

STAYING TOGETHER



A NEWSLETTER BY
THE WOMEN, CHILDREN
AND STAFF OF AID
TO INCARCERATED MOTHERS

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"One Powerful Program"

On December 18, the AIM family gathered at MCI Framingham to light the "Tree of Hope". (Story on next page) The following is the speech delivered by Ruth Goldberg for this occasion.

"My name is Ruth Goldberg. I came to Framingham 18 months ago. This is my first time in prison. I have one child, a girl; her name is Fallon. She is three years old. When the police arrested me in June of 1984, Fallon, who was not even 2 years old at the time, was with me at the apartment. Luckily there was a friend close by who watched her until my mother-in-law was able to come up from Rhode Island to get the baby.

When I first came in (to Framingham) I was in the Awaiting Trial Unit for 6½ months. While I was in ATU Joanne Rust, the unit manager, introduced me to Jean Fox from AIM. At the time I felt completely helpless and thought I would never see my daughter again. It just seemed impossible with Fallon in another state so far away. No one in the family was able to bring her up. AIM worked very hard with me. They tried everything possible. The first planned visit fell through. I had just about given up all hope. I will never forget Jean saying to me, 'Ruth, I am not going to give up; if I have to I will go to Rhode Island myself and bring the baby up for Christmas. I promise you I will not give up.'

I could tell that she was going to do everything she could. I had heard from some of the other girls that the AIM program was really helpful. Within several weeks Jean Fox came back up to the Awaiting Trial Unit to see me and said that they had found an AIM

volunteer to bring Fallon up. Sister Jeannette, who is on the AIM Advisory Board and also works here at Framingham, had contacted a friend in Providence. Her name is Sister Joan Casey. She had done some volunteer work for AIM before. Sister Joan promised to bring my daughter up.

I will never forget my first visit. It had been almost five months since I had seen my daughter and I was scared that she wouldn't remember me. AIM had arranged for our visit in the parenting room. Joanne Rust even gave me a gift-wrapped Christmas present for the baby. Everyone in the AIM program, Sister Jeannette and Joanne Rust, really were concerned and went out of their way to help me. Something I never expected to find in prison.

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Ruth Goldberg and her daughter Fallon.