

YOS provides hope

THE VALUE of alternatives to prison as punishment for crime was evident in Pueblo last weekend.

Saturday, the Youthful Offender System in Pueblo, a medium-security prison for felons who committed crimes between the ages of 14 and 19, held its annual family reunification event.

It was a day of fun as inmates and families were reunited. The event included games, food and even a guitar concert by some of the inmates.

The event is part of a comprehensive approach by YOS to reach these young offenders before they are lost to a life of crime and imprisonment. Besides in-campus education — YOS has its own high school, Century High School, a Pueblo

City Schools (D60) facility housed at YOS — YOS works hard with the youths to show them they can turn things around in their lives by the time they complete their sentences.

We were moved by the lead photograph that was published in The Chieftain on Monday, showing an inmate laughing hard while playing a game with his mother.

We hope the young man and the other inmates at YOS realize that there is joy in life if they accept responsibility for their actions and eagerly seek to become contributing members of society.

We commend YOS for its innovative approaches to help some of our troubled youths.