

# Willowbrook 'heartline' keeps busy

By MARY ANN JOHNSTON



Residents of Willowbrook State School line up for treats during a carnival staged by members of the school's recreation department. S.I. Advance Photos by Barry G. Schwartz

A carnival is a delightful treat for any youngster, but for 500 residents of Willowbrook State School, it was an experience.

The institution's recreation department, which spent hours constructing booths and preparing games, took pride yesterday to see both ambulatory and non-ambulatory patients in wheelchairs and beds, savoring every minute of the adventure.

In the 12 years he has been director of the recreation department, William Galloway said, he never has seen "any activity of this type" at Willowbrook.

"And the patients are receiving it terrifically," he

said. "They're overwhelmed. They have gained an insight into what actually goes on in the outside with normal children. Now, if any of them are ever to get out, carnival will not be a new word to them."

The booths, set up in the gymnasium housed in building 8, were covered in brightly colored crepe paper and contained numerous handmade games of chance.

In addition to a bean bag toss and color wheels, there was an unexpected surprise called "Willowbrook's own Godfather game" which displayed a poster reading "win a piece of the action."

Outside the building, the residents were treated to grilled frankfurters served with cookies and juice.

Half the money for the food was donated by the approximately 45 employees on the recreation department staff, according to Mr. Galloway, and the prizes were donated by the Willowbrook Chapter, Benevolent Society for Retarded Children.

Music was provided by a band comprised of Willowbrook employees.

Today, 500 more will visit the carnival, which in the end will achieve the goal of "touching every residential building in Willowbrook."