

MANPOWER
DEMONSTRATION
RESEARCH
CORPORATION

Way-fyi
MAR 18 REC'D

MDRC

Three Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016-5936
Tel: (212) 532-3200 Fax: (212) 684-0832

Regional Office:
88 Kearny Street, Suite 1650
San Francisco, CA 94108
Tel: (415) 781-3800 Fax: (415) 781-3820

March 10, 1994

Ms. Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
The White House
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

Board of Directors:

Richard P. Nathan, *Chairman*
Paul H. O'Neill, *Treasurer*
Eli Ginzberg, *Chairman Emeritus*

Rebecca M. Blank
Antonia Hernandez
Alan Kistler
Richard J. Murnane
Rudolph G. Penner
Franklin D. Raines
Robert Solow
Gilbert Steiner
Mitchell Sviridoff
William Julius Wilson
William S. Woodside

Judith M. Gueron, *President*

Dear Carol:

I am glad to share with you MDRC's newest publication: *Lives of Promise, Lives of Pain: Young Mothers After New Chance*. This monograph illuminates a number of issues, including the challenges ahead for implementing welfare reforms, especially those concerning teenage mothers who are high school dropouts (the group at greatest risk of long-term welfare receipt). It is based on interviews with 50 young mothers approximately two and a half years after they entered New Chance as part of a 16-site, 10-state national demonstration (the demonstration's research sample includes more than 1,550 young mothers who enrolled in the program).

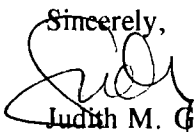
New Chance targets very disadvantaged young mothers on welfare (and their children) and provides education, employment-related services, health and personal development workshops, child care, and case management. Its goal is to improve the self-sufficiency and life prospects of the young mothers and to enhance the development of their children. A report on New Chance's short-term (18-month) results, based on a comparison of young women who enrolled in New Chance and a control group who did not, is scheduled for release this spring.

The enclosed monograph, however, has a different purpose: It aims to "go behind the numbers" and to explore the varied paths the young women took after leaving New Chance, what they view as the reasons for their progress and setbacks, and why their paths to self-sufficiency are often long.

The monograph, much of it in the words of the young mothers themselves, makes clear that keeping a job is as great a challenge as getting one. It reminds us how complex and diverse are the young women's strengths and problems, the situational factors they confront, and the issues that will have to be addressed in any successful reforms of our social support systems.

We hope you find the monograph interesting, and welcome your questions, comments, and reactions.

Sincerely,


Judith M. Gueron
President

JMG/jg
Enclosure

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

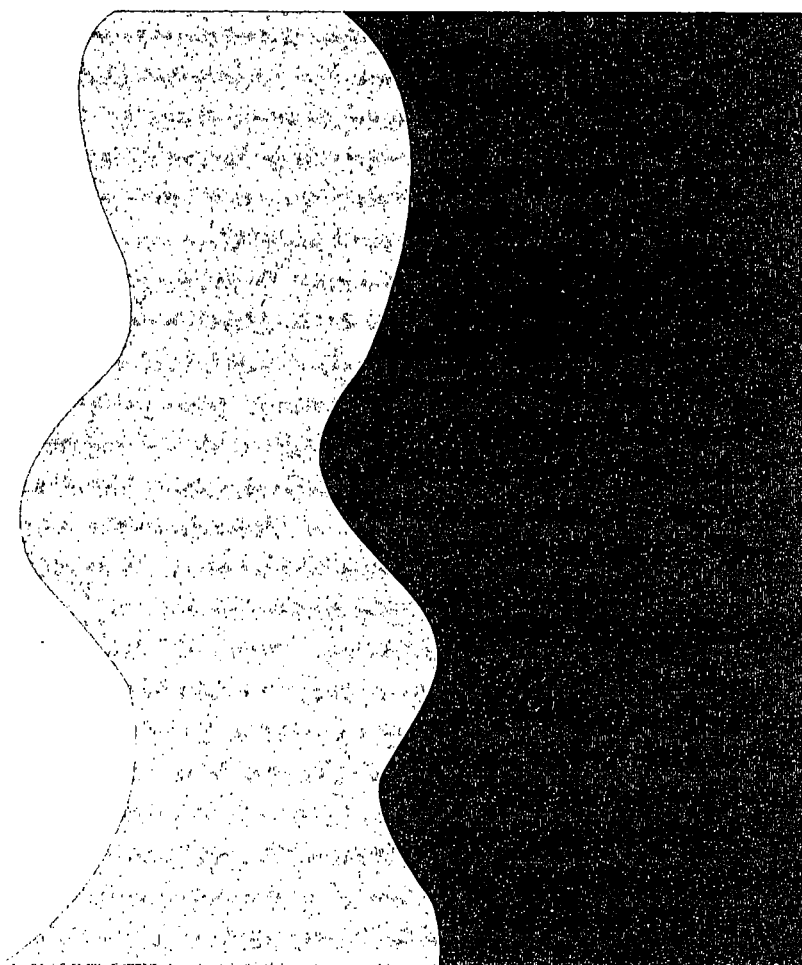
Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

NEW CHANCE

Lives of Promise, Lives of Pain

**Young Mothers
After New Chance**

**Janet C. Quint
Judith S. Musick
with Joyce A. Ladner**



January 1994

**Manpower
Demonstration
Research
Corporation**

MDRC