



WESTVIEW
BOYS' HOME

BULLETIN



Cotton harvest at sunset, viewed from Westview's west campus

At the end of the day . . .

One of the beauties of life at Westview is to come home after a day's work and watch those glorious sunsets God so often sends our way. The beauty and immensity of God's art work are a small thing to God but a powerful reminder to us that we serve a God who can make so much of whatever is given. .

Somehow it pleases God to take the things that we do, the kindnesses we show, and the gifts that we give and rejoice in that! God makes our best efforts into a legacy of love and hope that endures even beyond our own lives. My feeble words may give a young man the courage to carry on in an impossible situation. My encouragement for a coworker may empower them to fight off their

weariness and walk through a dark night of the soul with a young man. God celebrates whatever we give, large or small, and does amazing things with those gifts.

Legacy is not what I did for myself. It's what I'm doing for the next generation. - Vitor Belfort

The gifts that you send for the care of our young men humble us and give us hope for the next generation. When one of our young men finishes high school, God makes that a part of your legacy. When our young men get a job, marry a good person, and lovingly raise a family, their legacy springs from the seeds of your legacy. That work of God is as beautiful as an Oklahoman sunset.

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Westview team members serve 25 years



Doug Gonzalez, Ranch Manager

As it turns out, 1995 was a very good recruiting year for Westview Boys' Home. Two couples joined the Westview team, raised their families here, and made a career of caring for young men from hard places.

Doug and Dennise Gonzalez arrived first and began by caring for the young men at Sweetwater House. Over time, they both



Dennise Gonzalez, Donor Relations

became very committed to the calf program. After a few years, Doug moved into the ranch manager position, where he has continually improved the quality of our herd and the condition of our land. Dennise moved to donor relations, where she established a remarkable record of accuracy and donor satisfaction.

Chip and Sue Moore came here later in the year. Sue has served as our accountant throughout her tenure. Her attention to details assures that Westview's bills are paid correctly and on-time. Chip has worn a number of hats; he has been responsible for program



management and managing social services. Most recently he has served as our Director of Development, helping donors find ways to help our young men succeed.

We're thankful that God called these wonderful people to Westview and empowered them to have lengthy and fruitful careers serving our young men.



Chip Moore, Director of Development



Sue Moore, Accountant

National organization honors Birney

Network 1:27 has honored Josh Birney, Westview's manager of social services, with its Timothy Award. This award honors those who are a "rising star and emerging young leader" in the care of children in the United States. Network

1:27 is a national organization of faith-based agencies serving children and their families.

The award cites Josh for "impactful leadership and initiative that results in changing the lives of children in need."

Josh has been deeply involved in work with young men from hard places since he and his wife, Julia, came to Westview in 2007 as caregivers. After eight years of service in that role, Josh moved into Westview administration.

Josh has since become a TBRI® (Trust-Based Relational Intervention)

Practitioner and was instrumental in implementing the use of this evidence-based methodology in the work at Westview. He has also trained workers at other residential childcare facilities to help children with this powerful methodology.

Ron Bruner, Westview's executive director, observed, "Josh is precisely the kind of young professional this award was intended to honor. He is certainly one of the most deserving recipients of the Timothy Award I have known."

Because its April meeting canceled due to the pandemic, Network 1:27 asked the Westview Board of Directors to honor Josh and they gladly did so.



Safe at Westview, our young men keep on moving

At the end of March, much of our world came to a screeching halt. We carefully practiced isolation and social distancing so as to keep all of our young men and staff safe on the ranch and away from COVID-19. That still left us with plenty to do, though. We worked and played hard through the summer and were ready when it was time to start school.

The pandemic, though, wasn't through with us. Working with the wonderful educators in the Hollis schools, we went to online classes to keep our young men safe and moving forward. As always with school, there were both challenges and victories. All in all, though, we're proud of our young men and the way they've adapted to a new reality.

For the sake of keeping our eyes on the big picture, we also scheduled some time away from home and out of Harmon County. We carefully selected safe locations where each house could get away for a few days. Overstreet House went to a big lake and enjoyed kayaking in new surroundings (see photo, upper right). Sweetwater House got away and spent time around a campfire making S'mores. Mitchell and Saunders houses went hiking.

Together, the young men continue to grow and become better prepared to be godly, responsible citizens in a world where they are much needed. We're thankful to the many friends of our young men who have faithfully continued to be a part of our work with young men from hard places. May God bless you all.



Here the crew from Mitchell House stops to celebrate a hard day's work at the Bethel Swine Facility on Westview's campus. They prepared the pens for this year's pigs and rebuilt the wash bay for keeping the pigs clean.



Even though Westview has 1,500 acres of farm and ranch land, it's good for our young men to "get out of town" when we can. Consequently, each house has been taking carefully planned trips for hiking, camping, and fishing.



When the ice storms hit recently, it wasn't our first rodeo. Our young men stayed warm, safe, and well-fed. We even managed to celebrate a birthday under these challenging circumstances.



Thank you, teachers!

At the start of classes, Westview welcomed the Hollis teachers, staff, and administration back to school with its 21st annual Back-to-School lunch. Of course, the pandemic re-shaped how we were able to share this year. Instead of having a “sit-down” meal where we could sit and

talk, we protected our educators as best we could by providing a meal to go.

This meal always takes place on in-service days, so it makes a healthy meal possible at a time when educators have a jam-packed schedule. Cathy Coaly, Westview’s commissary manager, leads the Westview team in this effort.

We’re especially thankful for our teachers this year as our young men have done their school work in a virtual classroom through the Hollis Schools. This has better protected their health and the health of their teachers but it has been hard work! Our young men have maintained a relationship with their teachers and continued to grow as learners.

For decades, the Hollis schools have been our allies in helping us prepare young men for an unpredictable world. We have been and remain thankful for their hard work. We hope that you will join us in keeping keep them in our prayers throughout the school year.



Cathy Coaly hands out a lunch to a teacher



A Message from Home

One of the things I’m proudest about is how well the Westview team works together. I believe that spirit of camaraderie is one of the reasons team members choose to stay with us for so long.

This year four Westview team members made it to the twenty-five year mark. Their enduring commitment and personal sacrifice is a “long obedience in the same direction” and I am grateful. Burl Butler, though, still holds the Westview record with over fifty years of service when he retired.

Westview is in a hiring season again. We are looking for new caregivers and a social worker for our Hollis location. We’re also looking for office management at our Oklahoma City office. For more information, you can see the job postings on our website. Qualified and caring people can submit their resumes (with a cover letter) to rbruner@wbh.email.

We’re grateful for every member of our Westview team and look forward to new partners in our work.



Dr. Ron Bruner
Executive Director

Friends of education

So many careers that the young men at Westview dream of involve a college education. The challenge for them is getting the familial and financial support it takes to start and complete a college education. For a number of these young men, Westview Boys’ Home provides the “familial” support and works with the Westview Foundation to provide the financial support for college.

Thanks to the help of our friends, we’ve been successful in helping young men discover their vocation and finish the education necessary to successfully live out that vocation.

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

BIRTHDAYS

Tyler Fletcher.....	12/2
Elijah Turner.....	12/5
Gavyn Koster.....	1/13
DJ Blomgren.....	1/15
Christian Fincher.....	2/7
Derek Chapin.....	3/2

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