

WEST SIDE SUCCESS STORY.

Three and a half years ago, when we gathered this group of students outside our front door, Providence-St. Mel was in serious trouble. The Archdiocese of Chicago had just told us it couldn't continue to support the school. In the face of rumors that we'd be forced to close, enrollment was declining.

We weren't eligible for operating funds from federal, state or local government. We didn't have prosperous alumni to support us. What we did have were 340 kids who desperately wanted to achieve.

BEATING THE ODDS.

We were used to doing the improbable. In the West Side neighborhood where most of our students live, unemployment is around 40%. Over half the families here have incomes below the poverty level. Gangs, drugs, and crime are painful facts of daily life. But for years, Providence-St. Mel has been sending over 90% of its students on to college—a higher percentage than you'll find at the finest suburban schools on the North Shore.

This time things looked impossible. Our students' families were already making enormous sacrifices to pay for tuition. Our faculty was donating much of its time. But no matter how we added up the bingo nights, bake sales, tag days, and car washes, we just didn't have enough to keep going.

So we asked you for help.

A BIG BOOST FROM THE CITY OF THE BIG SHOULDERS.

When we ran this ad we were betting precious dollars on the people of Chicago. The response was remarkable. It came from all over the city and all over the country.

You saved Providence-St. Mel. You can see the results of your generosity written on the photograph below. Out of the same streets that produce pushers and pimps come these hopeful, intelligent, successful kids. They're studying hard and making it. Where else can you get this kind of return on your investment?

THE WOLF'S AWAY FROM THE DOOR, BUT HE STILL LIVES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

It's an exciting time at Providence-St. Mel. Enrollment continues to grow, both in our high school and junior high. Thanks to a donation from Kerley Ink Company and a grant from Consolidated Foods, we've been able to begin a computer training program. In a

340 KIDS ARE ABOUT TO LEARN HARD WORK ISN'T WORTH A DAMN.

highest percentage of enrollment of any city or suburban school. Last June, 95% of our senior class went on to college. Scholastically things are great. Economically they're still shaky. Inflation has racked our "bare-bones" budget. Our expenses continue to outdistance our income. We still receive no operating funds from government sources.

The community we serve was hit first and hardest by the recession. Thirty talented upperclassmen couldn't return to Providence-St. Mel this year. They wanted to come back. They just didn't have the money. With partial scholarships, many could have returned. We wanted to provide them. We just didn't have the money.

If we raise tuition to meet rising costs, we'll have to turn more students away.

HELP US KEEP THE DOORS OPEN.

On the West Side, Providence-St. Mel is more than a school. It's a kind of oasis. A place where learning is truly respected. A place where people and property are respected.

Three and a half years ago, you

taught our kids a lesson they'll never forget: People do give a damn. Now we're asking you for help again. We need buses to take our kids safely to and from school. We need funding for scholarship programs. We've hired one reading specialist; we need help to hire another. Our 53 year-old building is in constant need of repair.

\$30,000 would pay for a new bus. \$1,000 would fund a scholarship student. \$3,500 would fix up a classroom. \$10,000 would renovate a corridor. \$50,000 would pay our winter heating bills.

