Example of a Letter to the Editor

Focused thematic topic: **Teen violence can be traced to a lack of parenting and adult mentoring for boys.**

“He was the gang‘s pet, everyone‘s kid brother. His father was always beating him up, and his mother ignored him. . . . he would have run away a million times if we hadn‘t been there. If it hadn‘t been for the gang, Johnny would never have known what love and affection are.” (page 12)

Dear Editor,

Crime rates among children and teens are on the rise. Things are different these days. When I was a child, if I disobeyed my parents or school authority, I was punished. Nowadays, when children misbehave, parents threaten to take away games or phones or administrators threaten to send them to home. What good does that do? There is a missing element in today’s youth: parents. Research strongly suggests that destructive, criminal behavior in teenagers is at least in part accountable to a lack of parental supervision. Parents or guardians should be required to watch their children. I know parents can’t be with them at all times, but they know when their children are going to a place with a history of criminal activity or hanging out with other peers of questionable reputation. Parents should be required to attend a counseling program on proper parenting skills like drivers who don’t obey traffic laws do.

Teens are twice as likely to be aggressive and disruptive if they are around parents who are violent. Parents need to show love to their children and be there for them. That is why young people join gangs; they want to feel as if they belong and get attention that they otherwise don’t have. Many children don’t have a male figure in their life, and they get by just fine. A good mother can make all the difference with her love and guidance.

Parents, tell your children that you love them every day. Give them a hug and praise their efforts. Teach them important values at an early age so they can grow up to be strong and productive citizens.

Sincerely,

A concerned parent