

## Introduction

Like previous issues, this issue contains a mix of articles. Interviews, research, correspondence, poetry and fiction are intermingled to provide a rounded picture of the way workers nurture, counsel, teach, grow with, and think about children and families. In other words, it is more of the stuff that makes our work and knowledge base so rich.

What better way to begin than with children's perceptions of us. They are, after all, our best critics. In "Views from the Inside..," Peter Gabor and Ian Greene present the results of a study that will change some of our thinking about what we do in residential services. Then Jerome Beker and Reuven Feuerstein challenge us to think about a "Common Denominator" for modifying environments; and Richard Small and Jack McElroy share their thoughtful, yet widely different, views about what residential treatment should be today.

In order to offer more hope to career-minded workers, Jerome Beker, Larry Brendtro, Nicholas Long and Henry Maier, four prominent leaders in our field, graciously respond to questions about their satisfying careers as workers and teachers. Then Gerry Fewster, in the final article of a three-part series, which began in 1989, gives us more tips and encouragement to write. (We are also reprinting the 1989 and 1990 articles to provide a handy reference for budding authors.)

One of the greatest nightmares of an Editor is that the name of an author will be misspelled. Well, last year we did something even worse, we listed Mary Jean Meyer as Jean Meyer. To rectify that mistake, we are reprinting her powerful poems in the Poetry and Fiction section with the proper name attached along with a new, very moving essay, and an additional poem. Then Harvey Taylor, song writer and poet, who recently brought his talents to care work, also shares five of his lyrical and meaty poems from a book titled *Buried Treasures*. And David Thomas closes with a story, "The Multidisciplinary Posse and the Two Desperados," that will get anyone who has ever worked on a team thinking and chuckling.

Developing education programs is one of the profession's major challenges for the nineties. In the final article, Frances Ricks, Pierre Laliberté, Victor Savicki and Francis Hare report on the results of a recent effort to consider accreditation of these programs.

As always, we welcome your comments. Enjoy.