My children have never left my side
The state tried to take them
And I thought I'de die
I would lay in my bed at night and cry

With no one to turn to and no where to go

I knew I had to do something
Get someone to help
Cause I knew I couldn't do it all by myself

I cried out loud once more for help
Standing there yelling all by myself
There were people who came
They stood by my side
They reached out with love
And wiped the tears from my eyes

Now there is someone to turn to!

I thank those people who have a name
Together they are called AIM
And after five years
They are still the same
Keeping families together
No they will not change.

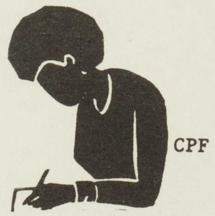
I have my babies thanks to them
These people have proven
That they are more than friends
Now every week my children are here
Through the transportation program
And the volunteers

They were also there for my child custody
As the family support and advocacy person
Spoke up for me
Without their help
I would have lost my five

Now there is someone to turn to for help

My family is safe
And I thank you AIM
Without your help
I would have gone insane

The most important fact
For all to know
Is that
You are here each week
And helping with family issues
is your goal



Before I draw this to an end
I want to thank you once again
For giving five years of yourselves
And providing me and others with your help.

Greer Toney 1985

AIM's 5th Anniversary Party

In 1980 AIM was formed to provide support and advocacy to incarcerated mothers and their children. Five years later, AIM continues to grow and is becoming nationally known as a unique model program that works.

On Monday June 10th, AIM was given the recognition it properly deserves. Aproximately 125 people, including AIM volunteers, staff, board members,

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mothers and special guests came together to celebrate the organization's 5th anniversary. The event was held at MCI Framingham and the evening was a joyous occasion for all. Light food was provided as well as a cake donated by MCI Framingham with an inscription that read, "AIM Mothers: 5 Years of Staying Together."

Priscilla Howell, an AIM Community Advisory Board member, was the mistress of ceromonies and welcomed all in attendance. Greer Toney, co-founder of AIM, set the tone for the celebration by reading a moving poem of what AIM has meant to her. (reprinted above) Lisa O'Dell, an AIM Steering Committee member for three years, gave her appreciation of AIM by commenting on the program's beginnings. Jean Fox, Coordinator of the Volunteer and Transportation Program for five years, offered her insights about AIM's growth and purpose. Our guest speaker, Kate Rushin, a Boston-based poet, graced the audience with her thoughts and poetry about the importance of family. Fran Froehlich, of Poor Peoples United Fund, offered an historical perspective of AIM's accomplishments.

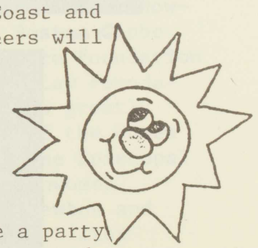
The highlight of the evening was the recognition given to Board Members, mothers, staff and volunteers and special contributors. Awards were given and received by all with great appreciation and warmth. Our celebration showed all of us how much support AIM has received from so many diverse people. The party ended with cake and ice cream. The institution seemed hopeful and in high spirits.

The emotions felt that evening were ones of thanks, praise and pride for a job well done by AIM. The celebration reinforced the timeless efforts we all have given for mothers in prison and their children to stay together. Special thanks goes to the 5th birthday planning committee of Priscilla Howell, Curdina Hill, Mykelle Warren and Lisa O'Dell. There are plans to make the birthday celebration an annual event, bringing together and connecting community folks with mothers in prison. Together we can celebrate the past, and look forward to the future.

for pictures see page 4.

We Will Miss Her...

Denise Wells, one of AIM's most active volunteers, left Boston this past August to continue her education in San Francisco. Denise was most instrumental to the AIM program and dedicated twenty-six months of her time to volunteer training sessions, fundraising events, community out-reach, educational workshops, and group counseling. She was particularly important to the smooth operation of Wednesday van trips to Framingham. We wholeheartedly support Denise in her endeavors on the West Coast and wish her the best of luck. Mothers, children, staff and volunteers will miss her very much.



Picnic and Rollerskating with the Kids

On June 22, 1985, Greer Tony, a mother in the AIM program, gave a party for all the children involved in AIM. She and her daughters, Jesse and Greer, stayed up until six in the morning, preparing wonderful picnic food for the next day's trip to Franklin Park. Now that's dedication!
After the picnic and circle games we all paid a visit to Chez Vous roller-skating rink where the children, and even a few volunteers, put on their wheels to boogie to the music. We were even able to get the two year olds on skates, and that was certainly a site to behold. Thanks goes out to all volunteers, staff, and mothers involved: Karen Gravina, Joanne Trice, Mykelle Warren, Terri Senoff, Jean Fox, Virginia Monroe, Greer Toney, and Donna Daley.