



John August Hudak

September 26, 1946 - March 29, 2020

John August Hudak, age 73, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri; passed away, on Sunday, March 29, 2020 at his residence.

He was born September 26, 1946 in Masontown, West Virginia; son of John and Eleanor DeProspero Hudak Jr.

John was the Executive Director of Community Counseling Center in Cape Girardeau for the last 23 years, and a member of the Christ Episcopal Church. He graduated with a Master's of Divinity degree from St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland, and a Master's of Science in Education from Duquesne University in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Survivors include his sons Jason (Terri) Hudak of Barboursville, West Virginia; Jonathan (Lindsey) Hudak of Red Bud, Illinois; brother Robert Hudak of Gallipolis, Ohio; and sister Veronica Hudak of Atlanta, Georgia. He was preceded in death by his parents.

During his time in Cape Girardeau, John made many friends and touched many lives. It was his expressed wish that he remains with the community that he cared so deeply for. Interment will be at Christ Episcopal Church in Cape Girardeau. In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to the Community Counseling Center Foundation of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in John's

memory.

A private family service will be held at Christ Episcopal Church on Saturday, April 4, and a public Celebration of Life service will be held at a date to be determined this summer, his family eagerly looking forward to the opportunity to express their thanks to the community that John knew and loved so well.

Tribute Wall

RS

“ John - you will be missed, I have several very fond memories of you, I wish I would of had a chance to say goodbye, please know we will continue your mission.

Rick Strait - April 12, 2020 at 01:06 PM

GS

“ When I first started at CCC John was quick to pick on me and make me feel like family. My time at CCC was filled with so many funny "oh John" stories, and I cannot count the times his smile or positive words gave me the encouragement to continue our difficult work. One of my most fond memories of John was when I told him I was having to move away and I would be leaving CCC. He looked truly sad and hugged me with one of the longest "John hugs" I'd ever received, and with tears in his eyes told me to remember this was my home and I would always be welcomed back at CCC with open arms. In such a hard time in my life that brought me comfort knowing that if my path ever lead back to Cape Girardeau I would always have a home there. John's warmth and kindness is truly a great loss to the Community.

Thank you John for being uniquely you. You are loved and will be greatly missed. Until we meet again...Gail (aka: Little One)

Gail Sanchez - April 10, 2020 at 06:39 PM

RH

“ I remember when I met John and introduced myself and he said, "Oh I am going to call you Chopper!" When I gave him a funny look, he went on to tell an elaborate story of why that would be my nickname, and the nickname stuck! John had a nickname for almost everyone ~ it was his endearing way of letting you know that he thought of you like family. And he was the best storyteller ~ he always had an outlandish story to tell about something that kept us all in stitches! I did not know what a potato gun was and how you could use it to propel a potato across a yard until I met John! John truly made everyone feel welcome. You could not help but smile when you talked to John, and his compassion and concern for others was palpable. John did many great things while Executive Director at CCC ~ the expansion and development of new programs in the past several years at CCC has been amazing, and John's hard work and dedication to our mission of providing behavioral health services for all has been evident. But I think what I will remember most are the small things he did ~ insisting I take a pastry from the admin break room in case I got hungry, telling a joke to make me laugh, or taking me to someone's office and then pointing to me and saying, "Isn't she great?" John just had a way of making everyone feel special. And I hope he knows how special he was to all of us!

John, you will be forever in our hearts, our thoughts, and our prayers, and you will be truly missed.

~ Ruth Ann "Chopper" Hester

Ruth Ann Hester - April 10, 2020 at 12:29 PM

SE

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I was John's optician for many years. He always had a smile and was fun to talk with.

Steve Emmons - April 08, 2020 at 08:56 PM

NB

“ *What can I truly say? John was someone that had an impact on everyone he met. John was someone that honestly cared about each of his employees and would get to know you no matter the job you had within the agency. On many occasions, secret donuts, dilly bars, and Amish donuts would appear in my hands courtesy of John. Forever will I miss running into him around admin and being called "Big Guy" along with that genuine smile. No matter where he was, how he was feeling, or what he was doing he always made time for you.*

John had true compassion for the clients in each of the communities we serve. John has shown many individuals, including myself, the compassion, empathy, and commitment needed in this field.

My favorite memory has to be our "competition" in No Shave November. He swore he could grow a beard better and to be frank, I still think it was a close call. Thank you John for your years of leadership and support that I been able to be a part of.

Nic Barna - April 08, 2020 at 12:39 PM

SS

“ We all have those people that walk into our lives and leave an impact that can't be matched for whatever reason. John was certainly one of those people for me. When I first came to CCC to meet with Wendy she introduced me to John and he shook my hand, smiled that big smile, and acted like he had known me for years. I don't think he knew a stranger. John had a way of drawing you in like you were instant family. He used to tease me about my shoes saying they looked like couch upholstery(they were a bit eccentric) or all the bling bling I would wear, but always with a hug or nudge to follow.

Then we got sick. Probably got our diagnosis within weeks of each other. When I would see John after that he always asked how I was feeling. We would share stories. I sat in his office on a couple of occasions to "just talk" or vent about not having time to be sick. He would tell me "Don't worry, it's going to be ok. We're gonna get through this (expletive)" As we progressed through treatment he would see me and say "I can hug you. We both have that drano running through our veins." But all his joking aside, he always reassured me if I needed anything to let him know. If I had questions about my treatment he would call his son or his doctor for me, and I believe he would have. He was such a genuinely kind, caring, and loving person who took great pride in the agency and the community we serve.

