



**WESTVIEW**  
BOYS' HOME

# BULLETIN



*Josh and Ethan celebrate a great day in Ethan's life*

## In this issue . . .

- **Westview youth have livestock project success!** - p. 2
- **Westview does prevention** - p. 2
- **Searching for new caregivers** - p. 2
- **Westview Launch: What it is and why it matters** - p. 3
- **OK Speaker honors Launch** - p. 4
- **Quest for the best** - p. 4
- **Birthdays** - p. 4
- **A message from home** - p. 4

## What does success look like?

When you invest your life in caring for young people, as Westview's Josh Birney has, you remember the stories of successful Westview men like Ethan Lamb. How can we help other young men overcome trauma and tragedy? What unique shape does a successful outcome take?

We want our young charges to feel they find **safety** with us. Over time, we expect that they learn how to keep themselves safe by making good choices. Ultimately, we hope they learn that the place of real safety is with God.

Using TBRI® (Trust-Based Relational Intervention), we lead each young man to understand healthy **relationships**, how to form them, and how to keep them solid. We spend countless hours

working with our youth to empower them to bring **restoration** to broken relationships and find healing in their families and friendships.

Even when one feels safe and has healthy relationships, life happens. All of us need to develop **resilience**, leaning on our coping skills and relationships to stabilize our lives. Knowledge of the active love of God in our lives empowers this resilience.

Every teenager actively searches for their own **identity**. Sometimes they experiment with "hats" that don't fit, so wise friends must help them see the truth. The Westview team knows our teens were formed in God's image; over time, God reveals the unique and gifted possibilities intended for them.

Once our young men begin to understand who they are, they can begin to have **hope**. They can dream about their futures and imagine how they can achieve them.

When our young men put these different victories together, they are **flourishing**. They have not finished their work, but they have learned to find joy and meaning in the journey.

We celebrate the success in the lives of all of our young men. Some stay with us long enough to know all of these victories; others reunite with their families when their folks see that they've learned how to succeed in their relationships. We know that God will continue to work in all their lives for the good, and we thank God for that.

# Westview youth have livestock project success!

For many months, the young men at Westview and the children of our caregivers have been working on their cattle and swine projects. They spend untold hours feeding, watering, cleaning pens, and exercising and grooming animals. They learn about their animals and they discover much about themselves as well.

Several of our show team made it to the Harmon County Premium Sale this year! They include: Ezra Jacobson with Reserve Breed Champion Simmental Steer, Emma McCord with Breed Champion Limosine Steer, Lucas Morgan with Breed Champion Cross Steer, and Colton Castro with Reserve Breed Champion Hereford Barrow. Our other exhibitors made us proud, too: Jay Emerson, James Greasley, Cody Garrett, Arin Hilley, Mia McCord, and A.J. Brown.

Our show team also went to the Oklahoma Youth Expo at the state fairgrounds in Oklahoma City. The competition was fierce, and we didn't place as well, but we were glad to celebrate a great year for our program. We are thankful for the work of Angelene Garrett and Jake Carter in leading these programs. We remain deeply grateful for the many donors who bless our team with this opportunity.



*A.J. and Andrew take a pig for some exercise*

## Westview does prevention

Westview Family Services (WFS) is the preventative arm of Westview Boys' Home. We help families avoid the need for foster care and residential placements without that negatively impacting the need for our own ranch for youth. Foster care and residential care are important and impactful, but they should be avoided if simpler and less expensive alternatives are possible. Here are results from this last year:

- WFS has held 115 counseling sessions with 22 different family units, helping at least 60 people, not including siblings or stepfamily. Those helped are youth and families across Oklahoma.
- WFS has 50+ consultations to refer them to more appropriate resources for addressing family issues that don't require counseling or placement.
- We engage in parent training at local churches to help Christians learn that every parent can be a better parent.
- Westview has trained over 100 professional childcare workers at other children's homes to empower them to practice Trust-Based Relational Intervention.
- WFS trains hundreds of teachers in pre-service settings to help them work with at-risk students.

