



WESTVIEW
BOYS' HOME

BULLETIN



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A time to celebrate!

Some victories have been small and some huge, but God has been busy at Westview Boys' Home! God has worked in the lives of our young men, our team, and our generous friends in ways that give us all reason to celebrate.

A victory of relationships: The six young men celebrating in the photo above are all teammates; five of them have grown up in Hollis and one of them is a young man from Westview. Because of the goodness of their hearts, they have opened their circle to let Christopher in. We see this as a win for everyone.

Graduating with a plan: Westview has two young men graduating this spring: Kanyon Bradford and Tyler

Fletcher. Kanyon has been working part-time at a body shop in Gould: Highland's Frame and Body. After graduation, Kanyon will be moving into an apartment in Hollis and going to work full-time for Highland's.

Tyler has been a very good student at Hollis High School. Now, as an adult, he has signed up with the Oklahoma National Guard to move his collegiate and post-collegiate career forward.

Excellence in teamwork: After years as ranch manager, Doug Gonzalez has used his collegiate studies to retool his career to serve our young men in a different way. As a social worker, he joins Josh Birney, manager of social services, in providing care for our young men and assistance to our

outstanding caregivers. They have become a highly-functioning team that provides outstanding care and advocacy for each one of our young men.

Triumphs in building a legacy:

One of the friends of our young men has discovered she can give more for the care of our young men by donating highly appreciated stock to Westview. She gets a tax credit, avoids capital gains taxes, and builds her life legacy in this work. Another friend uses the required distributions from her IRA to care for our young men and gain a tax benefit. We know that these friends would give for the care of our young men no matter what, but we celebrate the fact they benefit in these ways.

Westview's swine team celebrates!

As the air begins to cool every October, little pigs begin to show up on our West Campus. For years Burl Butler would be the one who would go search out young pigs for our young men to raise, then Terry Owens took over the task. Over the last several years, Terry has

had help from Westview alumnus, Tony Chitwood in the search for promising animals.

This fall, Westview's administrative team chose a new leader for the swine program: Angelene Garrett. Angelene has years of experience with pigs and, even more important,

a gift for helping young people learn how to raise pigs.

Assisted by other Westview team members, Angelene worked alongside our young men as they went through their daily routines with their pigs: cleaning pens, filling waterers, and taking care of feedings. To help both the pigs and our young men, the entire team would go on a walk with their pigs to make movement in the show ring go better.

This year our boys raised Durocs and Crosses, with four Herefords among their projects. All of these animals were in excellent shape when they arrived at the Harmon County Livestock show and won our young men two first places, two second places, and a third and fourth place.

At the Oklahoma Youth Expo, competition was fierce, but Gody made it into the big ring. That's worth celebrating! As we rejoice in the good things our young men learned from this experience, we hope that those generous friends who funded this program will celebrate with us as well.



The Swine Program Team, from left to right: Colton Castro, Tammy Young, AJ Brown, Angelene Garrett (Team leader), Skylar Akins, Cody Garrett

Grateful to be chosen

As Doug Gonzalez moved from Ranch Manager to become our social worker, he handed off the calf program to Steve Young. As a caregiver at Westview for seven years, Steve brought years of experience in working alongside young men with their calves on our ranch, at the County Show, and at the Oklahoma Youth Expo.

This year our young people worked hard with their calves from May until April. Derek Chapin and James Green both had a good year. Derek's projects included a Hereford heifer and a Simmental steer. James worked with a Charolais steer.

The children of caregivers are also given the opportunity to show animals if they wish. Both Emma and Mia McCord chose to show heifers in this year's program.

All of our heifers won awards at the Harmon County show, but only steers can be selected for the premium sale. We were grateful that both Derek's Simmental and James's Charolais steers were chosen and received very handsome sale prices. All our other participants received numerous add-ons for their efforts.

We also remain grateful for those friends who have given so much for so many years to support this program.



Derek shows his Simmental



James shows his Charolais

Westview prepares to break ground on Westview Transitions

Across the United States, there is a need for assistance to young adults aging out of programs of care provided by private and governmental agencies far outstripping the capacity to serve this vulnerable population.

In 2010, Westview began providing transitional services to our young men because of our increasing awareness of the problem. Since then, we have learned much about the needs of these young men and how to better help them.

