



WESTVIEW
BOYS' HOME

BULLETIN



Early morning fishing at Lake Hall

Safe despite uncertainty

Westview is weathering the COVID-19 crisis “at home.” On March 15, we decided to bring home the Westview people we had at Oklahoma Youth Expo (the state livestock show). The next day, we closed our campus to all visitors.

Travel for our young men and their caregivers was restricted. We instituted rigorous cleaning and preventative practices throughout our facilities for residents and staff. We asked all of the houses to operate independently and avoid any blending of the houses to keep gatherings beneath the limit in CDC guidelines. Meetings happen on the front porch or online.

In the days that have followed, most of us have not left Harmon County. Consequently, we’ve been blessed with a safe place to shelter in our 1,500 acre campus.

The young men and their caregivers are in good health and morale. They are doing their schoolwork at home and will soon finish successfully.

Our commissary is full of nutritious food, so everyone remains well fed. Worship for our campus continues via the Internet. Counseling goes on using the Microsoft Teams. Outdoor fun includes hiking, camping, fishing, and disc golf. Besides caring for their yards, our young men have begun their summer work program.

We continually monitor the situation to consider the best interests of our residents and team. Things are as good as they could be under these challenging circumstances. God has been good to us at Westview and we are grateful. We remain thankful for your part in God’s providence for Westview.



Lifskills that matter

How does a young man become independent? Well, that requires getting and keeping a job. How does one keep a job? You’ve got to show up on time and ready every day, right?

That’s why it’s so important to make certain that our young men have the opportunity to get their learner’s permit and practice driving. It puts them on the pathway to get a driver’s license so that—at the right time—they can get and keep a job.

So, caregivers work one-on-one with our young men, like Eli (in the photo above), to build key lifskills. Puttering around the county roads in Harmon County, he’s gaining the skills and timing to be a good driver. Our goal is for Eli to drive safely and, more than that, to learn how to care for a vehicle. We appreciate the friends who help keep our vehicles reliable and safe.



Filling in the low spots

Time for Summer work!

Every summer, the Westview team helps our young men gain the experience of having a paying job. Each youth has the opportunity to earn money on campus, half of which becomes their spending money and half, an addition to their savings.

Getting the job is easy; keeping the job is work. Each young man learns that having a job involves responsibilities. They also learn that a job well done is deeply satisfying.



Taking out the old magnolia

Westview young men excel at Harmon County Show

Every year, our young men work exceedingly hard to prepare their steers, heifers, and pigs for the livestock show here in Harmon County. Even though many of them are working with animals for the first time, they do well and make us very proud.

The following young men performed well enough to make it into the premium sale. In the sale, they earned cash awards that we've added to their savings.

- **Jesse Campbell** - Reserve Grand Steer, Maine-Anjou
- **Andrew Barker-Miller** - Breed Champion, Limousin Steer
- **Christian Fincher** - Second place, Class one, Cross Steer
- **Josh Tallman** - Second place, Class one, Duroc Barrow
- **Derek Chapin** - Second place, Class one, Charolais Steer

The following young men did well with their animals also. Although they didn't make it into the premium sale, they were awarded add-ons, which increased their savings accounts.

- **Brayden Sargent** - Class one, Cross Barrow
- **Eli Turner** - Class two, Berkshire Barrow
- **Dylan VanHorn** - Class one, Duroc Barrow
- **Kaden Hogan** - Class two, Hampshire Barrow

Normally, our young men show their animals at the Oklahoma Youth Expo (OYE). Because of COVID-19, they were not able to fully participate. We look forward to returning next year. We thank our many friends and the Westview Foundation for funding this program.



Brayden shows his Cross Barrow



JT at the Premium Sale with Robinson Insurance



Derek at the sale with Southwest Ag Services



Christian with Huddleston Cotton Compress

The 5 dimensions of trauma

Every month, Westview's Terry Owens and Josh Birney write an article about parenting that we post on our website. We call this series, **Becoming a Better Parent**. We believe any parent can become a better parent. By empowering better parents, we hope to keep more children from foster care. In this article, Josh explains the impact of trauma.

Most of us are not aware of all the ways that complex trauma can affect a person. Trauma is no respecter of persons. Children from all socio-economic backgrounds can experience trauma. When it enters the lives of children, complex trauma can change their entire being. Complex Trauma is the idea that a person has suffered or experienced multiple, sustained episodes of trauma. The effects of this trauma are complicated by the reality that children are still constructing their identity and learning coping skills. When we parent children that come from hard places, it is good to think about the broad range of effects trauma can have. We call them the five dimensions or the Five Bs of trauma.

