



John Holzuter

July 16, 1939 - June 13, 2012

Leo John Holzuter died June 8, 2012. John was born July 16, 1939 in Topeka, Kansas. He was blessed to be a member of an incredible family. His loving family included his sister, Patricia Ann (Mrs. Larry Gatewood) and his parents, Melba Darlene McCormac and father, Leo J. Holzuter Sr., who preceded him in death. John graduated from Hayden High School in 1957, and later earned degrees in Social Work from Washburn University and the University of Kansas. In 1960, he married Rosemary Anne Hughes and a week later, they went to Punta Gorda, British Honduras (Belize) to establish a secondary school. John served as headmaster. On returning to the United States, he worked for the Menninger Foundation as a psychiatric social worker for several years. Later with good friend, Esther Twente, he developed a national pilot project rebuilding neighborhoods and serving the frail and elderly (a NIMH project). He then served as field instructor for KU's North Topeka Office of the newly emerging KU School of Social Welfare (Twente Hall). For twenty years, until his retirement, he served as the director of Catholic Social Services of Topeka and in those years, programming and outreach nearly tripled. At the request of a dear friend, he came out of retirement to lead Let's Help Inc. in order to champion the modernization and expansion of their programs and facilities. He retired from this position December 29, 2004. John was an avid supporter of education and job training programs to enable people to break the cycle of poverty. He had a lifetime passion for education, especially in reaching those with limited access to

resources. His life was filled with the wisdom, love and humor of good family and friends. His home and his heart were enriched by his wife, Rosemary; Ampie (Chee) Dijos, Thomas Mark Zuniga, John Martin Holzhuter, David Samule Holzhuter and their spouses and their children. His mother, Melba, married James Gaddy and they currently reside in Greensboro, North Carolina. In addition to his father, Leo, he was preceded in death by his daughter-in-law, Linda Ann Stoecklein Holzhuter. John's body will lie in state at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd, Topeka KS 66614, on Wednesday, June 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. and Thurs., June 14, from 9 to 3 p.m. Mr. Holzhuter's body will lie in state at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 227 SW Van Buren, Topeka KS 66603, on Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. where a rosary will be prayed at 6 p.m. followed by Shared Memories. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday, June 15 at 10:00 a.m. at the Church. Interment services will be private. The family suggests memorial donations to a non-profit charitable fund, John and Rosemary's Fund for Children. This legacy fund was initiated in 2010 in celebration of John and Rosemary's 50th Wedding Anniversary. Donations may be sent in care of the funeral home.

Tribute Wall



“ *John Holzhter*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *John has a special place in my heart for many years back, John took the time and gave me his Love, Concern, Kindness, and Prayers from his Heart to me. John, give God a HUG for me and tell Barbara Hi. Prayers.*

Rebecca - June 17, 2012 at 10:33 AM



“ *Rosemary--Marilyn and I are sorry to learn of Johns passing. Our thoughts are with you and yours at this time.*

Bill/Marilyn - June 14, 2012 at 12:24 PM

KJ

“ Rosemary, words cannot express how I feel about the loss of John in everyones life, those who knew and loved him and those who did not get the pleaaasure of knowing a true gentleman and one of the most caring and giving person I've ever known.

I had the pleasure of serving as Campaign Chairman for the United Way Drive at the Santa Fe Olffice Building in the 1980s. I met John when he was serving as director of Catholic Social Services. Meeting him at a time in my life when I was going to a horrible divorce and trying to raise two daughters. John took the time to listen to me and guide me to make some decisions that were tough to make.

My respect and care for John has always been a part of me and I will miss knowing that he will not be there for another person in need of his kind and loving heart. Thank you Rosemary for helping John through the later part of his life. I know John cared so much about FAMILY. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Kay Johnson

Kay Johnson - June 13, 2012 at 07:26 PM

CW

“ Patty & Larry, I am so sorry to hear of John's passing. John was a calming spirit who loved the Lord. His spirit will live on.

Chris & Roger White

Christine Heidenreich White - June 12, 2012 at 11:24 AM

AS

“ Rosemary, you are going to miss John.

ann strecker - June 11, 2012 at 02:32 PM

KS

“ *I knew and respected John from his work at Let's Help. He was a kind and generous man who managed to make all who came in contact with him vAlued and cared for.*

Karen Shectman - June 10, 2012 at 04:14 PM