

ALMA POMPONI

Citizen of the Year 2014

Alma Pomponi and her husband Sal have lived in Bedford since 1968 when they moved to be closer to Sal's job at The MITRE Corporation. They are the parents of three children: Marco, Renata and Andria. Shining behind the scenes of the Citizens Scholarship Foundation (CSF) annual student Phone-a-thon, Bedford's 2014 Citizen of the Year Alma Pomponi has volunteered in the program since 1987, first working to increase business donations, and for the past 21 years working with her husband Sal to make the Phone-a-thon an outstanding success. "We're a partnership," Alma declared.

During her first Phone-a-thon foray, Pomponi discovered that a more up to date calling list and database were necessary so she set out to create an accurate list. Noting that lists reflect "just a point in time," she consults multiple sources – telephone directories, the Bedford's List of Residents and the real estate transfers published in Banker and Tradesman – to create a new list and to keep it current as residents come and go. "You don't want to discourage the students who are making calls," Pomponi noted. "If they get wrong numbers, or ones that have been disconnected, their motivation drops off." The proof that her diligence has paid off. For each of the past four years, student callers have garnered more than \$50,000 in Phone-a-thon pledges.

In an intersection of art and technology, Alma Pomponi's quiet but persistent attention to the detail that makes a good phone list and her year-round commitment to perfecting the database are legendary within CSF, and now within the town at large.

Alma Pomponi is dedicated to helping fulfill the further educational aspirations of Bedford students, and she quotes "Pete" Eagles: "CSF scholarships are like a pat on the back from the town to each recipient." She finds reward in reading the messages that often accompany donations, appreciative comments from the parents attending CSF's annual awards ceremony, and follow-up thank you notes from the recipients themselves.

Many members of Bedford's educational community and CSF volunteers added their congratulations. Among them were Bedford Schools Superintendent Jon Sills, Bedford High School Principal Dr. Henry Turner; and many others.

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