

BOSTON Herald

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1999 ■ 50 CENTS



FAITH AND FAMILY: Sister Louise Kearns, left, co-founder of Julie's Family Learning Program, looks on as Amy Lynch, 20, reads to her 2-year-old son, Tommy, yesterday at the South Boston Boys & Girls Club.

STAFF PHOTO BY TED FITZGERALD

'Mums' find hope at Southie sanctuary

It began a generation ago with South Boston mothers who'd come to visit their children's teacher, and wound up entrusting the desperate song of their own lives to a Sister of Notre Dame.



Peter GELZINIS

"Over and over I'd listen to the accounts of chaos in the home, the litany of poverty, alcoholism, abuse and hopelessness," Sister Louise Kearns recalled. "It became so agonizingly clear why their child was struggling. These women were crying out."

What Sister Louise heard was the silent scream of young mothers suffocating under layers of generational dysfunction. Her dream was to break this cycle of despair, to save children by investing their besieged "Mums,"

Turn to Page 4

