

Too few rides, too many tears

By ROBERT MIRALDI

The lady sometimes takes 50 kids out into the playgrounds at Willowbrook State School. She watches them run towards the swings and monkey bars and see-saws. But there's this one ride that they all flock to first.

She called it a glider, but it's just a circular bench that rotates on an axis. You can stand, sit or kneel on it and just push it around and around.

"The majority of the kids go for this one," said Mrs. Adeline Mileo of 165 Livermore Ave., Westerleigh, "but it seats only six children and the rest of them have to watch. Sometimes they cry. It's so sad."

Mrs. Mileo is a volunteer worker at Willowbrook and she has to watch this same scene repeated every day. It is sad . . . because there are only four "gliders" on the Willowbrook grounds and that does cause a lot of tears.

But all those tears are unnecessary, Mrs. Mileo decided, and along with the help of Guy V. Molinari, a lawyer, a fund has been set up. It will succeed or fail depending on how Staten Island residents respond to the call for help.

"I'm confident Staten Islanders will be responsive to such an effort," said Molinari, who became interested in the project when Mrs. Mileo called him while soliciting funds.

Molinari emphasized that

"every penny that's contributed will be strictly accounted for — spent only for equipment. Any contribution — no matter how small — would be welcome."

The money, which would go directly into a checking account at the First National City Bank, will, of course, be used to purchase as many of the glider units as possible. A unit approximately costs \$300. Molinari revealed that he had already agreed to install the units free of charge.

"Even the older people around Willowbrook like to ride these gliders," Mrs. Mileo commented. "During the hot, sticky weather some of the children know enough to realize that when they spin around they can cool themselves off."

Willowbrook now has only four such units and some of the building recreation areas have none at all. The most important aspect of the glider, perhaps, is the fact that no supervision is needed for the ride.

"It's very sad to see the children sitting around and crying," Mrs. Mileo repeated, "and there's no need for it."

There will really be need for crying, as Mrs. Mileo says, if Staten Islanders reach into their hearts — and pockets — and send their money to 88 New Dorp Plaza, Molinari's office. All checks should be made payable to First National City Bank.