



Children from Willowbrook State School take a ride on the glider. Presently, it is the only one at the school.

S.I. Advance Photo by Robert Parsons

Islanders starting to dig down for Willowbrook glider fund

By ROBERT MIRALDI

It wasn't too many years ago that the thought of a football team at Port Richmond or Tottenville or even fledgling Susan Wagner High School was just a gleam in the eye of a frustrated football player.

But some people decided to turn that frustration into organization and Port Richmond led the way with a campaign that netted \$17,000—and one year later fielded a football team.

Tottenville followed suit and was able to bank more than \$20,000. And then Susan Wagner hopped on the bandwagon and collected some \$15,000 of its own.

That, incredibly enough, is \$52,000 raised so that a few high school kids could play football

... \$52,000 coughed up from the pockets of Staten Islanders.

Willowbrook State School doesn't want field a football team, it just wants to make some retarded children a bit happier—a bit more comfortable.

And Staten Islanders, by reaching into those very same pockets that unfurled \$52,000 for football can help bring some of that relief.

Just last week volunteer worker Mrs. Adeline Mileo and lawyer Guy V. Molinari started a fund to purchase glider ride units that the kids at Willowbrook love so dearly... and that are in such short supply at the Island institution.

In the four days since the appeal appeared in the Advance, Molinari reported, \$290

has been raised and "it won't be long before we purchase our first unit," says Molinari.

"I'm really pleased with the response. We've received 41 separate contributions... with promises for quite a few more. I hope we can keep this thing moving."

Just how much the fund "moves" depends on just how Staten Islanders respond. It doesn't take much to send a dollar or two in the mail.

A group of students at Prall Intermediate School, West Brighton have decided to do what it can to help the plight of the Willowbrook kids. They've set up their own fund-raising drive in the school and will conduct a cake sale tomorrow and a newspaper drive Friday.

The sixth-graders also have some more money-making schemes up their sleeves for next week while the eighth-grade class has decided to give up its dessert money for a week and donate the proceeds to the glider fund.

Anyone interested in helping the Willowbrook children can send contributions to Glider Fund, 88 New Dorp Plaza, Staten Island, N.Y. All checks should be made payable to First National City Bank.