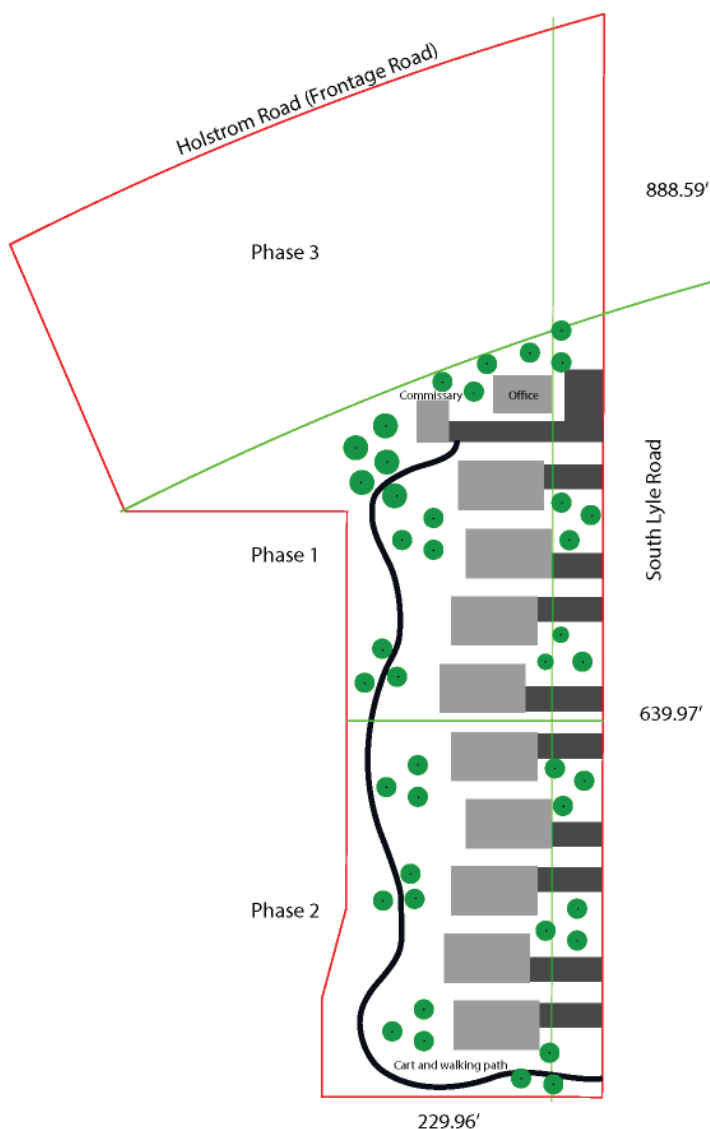
Our experience has shown transitional programs (often called independent living programs) to be an affordable and effective way to continue to advance young men toward their futures. Although our 1,500-acre ranch in Harmon County is a wonderful site for our residential program, more resources are required for transitional living: a large job market, technical schools, and colleges.

This year, through a very generous grant given by a long-time friend and the residual of another friend's estate, we were given the necessary funds to build the program we want on the site our young men need. After considering several locations in urban and rural Oklahoma, the Westview board of directors decided to locate Transitions in Weatherford, Oklahoma.

Weatherford covers a compact area of seven square miles but, with dozens of restaurants, a plethora of stores, and a university, there are abundant job opportunities. Quality collegiate education is available and affordable at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. There are also nearby vocational and technical training opportunities.

Westview has purchased 5.74 acres of land in Weatherford for our Transitional facilities (see the site plan on the left). Our revised and relocated program, Westview Transitions, is intended to provide space and resources for young men 19 to 23 years of age who have aged out of Westview Boys' Home and other programs. Transitions is a synthesis of Westview's experience with our own program combined with wisdom we have mined from other programs. An on-site program mentor will supervise the site and oversee the administration of a broad range of professional services.

Our vision for this program is to help young men build resilient futures, grounded in faith and sustained by healthy relationships with others. We look forward to sharing news with our friends about this effort as God continues to bless it and bring it into reality.



The site plan for Westview Transitions

Searching for new caregivers

Did you know that caregivers, on average, work for Westview for eight years?

Westview has become a haven where educators and youth ministers, tired of the politics they often face in their careers, can find a place to minister with young people. Caregivers at Westview have the opportunity to form life-changing relationships with youth who need outstanding role models and

healthy relationships. Living with our young men in spacious homes on our 1,500 acre campus gives you the time and space to make those connections. Our caregivers receive support from administrators who provide the resources and negotiate the politics.

If you have questions about the ministry of caregiving, call (580) 688-9281 and ask for Terry Owens, Director of Operations.



Sorting the herd on our ranch

Following through

We're grateful that over 95% of the young men who spend a year or more at Westview graduate from high school. For young men from hard places, though, that is often not the end of their need for assistance.

Most of our alumni don't have the resources to get through college on their own. As a consequence, the Home works hand-in-hand with the Westview Foundation to empower the education of young men who have the desire and potential to earn their college degrees.

To find out more about the part you might be able to play, please contact the Foundation at: The Westview Foundation, P.O. Box 714, Hollis, OK 73550; (580) 688-3608.

BIRTHDAYS

Braden Blevins.....	7/5
Kanyon Bradford.....	6/2
James Green	5/27
David Hargis.....	5/18
Jaden Martinez.....	6/27

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



A Message from Home

Summer is upon us. Our young men and their steadfast caregivers have worked hard to successfully complete another year of school, and now it's time for a change of pace.

All of our young men will have time for work, play, and growth this summer. After all, we have 1,500 acres to take care of, and we want our young men to learn to be good stewards of the land in our care. They'll earn money while cutting grass, repairing fences, and painting whatever needs it.

There will also be a lot of time for play. Many of our young men are into playing cornhole at home and in tournaments. All of them will enjoy time at the pool on Thursday nights. And there will be trips as well!

We're very excited about our plans for church camp this summer. Our young men always experience real social and spiritual growth through those experiences.

Please keep our young men and their caregivers in your prayers through the summer months!



Dr. Ron Bruner
Executive Director