

Memorial Focuses On Drug, Alcohol Addiction

by Louis Garcia



Stories of addiction, loss and redemption took center stage Thursday night at a community memorial forum in the Kodiak High School commons.

The stories shared painted a very real and sad picture of what it means to become addicted to drugs and alcohol.

Alcohol, for some, is something to have with a friend, at a party or over a dinner. Some people drink responsibly — others run into years of addiction.

Christian Trosvig is one such man. At the age of 18 he got into trouble twice with police for driving while intoxicated after he began drinking to socialize in Kodiak. Those were just the first repercussions in a battle against alcohol.

“Being a hard-headed young man, I was in complete denial that I had any problem with alcohol whatsoever,” Trosvig said. “I pushed the blame on everyone else; it was never my fault.”

He went through many programs and pitfalls. Eventually he bought his own fishing boat in 1999. On one fateful night in 2005 he and his brother had some drinks during dinner — leading to one of Trosvig’s worst moments.

“Sometime between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. my brother fell overboard while I slept and drowned,” Trosvig said. “Talk about hitting bottom again. One would think at this point in my life I would see the light, however, I was still shrouded by darkness.”

He continued to drink.

The last night he had a drink was when he had beer and whiskey.

“I remember drinking half a bottle of whiskey that night and that’s all I remember,” Trosvig said. “Next thing I remember is waking up handcuffed, duct taped, face down in the holding cell in Ouzinkie. Apparently the village public safety officer found me face down in the snow. I was on

my way to dying from exposure.”

The cop wanted to sober him up, but Trosvig got aggressive. He was looking at a year in jail.

Teen Challenge. This was his sentence instead of jail. Teen Challenge is a program that helps recovering alcoholics, and it proved to be the thing to kick the drinking addiction. Trosvig’s redemption led him to being alcohol and nicotine free for two years.

Trosvig’s story wasn’t the only one shared Thursday night. Carrie Butler had another to tell the audience.

“On the weekends a lot of us would go out on the road and have a fire and it started with drinking about every other weekend ... and it didn’t seem like a problem,” Butler said about her time as a teenager.

Then things spiraled into something bigger. A joint was passed. She smoked marijuana because everyone else was. She finished high school just fine and played sports during her time in school, unaffected by the drugs and alcohol.

From there she met someone who took drugs for back pain.

“Eventually I started to like it and had to do it constantly,” Butler recalled. “This went on and off for years.”

No work. No money. Eventually she moved, stayed out of trouble, but then went back into the drinking and drug scene.

It wasn’t until the guy who introduced her to drugs passed away that she finally realized what drugs could do.

“I didn’t seem to wake up and figure it out, though,” Butler said. “Any time life would bring me down, I would keep going down that path.”

The drugs went on and off from the time she was 17 to 32. She has now been in treatment for a year and a half and doing well.

“It’s been hard,” Butler said of her road to recovery.

At the end of the night other stories were shared of bad decisions and how easy it is to fall into the trap of addiction and go down a road of pain and horrible consequence.

With the stories shared, everyone in attendance — especially those with stories to share — hoped their stories could serve as ways for people to learn and avoid the path they followed.

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