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Letter: Recent picnic honored victors over addiction

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EDITOR:

When you plan an event like the recent West Yavapai Guidance Clinic's Hillside Recovery Program Alumni Group, you never know who is going to show up.

Our Alumni Group recently played host to the 3rd annual picnic in honor of those who left alcohol or drug abuse behind.

Nearly 200 people attended. The free food and door prizes - thanks to Sam's Club, Costco, Ponderosa Tire, Compass Claims Service, Nick & Willy's Pizza, JB's, and Peter Piper Pizza - likely attracted some.

But I think it was

more about people wanting to support those who have faced addiction and won. People who have moved beyond their addiction shared their stories of struggle, and some did it with their dads or their kids looking on. They are positive influences now - a lot different from years ago.

Some national reports show that one in four families in America has a family member battling addiction. We all know someone. But we almost always focus on the losses. The success stories are there, too, and we heard the power of recovery at our picnic. Statistics also show that children raised in homes with drug abuse are at much higher risk for neglect. Treatment doesn't help just the addict; it almost always affects entire families.

I didn't recognize a lot of the people at our picnic. And this was great. I think some came just to support the clinic. But maybe some of those folks came to hear something positive from the other side of addiction - from the recovery side.

If you finished drug/alcohol treatment through the clinic, you can join our Alumni Group at 11:30 a.m. on the fourth Saturday each month at Hillside.

Bud Culwell,

President/Volunteer WYGC Hillside Recovery Program Alumni Group

Prescott