

SUPPORT FROM INSIDE....

The many women in Framingham who have worked with AIM these past two years have expressed their feelings about AIM in some very wonderful letters to us. We would like to share some of them with you:

- "I know I am only speaking for myself, but to so many of the women here, and coming in all the time, with children and not knowing where to turn. AIM is like an open door in a hallway of locked doors."

- "AIM has gone out of their way to help me, see me, and acquire a lawyer for a probate court, which I was unable to attend, to find out my rights and options as a mother who was a good mother but beset with other problems which I am now overcoming."

- "Jean laughs and cries with us, and shares her experiences as a mother in helping us create realistic goals for ourselves as well as for our children."

- "I feel that the AIM program should not only continue, but be expanded. In these trying days of recession and tax cuts, AIM is the only program in MCI Framingham that is here to maintain the bond between mother and child and the entire family structure."

- "When I first joined the program I was pregnant. AIM helped me by contacting DSS (Department of Social Services) and helping me to send my child home. There have been other women, who if pregnant and incarcerated, were forced to send their children to foster homes after they had given birth. But with the help of AIM I was able to avoid such a situation."

- "I would like to say that I am extremely pleased and grateful that AIM is available. Through the help of the program I have accomplished a great deal in the planning of my four children. I have also attained a great deal as far as my plans for the child that I am carrying

now, for which my expectant due date is anytime. Thank you AIM with all my heart."

- "There is a very important woman in my life, Evelyn from AIM. She has given me support and hope during what appeared to be hopeless times. Evelyn made it possible for my son's social worker to be open to the thought of visits when she had previously denied the idea. AIM has definitely given me the realization that people do care and are willing to help regardless of time, gas expenses, disappointments, etc. I cannot express the importance of a program such as AIM."

TRANSPORTATION GROWTH

Currently, we take children out in a van once a week from Boston to see their mothers. Western Mass. AIM volunteers started in July to provide transportation for the children of two women from the Springfield area. We are also exploring with our friends in Worcester the possibility of a Worcester car pool to meet the needs of the women from the Worcester area.

For the Boston needs, finding a van to borrow once a week has been a major problem at times for us, and on too many occasions we've had to rent one. CAN YOU HELP US? We want a 15-seater van to borrow on a weekly basis, one day a week, (we can change from Wednesdays to any day) from 4:00p.m. - 11:00p.m. PLEASE CALL THE AIM OFFICE IF YOU KNOW OF A VAN THAT IS AVAILABLE. This would meet our transportation needs at the present time.

LANCASTER NOTES

An AIM volunteer working at the state pre-release center in Lancaster has recently developed a proposal for a life skills program. The program, if funded, will include workshops in job readiness, parenting, health, and nutrition. This program would be an important addition to the lives of women in the pre-release, since there are currently no similar programs there.