



H M E A MANN-U-SCRIPT

REACH OUT FOR INDEPENDENCE

The Faces of HMEA

In this issue, the faces of HMEA are not employees, but two interns who came to us via Boston University.

Diana Pinon and **Kimberly Lee**, both students of the BU CDIA (Center for Digital Imaging Arts) program, enrolled in the one-year certificate program at Boston University. Each student is required to select a non-profit agency for a 4-week practicum in photography.

Diana was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, and was raised both in the big city and on a ranch that was owned by her mother. She and her four sisters and brother attended college in Mexico, but traveled often to Texas and Washington. After college, Diana worked in marketing, helping to develop brochures, and became very interested in photography. When she was growing up, she had dreams of becoming a missionary, but became sidetracked with work and study. She wanted to work with people with disabilities, and saw the opportunity that was available for her practicum at HMEA.

Kimberly was born in Sydney, Australia, the second of three girls. Her mother is an Assistant Nurse who works with people with dementia. The work that her mother does always interested Kimberly, and she felt that people with disabilities should have a voice, that they have needs just like all other people. She met her husband online, and he traveled to Australia. After 7 years, they married, and decided to move to the U.S. Kimberly was very interested in photography, and found the program at B.U., and decided to enroll. HMEA seemed like



Kimberly Lee (left) and Diana Pinon

a good fit for her practicum as well.

The women visited several sites and programs and took many, many photographs at the Redemption Center in Plainville, Stoney Brook Lane in Attleboro, Creeden St. in Mansfield, Main St., in Norfolk, Foster St. in West Boylston, the artwork of Roon Das, Meals on Wheels, Target, Dean College, and programs in Hopedale, and Sterling.

They both stated that they saw lots and lots of smiles,

that they haven't seen so many smiles before. They believe that the staff really care about the people they support and love interacting with them. Kimberly said it was clear that staff were "looking out for their spirit and not just their needs" and Diana stated that "I was expecting much less than I saw. The homes were beautiful."

Although the Faces of HMEA are usually about people we support and the people who support them, it's nice to remind ourselves of what we do and what we're about. These two women, unknown to HMEA previously, came for four weeks, and left with a wonderful image of the agency and the work that is done here. They were "faces" for a short time, but they are left with lasting memories, and they have left us with the legacy of their photographs. ◀

"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. If [people] can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

- Nelson Mandela, South African statesman