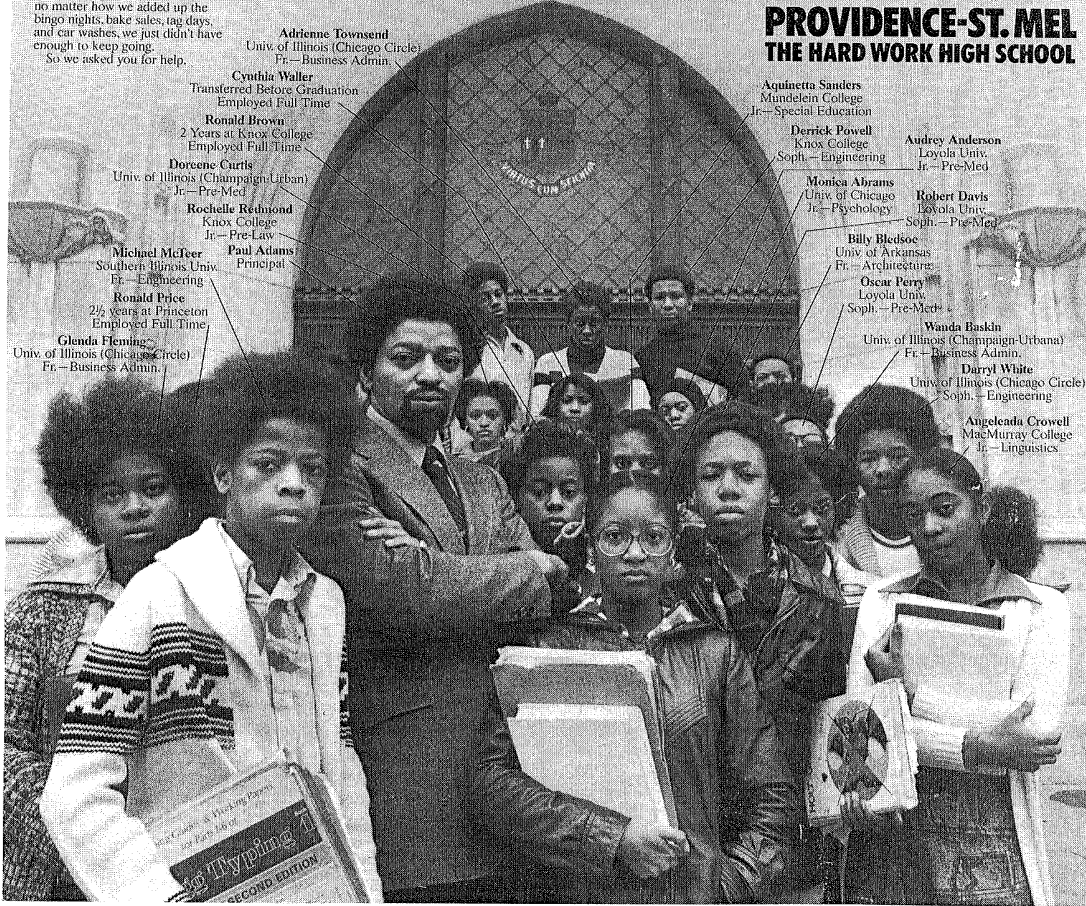
\$10,000 would buy new books we need for the library. Any amount that you can give will help to meet these needs. It doesn't matter if you can only afford a small contribution: every penny means that we can do more for our students.

Checks should be made payable to: Providence-St. Mel High School, Inc., 119 S. Central Park, Chicago, Illinois 60624, (312) 722-4600 or 826-4668. State of Illinois Tax Exempt No. 36633. Federal Tax Exempt No. 36-2977187

This ad appeared in the *Wall Street Journal* on June 27, 1978

special pre-med course for high school students sponsored by University of Illinois, we have the

PROVIDENCE-ST. MEL THE HARD WORK HIGH SCHOOL



Adrienne Townsend
Univ of Illinois (Chicago Circle)
Fr.—Business Admin.

Cynthia Waller
Transferred Before Graduation
Employed Full Time

Ronald Brown
2 Years at Knox College
Employed Full Time

Dorcene Curtis
Univ. of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana)
Jr.—Pre-Med

Rochelle Redmond
Knox College
Jr.—Pre-Law

Michael McTeer
Southern Illinois Univ.
Fr.—Engineering

Ronald Price
2½ years at Princeton
Employed Full Time

Glenda Fleming
Univ of Illinois (Chicago Circle)
Fr.—Business Admin.

Paul Adams
Principal

Aquinetta Sanders
Mundelein College
Jr.—Special Education

Derrick Powell
Knox College
Soph.—Engineering

Monica Abrams
Univ. of Chicago
Jr.—Psychology

Billy Bledsoe
Univ of Arkansas
Fr.—Architecture

Oscar Perry
Loyola Univ.
Soph.—Pre-Med

Wanda Baskin
Univ. of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana)
Fr.—Business Admin.

Darryl White
Univ of Illinois (Chicago Circle)
Soph.—Engineering

Angelenda Crowell
MacMurray College
Jr.—Linguistics

Audrey Anderson
Loyola Univ.
Jr.—Pre-Med

Robert Davis
Loyola Univ.
Soph.—Pre-Med