notch condition, the rodeo is the place to be.

Did somebody say football? Without a doubt, Hollis Tiger football sets the rhythm for this time of year. Our young men are much more than spectators at these games; they are players on the field, members of the band, and part of the colorguard. Westview caregivers and team members cheer them all on.

Then there is the fall trip. It has been a favorite practice to go to Six Flags Over Texas one day and then on to a sporting event. This year, the caregivers planned a trip to Sea World in San Antonio! This was an exciting trip, with lots of new rides and new experiences for everyone. We have some caregivers who aren't afraid to ride on any ride! The trip included a detour over to Fredericksburg, where our young men shared a meal at an authentic German restaurant. Now they know what that experience is like.

All of these events are important because they ensure that our young men have a joyful and memorable set of life experiences in their adolescence. We are grateful that we've always had a team of caregivers who are ready to go and share life with them.



Giving to the causes that matter to you

It's helpful to know that . . .

You could avoid paying income tax on your required minimum distribution (RMD) from your traditional individual retirement account (IRA). How? By making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA to Westview! In doing so, you can make a contribution that increases your impact on charity, decreases your taxes, avoids taxation on the withdrawal from the IRA, and satisfies your RMD requirements.

You can assign a certificate of deposit (CD) or a money market, checking, or

savings account to charity without changing your will or trust through a transfer on death or payable on death beneficiary form. Contact your bank, ask for one of these forms, and list Westview (and your other favorite charities) as the beneficiary.

You can avoid capital gains tax on highly appreciated assets! By donating a highly appreciated asset (stocks or real estate) to Westview Boys' Home, you can avoid

paying capital gains on that asset. Westview is able to sell the asset and avoid any capital gains tax.

If you have questions about these or other ways to give, call (580) 688-9281 and ask for Ron Bruner or John Moore.



Building a lasting legacy?

Please remember

Called to a work of love and grace

There are some works in this world that are not a job; they are a calling. For caregivers at Westview Boys' Home, this is a truth. Each of the extraordinary couples who serve as caregivers could have a "job" somewhere else. Instead, all of them feel called to be at this place, and to do this work. We are blessed!

This is not a calling for the faint of heart. The young men who come to Westview are blessings, but they are encountering a hard place in their lives. This means that the caregiver's work can be a combination of joy and pain, all in the course of one day. Being godly people in a godly community strengthens them for their work of providing love and grace for young men experiencing deeply challenging times in their lives.

Our current caregiver team is a wonderful blend of temperaments and talents. They are just what our young men need to find a way forward in their lives.

Robbie and Angelene Garrett grew up in a children's home; they know what that can feel like. They have years of experience working with young people going through hard times, and they are passionate about what they do. Robbie has spearheaded efforts to restore Westview's 1930s gymnasium so that it is useful for sports again; he has made real progress. Angelene leads our swine show program, so this is a very busy time of the year for her. The Garretts have raised their three children at Westview, and now they are grandparents.

Allie and Cody Gann came to Westview from the Tulsa area with their two children. They, too, know what it is like to grow up in residential care, so they have a real heart for their work. Cody is into his second year of leading Westview's show calf program; he is looking forward to the show events we already have on the calendar. Allie loves to cook and to make certain that her boys are well and wisely fed.

Lexie and Haden Brill come to Westview from Missouri, with extensive experience in childcare and youth ministry. Their children love living on Westview's ranch. Lexie is a photographer, and she has a gift for capturing those moments that our young men celebrate. Haden has hunting experience, and has been a careful and patient teacher for young men who want to hunt on the ranch. Fortunately, wildlife abounds here.

Kaye and Jon Williams, our newest caregivers, are native Arkansans. Jon served in the U. S. Marines for a time, and then he moved into the behavioral health care field. He also has experience as carestaff at Capstone in Arkansas. Kaye has a strong business and management background. Beyond her organizational skills, her knowledge of and experience in livestock programs will well serve our young men.

Please keep our caregivers in your prayers. Every way that you can love and support them is greatly appreciated.



Robbie and Angelene



Allie and Cody



Lexie and Haden (with their kids)



Kaye and Jon

Did you know? The average stay of caregivers at Westview is seven years. For many family-style homes, the average is eighteen months.

Westview's young men in your will or trust.

An exercise in stewardship

Having things means taking care of things. God and the children of God who have partnered with us in our work have blessed Westview with the many tools we need to take care of our young men and our land. Consequently, some of the more important lessons we teach our young men are:

- 1 – Care for the land.
- 2 – Care for your home.
- 3 – Care for your tools.

We teach our young men how to care for the home they live in and the land around it. We also show them how to maintain the equipment they work with to keep those tools in good shape and safe (see the photo on the right).

There are times, though, when you need resources to keep things nice and working. This last year alone, we invested \$45,816 in repairs and updates to our homes on campus. This includes everything from new cabinets to new lights. Our young men live in safe and nice homes.

Westview invested \$131,367 in repairs and replacements of farm and ranch equipment. This significant investment will pay off in the years ahead because our farm and ranch provide revenues that help fund our work, and they help our young men stay connected to the land. We are grateful to the generous souls who make all of this possible!



A Message from Home

There is no view like the view from Westview Boys' Home. From our west campus, where Ann and I live, you can see for up to five miles in any direction. It's easy to joke about these sweeping plains until sunset, and then the beauty of this land is stunning to even the most committed urbanite.

Westview's ranch is a perfect place for young men who need to gain a clear and healthy perspective on their lives. Here, distractions are cleared away and the beauty of God's creation is clear.

That's why Ann and I hope that, like a few other local farms and ranches, Westview Boys' Home will still be present and prosperous in Harmon County 100 years from now. The nature of this world is such that we believe Westview will still be needed.

Perhaps this is why we've invested a quarter of a century of our lives here; we understand that those dreams require patience and perseverance.

We thank God for every one of you who has dreamed and worked alongside us.



Dr. Ron Bruner
Executive Director

A hand on the ranch

One of the key interests of the Westview Foundation is in providing resources of all kinds for the care and beautification of our farm and ranch. The Foundation has been an important partner in keeping our 1,500 acres in good shape (see the article above).

Stewardship of our land is a job that is bigger than one person. We are always grateful when one of our friends offers to lend a hand to our young men by helping us with the ranch. Will you help?

You can work with the Foundation to take care of our farm and ranch. To find out ways how, contact the Foundation at: The Westview Foundation, P.O. Box 714, Hollis, OK 73550; (580) 688-3608.

BIRTHDAYS

- Arin Hilley..... 2/3
- Colton Castro 2/15
- Ezra Jacobson..... 3/12
- Jay Emerson 3/19

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