Brain: Trauma affects the development of the brain. During trauma, the brain learns to stay in the downstairs brain (the amygdala, the survival brain). This means that higher brain functions like reason and logic (in the frontal cerebral cortex), may not work well in stressful or emotional situations.

Body: The stress response in the brain floods the body with chemicals to equip the body with the means to deal with the threat, whether actual or perceived. In complex trauma, the body continues to produce these chemicals, which when unused remain in the body, becoming toxic and causing harm. They can go unnoticed until they show up later as illness.

Beliefs: Going through trauma can change the way a person sees the world. Since the child is still framing their world

view, these misperceptions are particularly damaging. These beliefs can change the way you see yourself and other people and they can hurt the way you interact with others. Based on your view of trust and safety, relationships can become harder to form and more vulnerable to small hurts.

Biology: Complex trauma can affect more than just one person; it can have lasting effects on a person's genes. These chemical scars can be passed on to future generations and affect them in unforeseen ways.

Behavior: One of the ways we can see that trauma has impacted a person is through their behavior. We often notice behaviors but it is helpful to remember that behaviors are just a symptom of an underlying problem: a need that is not met. In dealing with trauma, we should always be seeking to identify and meet the underlying need.

As parents, we should remember that maintaining good relationships with our kids can help heal the effects of that trauma. Being present with our children, listening to them carefully, helping in times of emotional distress, and being compassionate when they make mistakes can go a long way toward healing their brains, bodies, beliefs, biology, and behaviors.

You can find these articles on our website or, by becoming our friend on Facebook, you will see when new articles are posted.



WESTVIEW
BOYS' HOME

HOME BOYS' HOME FAMILY SERVICES TRANSITIONS DONATE

Helping young men
soar to new heights.

BOYS' HOME
Caring for boys who need the love, security, and guidance our Home offers since 1956.

FAMILY SERVICES
Serving the families of the young men at Westview and providing preventative care for families in need.

TRANSITIONS
A transitional living program designed for 18-22 year olds to help bridge the gap from our care and into daily life.



Football on the river

And time for Summer fun!

The summer isn't all about work; it's also a time for a lot of good, clean fun. Whether fishing, camping, hiking, or playing disc golf, we like to have fun outdoors. And when it gets too hot (and it will!), we play games or work on puzzles in the house. It's all about balance.



Disc golf in the afternoon



Practicing with the irons

Did you know?

Westview Boys' Home can accept real estate as a charitable gift – Real estate such as homes, acreages and business properties can be used to make a charitable gift at the appraised value. If your property has appreciated in value, capital gains taxes may be avoided on the real estate appreciation.

Because we are a 501(c)(3) public charity, you receive the maximum tax benefits for your charitable gifts. If you would like to make a gift of real estate, we would be glad to talk with you about how to make this happen. Please contact Ron Bruner or John Moore at 580-688-9281.



The view from Park House when Hollis turned its lights up for the 2020 Seniors

A double blessing

The Westview Foundation focuses its funding on several important elements of the work at Westview Boys' Home: the livestock programs, farming and ranching efforts, campus beautification, and scholarships for alumni and staff. The funding of the livestock programs by the Foundation is doubly effective. First, those gifts provide quality animals, feed, and equipment for the livestock projects of our young men. When those projects are complete, those animals then either strengthen our herd or they become the finest of beef or pork to keep our young men well-fed and healthy. To find out more about how you can help, contact them at: The Westview Foundation, P.O. Box 714, Hollis, OK 73550; (580) 688-3608.

BIRTHDAYS

Kanyon Bradford.....6 - 02

Jess Campbell.....8 - 07

Brayden Sargent.....8 - 31

Kaden Hogan.....9 - 23

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



A Message from Home

Challenging times reveal the true strength and character of people. The unexpected trials brought by COVID-19 have tested every person connected with Westview and I celebrate the strength that test has shown. The young men at Westview have been remarkable. Even though the need to stay in place has disrupted their classes, sports, and extracurricular activities, they have moved on with grace and good humor. The Westview team has coped with the shifts in our practices, policies, and schedules like champions. Their unflagging concern has been for the safety and success of the young men in their care. The many friends whose gifts empower our work have remained faithful. As much as they have been able in these challenging financial times, they have stepped up and generously given. I thank God for the strength and character of everyone associated with Westview; you are a blessing.



Dr. Ron Bruner
Executive Director