

A Testimonial for Mario A. Tonon

Mario A. Tonon's concern for the school children of the Brunswick area has over the years been graphically highlighted by his conception and fulfillment of the project--The Brunswick Area Student Aid Fund. Initially, perhaps almost single-handedly, Mario gradually convinced the citizenry of the Brunswick area that the dream of higher education could be realized by many more needy boy and girl graduates.

He persuaded the area community that if these young men and women were given even a slight helping hand in the beginning of advance studies they would continue. So Brunswick High School graduates have demonstrated with this assistance they have been able to go forward to the educational requirements that present society demands.

Initiated in 1956, beginning with a few hundred dollars to a half dozen graduates, almost \$129,000 in scholarships have been awarded to 560 different pupils and over \$3,500 given for pupil needs (clothing, eye glasses, etc., for the very needy) in the past 14 years.

Perhaps Mario's own courageous struggle to work his way through Bowdoin College influenced him to go all out to make this effort worthwhile.

Not satisfied with donations and contributions from the Brunswick Area United Fund, business and professional organizations and individuals, he went further. He encouraged the pupils themselves to work for their BASAF and so the annual Snogard came into being followed by other efforts.

Throughout the years Mario has been assisted ably by Mrs. Marion Booker and to a lesser degree by a number of committee members who have haltingly lent in many cases at least strong moral support and some effort.

So tonight in behalf of these committees we salute Mario A. Tonon, thank him in behalf of us all--old and young, for a job well done. We wish him Godspeed in his future endeavors.

Brunswick Area Student Aid Fund

Officer and Directors 1970

Brunswick, Maine
8 June 1970