

Bill Greene - Upward Bound

Greene: I spoke to any kids that the counselors recommended. They would call the kids into a little assembly and I would talk to them. I would tell them about the Gilman School, I would tell them about Upward Bound, etc. etc. And then they could decide whether they wanted to submit an application. Once they submitted an application, we had to get an income statement from the parents, because the kids had to be low-income or first generation, which means none of their parents have ever gone to college. Then we would look at all the test data and we would see which youngsters needed the help most and which ones we believed we could help the best.

Then they had to have a personal interview with them and their parents, just like for private school, and if the parent wasn't supportive, sometimes we couldn't take the kid. And if the kid just didn't want to do it, we didn't try to force it. We let him know: "You're at a certain grade now. Think about it. You have another year. Because once you finish the tenth grade it's too late for us to take you."

Gilpin: So you took them at what grade? Right after the ninth grade?

Greene: Well, originally when we took them they were in middle school. The first ones came from middle school. Reddy and them got them from-

Gilpin: Like eighth grade.

Greene: Eighth grade, mostly eighth graders. But after that they had to be in the ninth grade, because they were supposed to be in high school. So that's when we took them.

Gilpin: And you kept them, too?

Greene: All the way through.

Gilpin: All the way through for-

Greene: Try to keep all of them through placement in college. And we kept pretty much all of our students. Every now and then we'd lose one, but we pretty much kept all of our students.

Gilpin: That's great.

Greene: And that was for the summer program and the academic year program on Saturdays. A couple of youngsters we had to dismiss on Saturdays because of religious reasons. They couldn't come on Saturdays.

Gilpin: But they would generally follow through during the year on Saturdays.

Greene: Yeah, but we made available some tutoring in subjects during the week, where they could come out on a certain day of the week if they couldn't come on a Saturday. But that was only for the ones who for religious reasons couldn't come. It wasn't for some kid initially who just didn't want to come on Saturday.

Gilpin: Right. They'd come every Saturday?

Greene: It think it was 22 or 23 Saturdays a year. Holidays they didn't come and they didn't come-and then we would miss at least one each semester that wasn't a holiday, because we could only afford so many because we gave them a stipend.

Gilpin: To come?

Greene: Yeah.

Gilpin: Interesting, fascinating.