2008 Award Recipient

Edwin B. Coghlin Jr. '56

Ted Coghlin, for more than half a century, you have been an incandescent example of generosity in action. Today, it's time to shine a light on your extraordinary record of benevolent achievement.

The Coghlin family has long been known for its altruism. You were born and raised to use your talents selflessly, following the example of your father and grandfather. You honed your public service skills at WPI, serving as president of the Tech Senate and the Student Christian Organization. After graduation, you took on leadership roles in the Alumni Association, the Worcester Regional Chapter, and the Poly Club. WPI has been enriched by four generations of Coghlins. In tribute to that legacy, you established the Edwin B. Coghlin '23 Award for Community Service, which is presented annually in memory of your father as a means to recognize and support the good works of WPI students.

You devoted your professional life to the family enterprise founded by your grandfather in 1885. As Coghlin Companies grew and diversified, you never lost sight of your principles. You recognized that running a good company means being a good corporate citizen. Knowing that a quality workforce was vital to the success of your own enterprise - and to the economy of Central Massachusetts - you championed the construction of the new $100 million Worcester Technical High School. As chairman of the Worcester Vocational Schools Advisory Board and president of the Skyline Technical Fund, you secured over $4 million in donations, which helped leverage more than $20 million in matching funds. Your success is evident in the school's Coghlin Construction Technology Academy - a state-of-the-art training facility that prepares public school students and adult learners for the challenges of today's industry.

You work loyally for the causes that are dear to you: the Mohegan Council of the Boy Scouts, the Boys and Girls Clubs, and the United Way, to name only a few. You serve your church as Eucharistic minister, and have been celebrated in your hometown as Shrewsbury's Man of the Year. For improving the quality of life in the Worcester area, you received the Isaiah Thomas Award in 2004. That same year, your company received the Governor's Inner City Investment Award for economic investment and new job creation in the Commonwealth's cities.

You have inspired others to action and guided them in effective service. You have taken on more causes and accomplished more good than seems possible in a single lifetime. But it isn't applause that you seek: only results.

Ted Coghlin, for your countless contributions to the community, it is an honor to present you with the 2008 WPI Humanitarian Leadership Award.