

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 People's United Fund, offered an historical perspective of AIM's accomplishments.

The highlight of the evening was the recognition given the 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 Odell. 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.

TREE OF HOPE

The "Tree of Hope", our holiday fundraiser, is a great success story. After permission was granted to have the tree on the prison grounds, staff, volunteers, Advisory Board members and mothers and their families quickly got busy and sent out an appeal to friends all over the state and country. We asked them to help light the "Tree of Hope" by making a contribution towards the Volunteer and Transportation Program.

The Town of Framingham donated the 20 foot blue spruce which was cut and transported to the prison by Framingham tree warden Bill Tupper and his staff. The maintenance people at MCI under the direction of Mr. Kirby erected the beautiful tree at the front entrance, in view of the visiting room.

As donations began to come in, plans were made for a special lighting ceremony. On December 18th, a bitterly cold evening, the AIM family of mothers, children, volunteers, Board, staff and friends gathered to share the holiday spirit. Those present enjoyed the singing of the Voices of Deliverence and joined in the caroling. Everyone was thrilled to see Kate Rushin and hear her poetry once again. Ruth Goldberg and Lorraine Crump, both AIM mothers, and Sister Jeannette Normandin, who is a AIM Advisory Board member, shared their thoughts and experiences with AIM.

As everyone gathered at the windows, the enormous tree as lighted, suddenly twinkling with over 1,000 lights. Thanks were offered to all who had contributed to the success of the event: Superintendent Joyce Murphy, Martha Rice and Jane Jamison from the Department of Corrections, the many businesses that contributed lights, the AIM volunteers who had brought the children that evening and throughout the year from New Hampshire, Rhode Island and all over Massachusetts, and volunteers Jinny and Joanne who had braved the bitter cold that afternoon to decorate the tree. Jill Heine, Mistress of Ceremonies, thanked all who had supported AIM over the past year. We were so pleased to have Gloria Oldsman representing the Hyams Trust, in attendance. The Hyams Trust has been a major supporter of AIM for many years.

Finally thanks was extended to all of the donors to the "Tree of Hope" including the large donors: Zayre Corporation and General Motors; the group efforts; the men