cont. from page 3.

break to independent living. ...

However, while Congress has generally been supportive of keeping the federal commitment to housing, the Reagan Administration, tragically, has backed off from any accountability for low-income housing. Not only has there been an absence of leadership; there have been cutbacks both on the social service side as well as the construction side. With the Federal Government failing its responsibility, it has been left more and more to the States and to the private sector to try to fill the void.

I know that all of you are committed, as I am, to this struggle. Keep up the good work. Keep working with us and with each other and we shall overcome.

From the Staff:

It has been quite awhile since the last newsletter and alot has happened since Spring. In August we purchased a 15 passenger van for children's visits thanks to the Parker, Dorr and DeCrow Foundations! We hope to offer van trips to Lancaster in the coming months.

This summer was also a time of change with Evelyn Machtinger, the Coordinator of the Family Support and Advocacy Program for three years, and Deb Wald, who had been assisting Ev,leaving to go back to school. Ev is attending social work school and Deb is in law school. They are missed by all at AIM. Deborah Filler has been with us full-time since August as the new Coordinator. She has most recently worked at the North Shore Children's Law Project. We're delighted to have her on staff.

Just to touch on some recent events at AIM:

* In late August the Shaw Foundation and the Raytheon Company sponsored a seminar on women in prison at the Parker House for interested foundations and corporations. It was a great opportunity for AIM and the Women's Health and Learning Center to talk about our concerns with the philantropic community.
* AIM testified at a hearing sponsored by the Women's Caucus and the State-Wide Women's Legislative Network on the state budget and women's needs. AIM addressed the needs of women in prison and listened to a wide range of issues that affect us all.
* In early October, AIM was interviewed by Linda Thurston on "People On the Front Line", a program at WRBB at Northeastern University. Other media notes include that CBS from NY will be doing a show on AIM for "Sunday Morning Alive". Filming for AIM mothers, volunteers and staff will take place on November 14th. The Wall St. Journal is writing a story on AIM, Prison MATCH Program in CA., and the Bedford Hills Children's Center in N.Y. The focus of the article is the children of incarcerated mothers.
* This Fall AIM has been involved in a process of looking ahead into our future. Our planning has involved mothers, staff and board members: more on this next time.
* Jean and Lila are working to develop a Volunteers Speakers Bureau to help on our educational events. We are offering training on public speaking so that volunteers will able to talk directly to the public about their experiences.
* Over the last several months, AIM has been meeting with folks from Springfield who are trying to organize a monthly van trip to Framingham. We have offered our experience and technical assistance in how to run a volunteer and transportation program. We will assist in training volunteers.
* Good Luck and thanks to Joyce Taylor and Tina Williams, two members of the Steering Committee who are now at Lancaster. Ditto to Cheryl Smith.
* Jean was re-elected to the Governor's Advisory Committee on Women's Issues for a second term. Jean is

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involved in the issues that affect women of color and incarcerated women. If you have concerns, please let Jean know.

** SPECIAL REQUEST

We Need Help! We need someone to donate 3-5 hours a week to do typing. We also would welcome any donation of furniture, a couch, a chair or table for our livingroom area.

*Special Thanks to Poor Peoples United Fund for their support to families in crisis.

Prison MATCH of California has put our a "Handbook for Kids With a Parent in Prison", written by children that have or have had a parent in prison and put together by Louise Rosenkrantz.

Ten kids gave their time, energy and feelings to this important project in the hope that iw ould help other kids deal with the hurt and confusion of having a parent in prison. In the Handbook several of the children shared their personal experiences about their mother in prison.

Below, we have included the thoughts of Michael, Nyeletta and Jay three of the kids involved in the Prison MATCH Program.

IT'S TOO HARD TO FORGET ABOUT A MOTHER

My mother has been in jail for eight years, since I was six years old. I've always lived with my family and they've taken real good care of me, but still I wish I had lived with my mother. It's too hard to forget about a mother. You just watch TV shows and it makes you think about your mother.

I love my auntie. It took courage for her to raise me. But still it's strange being with relatives. You always feel you have to pay back.

The hardest thing for me is trying to figure out why - why did my mother do this? Why wasn't she caring for me and my sister? Nobody ever wanted to talk with me about it, and I was scared how bad it would be.

I would listen when my auntie was talking on the phone and try to figure out what was going on. If someone had told me more when my mother went to jail maybe I would understand more than I do now. I don't really understand because no one told me all the things I wanted to know when they were happening. A book like this would have helped me alot about other people and how they feel so I wouldn't feel I was the only one who had a mother in prison..."

-Nyeletta

I DIDN'T WANT ANYBODY TO FIND OUT

My mom went to jail when I was 12 years old. She went for three months, which seemed like a long time. It was the most horrible thing that ever happended to me. My mom didn't do anything bad. All she did was pick up some money for my uncle- she didn't even know what it was for.

I was scared I might get sent to a foster home. I couldn't figure out what was going on. Then my dad and my

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