

Willowbrook to get donations for rides

By ROBERT MIRALDI

"I didn't even know what a glider was until I saw the picture in the paper," Donna LaManna, 10, a sixth-grader at Prall Intermediate School, mused. "I don't know any kids at Willowbrook, but I know they need help."

Not many, if any, of the youngsters at the West Brighton school knew too much a few weeks ago about the Glider Fund set up to buy recreational rides for Willowbrook State School.

But once they found out they put down their heads and plunged full-speed ahead into a fund-raising drive that so far netted \$420 and is still rolling.

"It's just tremendous," Guy V. Molinari, the fund's organizer, said. "I hope some of the other schools will get involved and perhaps do as much."

Molinari had more reason to be happy than just the Prall contribution to the fund, since his own efforts are paying dividends, too. The fund so far has a massed \$1,700, thanks to 104 individual contributions.

The first unit has been ordered and, according to Molinari, it won't be long, perhaps next week, before the first ride will be installed on Willowbrook grounds.

The Prall effort, to climax Friday with a flea market sale, took shape two weeks ago when school teachers mentioned the fund to various students.

OTHERS JOINED

It started out as a sixth-grade project," Mrs. Muriel Karlin, assistant principal, said. "But all the students — the seventh and eighth grades — became interested, too. The whole project has created a social consciousness in the school. It's teaching the children to care about people."

The students reached the \$420 mark with a cake sale, a newspaper drive and individual collection. Sixth-graders Elisa Brahn and Barbara Riegler

collected over \$100 between them.

Kenny Bethel, 13, got the ball rolling in the eighth grade.

"The teachers mentioned what it was for, so we started to raise money. My grandfather used to work there, and I saw a lot of the kids... That's how I knew about it."

Along with the Prall contribution, Molinari has received substantial gifts from the Nassau Smelting and Refining Co., Tottenville, and the North Shore Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Westerleigh.

David Eisenstein, a 10-year old sixth-grader, said that "almost everybody gave when they heard what it was for."

Contributions are being sent to the Glider Fund at 88 New Dorp Plaza. Checks should be made payable to First National City Bank.