

Festival to aid Willowbrook alternatives

Some \$350,000 was raised Aug. 30 by a Madison Square Garden Concert given by John Lennon and Yoko Ono to benefit the mentally retarded.

The money will be used to fund alternatives to large in-

stitutions, such as Willowbrook State School, according to Miss Karla Munger, administrator of the festival.

The decision to bypass the established institutions was made by the festival board of directors, including television commentator Geraldo Rivera, Bronx Congressman Mario Biaggi and Manhattan Assemblyman Andrew Stein.

Instead, the organizations that sponsored the festival, which

included an afternoon gathering in Central Park, will receive the funds.

In order to receive grants, Miss Munger said, the groups must submit plans for "a small residence or hostel for the mentally retarded" and apply for matching grants from public sources.

The festival sponsors were the Brooklyn Catholic Charities, the Willowbrook Benevolent Society, the Working Organization for Retarded Children and the Association for Help of Retarded Children.

With each group receiving \$60,000 in festival funds, public matching funds are expected to bring the individual totals to \$120,000. Catholic Charities and the association for the Help of Retarded Children have reportedly already received guarantees of matching funds.

Representing Catholic

Charities, Sister Bernadette Downs said the group planned a Brooklyn residence which will house 10 retarded adults. It will be staffed by non-professional "house parents."

A similar residence, to house a small number of retarded people in Manhattan, has been planned by the Association for Help of Retarded Children.

A television showing of the festival tonight will raise an estimated \$330,000, according to Miss Munger. The funds will be allocated to small homes for the retarded sponsored by other organizations, she said.