## 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.

# Westview Launch:

## What it is, and why it matters

### Why are independent living experiences important?

Across the United States, whenever a youth in foster care or residential care turns 18, they immediately become an adult; those in foster care are emancipated. They are on their own for food, shelter, and clothing. Although these young adults might briefly celebrate their independence, the stress of finding food, a place to stay warm, and financial resources quickly becomes overwhelming and often traumatic.

These young adults end up:

- **Couch surfing** - moving from one friend's house to another until they eventually wear out their welcome
- **Sleeping in cars** - they have a place out of the weather, but they lack a restroom, shower, and a way to look presentable for a job
- **Sleeping in public transportation** - out of the elements until they're found out
- **On the sidewalk or under a bridge** - truly experiencing homelessness, in every sense of the word

### Westview Launch provides an answer

Because of Westview's increasing awareness of the lack of sustainable resources for young adults leaving care, Westview began providing independent living services to its young men in 2010.

Since then, the Westview team has learned much about the needs of young men at this stage of life and how to better empower them for sustainable, productive lives. Our experience has shown these independent experiences to be an affordable and effective way to continue to advance the positive trajectory of a young man's life.

Our independent living experience, Westview Launch, finds its home in a residential neighborhood in Weatherford, Oklahoma. A large and diverse job market, technical schools, and collegiate opportunities are available to the men who choose to live at Launch. Launch provides space and resources for young men 18 to 24 who have aged out of foster care or residential care. We will be breaking ground by early summer 2023.

Launch is a neighborhood of several four bedroom homes. Each man has a private room and shares a kitchen and living space with other residents. Launch has highly-trained mentors and staff in residence 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Meeting the short-term needs of vulnerable young adults, Launch prepares our men to take their place in the larger community.



Westview's young men in your will or trust.

# OK Speaker honors Westview Launch

For decades, the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives has hosted a nonpartisan Ball for the Legislature at the beginning of the legislative season. This gala is funded by private donations and benefits a charity important to the Speaker of the House.

Speaker Charles McCall and his wife, Stephanie, have increased the nonprofit impact of the Ball over recent years. This year, the McCalls chose three active independent living programs for young

adults: Westview Launch was one.

On January 28th, the Speaker presented a \$50,000 check to Westview to fund our ongoing care for young Oklahomans.

We thank the McCalls for giving Westview Launch this generous gift and the visibility that comes from this event! We are grateful. We're also grateful to Representative Gerrid Kendrix from Altus for recommending Westview to the Speaker.



Terry Owens and Ron Bruner with Representative Gerrid Kendrix and his wife, Cynthia

## A quest for the best

For years, Westview ranch managers have diligently worked to ensure that we have a fine herd. These cattle serve as livestock projects for our young men and become the beef that feeds them well.

The Westview Foundation has steadfastly empowered this vital work, providing resources for replacement animals that bring in new bloodlines and desired genetics, and investing in equipment, supplies, and fencing that make Westview ranch operations successful and sustainable.

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

## BIRTHDAYS

Qualyn Stewart.....5/17

James Green .....5/27

Joshua Jensen.....5/29

Lucas Morgan .....6/29

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



## A Message from Home

### Cooperation - As

Americans, we often idolize the independent thinker, the Lone Ranger. In truth, God made humans to work together—it was not good for Adam to be alone. Even the Lone Ranger had Tonto!

At Westview, we openly acknowledge our dependence on God, each other, supporting partners, and our young men. We rely on the strengths and resources others have that we don't, and we are thankful they are a part of a community given by God.

This last year has revealed the power of cooperation, of working together. God gave us a path through COVID and now we are finding a way to move our ministries to young men and their families forward that is amazing. Any attempt to keep up with all of the good things God is doing is both challenging and awe-filled.

### God is good.

We are grateful for God's providence and your steady partnership. May God continue to bless you!



Dr. Ron Bruner  
Executive Director