

To the Editor:

We read with great interest your editorial “Invest in Youth” and the importance of supervision for middle schoolers from 3 to 6 pm.

Unsupervised youth are three times more likely to use marijuana or other drugs, and more likely to engage in risky behaviors such as underage drinking, sexual activity, and cigarette smoking than supervised youth.

Our nonprofit organization, Westminster Area Community Awareness Action Team (C.A.A.T.) provides resources for parents to become knowledgeable and take action within their homes to discourage their children and teens from using alcohol and other drugs, through setting and discussing rules and expectations, and displaying responsible role modeling.

Parenting tips and the latest drug trends are distributed through newsletters and our web site, which also includes classroom curricula for educators.

Youth personally benefit from learning and practicing skills to resist risky behaviors. That is the focus of the 18<sup>th</sup> annual youth conference to be held in November. Over 500 middle school and high school students attend a two-day session in a fun-filled, educational atmosphere. They have the opportunity to learn how to make healthy decisions about relationships and many other teen issues.

Follow up surveys five months later have confirmed our conferences have been successful in the past, and we are achieving our goals.

Those interested can check out the web site [www.drugfreecommunity.com](http://www.drugfreecommunity.com) or please call 303-429-2228 for more information.

Eleanor Scott, Vice Chairman  
Westminster Area Community Awareness Action Team (C.A.A.T.)