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Today's weather: Flurries, partly sunny

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45¢ Outside Chicago and suburbs

35¢

Editorials

'Miracle on the West Side' needs you

For many, many years now, Providence-St. Mel College Preparatory School on the West Side of Chicago — under the tutelage of its more-than-just-titular head President Paul Adams — has been touted as a diamond on the sometimes rough West Side of Chicago.

Providence-St. Mel boasts of sending to college 100 percent of its students who stay the difficult, demanding and disciplined course, including some of the most prestigious institutions of learning in America, among them Harvard, Princeton, the University of Chicago, Columbia University, Stanford and many others.

Yes indeed, Providence-St. Mel is a proud school that has turned life around for many Black youths from across the city and nation. But, like many privately-financed organizations, it is in need of funds to continue to operate at such a high rate of proficiency and competence.

Mr. Adams, who visited the *Chicago Defender* and spoke with our Editorial Board recently, is more than just a highly accomplished educator and administrator at the school. He is also its chief fund-raiser.

We, as he has, encourage all individuals and corporations who can to contribute to this noble and worthy cause for the continuation of quality education that was once faced with extinction in the late 1970s.

It's going to take a lot more than just the anemic vouchers proposed by the administration of President George W. Bush (\$1,500 a year) to make that happen.

It is going to take a lot of community support to keep on polishing this gem of education, this "Miracle on the West Side," to make sure that it stays alive, survive and thrive.

Reader's Digest magazine once called Providence-St. Mel "a school that wouldn't die." It has not and must not.

It is up to responsible and responsive individuals and the benevolent business community in Chicago to insure that Providence-St. Mel, 119 S. Central Park Blvd., (773) 722-4600, continues to exist as the great school it is, as it becomes even bigger and better.