To his family, thank you for sharing him with us. He made the world a better place. He will be greatly missed.

Blessings,
Sarah Sims

Sarah Sims - April 08, 2020 at 11:26 AM

CC

“ John loved to show people my little red bench that goes under my desk because my feet don't touch the floor. He was very generous to me as he was to everyone. He would hug me when he saw me until the "me too" movement and it was decided that he should not hug anyone. But I needed a hug from John sometimes as I am struggling with my health, he would go ahead and hug me. Bless his heart for the many things that he did for me. Sometimes just a smile from him would be enough to keep me going. I will miss him for the rest of my life.

Carol Cook - April 08, 2020 at 11:25 AM

SH

“ When CCC took over CRTC I remember John and Audrey asking me if I would be interested in staying on board with CCC. I was nervous and tentative. I remember that John has always had faith in me professionally. As a leader, he lead graciously, with kindness, with love. You knew that John cared about you. You knew that if he hired you to do a job he had faith in you to do just that and he would allow you to do your job. He always made me want to make him proud, not out of fear or oversight, but because he had such faith in me. John never met a stranger. His days were filled with hugs, John was such a hugger. He loved to let others know they were cared about and that he appreciated the work we were doing. I cannot count the number of time he has simply said " thank you." Thanking me and others for doing the jobs he hired us to do, acknowledging that he was observant of our efforts and compassion. John had a paternal sense about him that made you feel comforted and okay. With all that is going on presently that comfort and assurance is and will be missed. Thank you John for touching so many lives, for having such compassion for mental health, for the hugs, for all the thank you's, and most of all for all the faith you had in those of us who worked with you. You were a blessing to this earth. Heaven is the ultimate testament to a life well lived. I smile thinking of you and Audrey looking down upon us, 2 guardian angels whose mission and love for kids and adults alike was evident in the life you lived. CCC will continue to honor you in our actions, in our compassion, in our advocacy, in our leadership. Thank you John , peace and love

Shawna - April 08, 2020 at 10:29 AM

JR

“ When I started with CCC back in early 2016, John made me feel welcome from the very beginning. He always had a smile on his face. He's offered donuts a couple of times when I would run into him walking through the halls. It always amazed me that he remembered my name and would always address me as "Jim". He was so polite, kind, and soft spoken. You could tell he was genuine and that he had a passion for mental health. It was a wonderful feeling that although he was responsible for 400 employees, he made sure to try to be personable and get to know each and every one of them.

I only hope that if I have the privilege to one day be in a position such as he was, that I can be half the leader that he was.

John, you made a lasting impression on me as I'm sure you did to many. You will be missed.

James Reinbold - April 08, 2020 at 10:28 AM

KS

“ *The sincerity in which John led his life, how he treated others, almost felt artificial in the world in which we live but it was all too real in John's world. The depth of his compassion inspired many and probably left some scratching their heads. Through the years I have spoken to John about a great many things and he always made time for me despite having left CCC some 10 years back. I always knew that in a pinch I could call John and he would listen...and he did. John has been good to me and he has been good to my wife, Emily. Not many people get to live on after they have left this world but John left such an indelible impact on the lives of so many that his work, his legacy, will live on through others for years to come. He forged a culture at CCC of compassion of not only for those we serve but for those with whom we work. John was one to break down barriers between roles in the organization so that each person felt value. It is not an easy thing to build a healthy culture in any organization. He did this in his own unique way that can be emulated but not imitated because it was strictly John. He will continue to live through each of us as we move forward to help and serve others in need. Thank you John for your inspiration through the years.*

Kyle Schott

Kyle Schott - April 08, 2020 at 10:13 AM

MI

“ When I first started working with CCC, I used to see John sitting in the waiting room, but never knew who he was. The first time I met him personally, I had been called in to Audrey's office and he was sitting in there with her. He offered me a dilly bar from Dairy Queen as Audrey talked with me about a job offer. As we sat there talking, Audrey asked me what I had heard about her during my so far short time with CCC. I answered very honestly and told her that I was told not to get on her bad side and that I had the impression she intimidated others. She laughed and John then turned to me and asked me what I had heard about him. Again answering truthfully, I told him “to be honest I don't know who you are.” I can remember the sound of laughter from John and Audrey filling the office. He told me it was a good thing I didn't know who he was, and turned to Audrey and said “I like her”. I didn't find out until later that day who he was. Over the next few years I ran into him here and there, and he was always smiling, laughing, and most times handing out Dilly Bars from DQ. He is such a kind soul, and will be missed by many.

Micheala - April 08, 2020 at 10:02 AM

WI

“ It has been almost 6 years ago to the day that I met with John about coming to work at CCC. I remember how welcomed he made me feel from the very beginning and his excitement about me coming on board made me want to join the team even more... John had a way of connecting with people. He wanted to hear your story and get to know you as a person... I have a lot of amazing memories that I will cherish both professionally and personally. John used to always joke that he could envision me as a child with pigtails and how ornery I probably was... This became a running joke around the office and one of my favorite memories is using this as an inspiration to play a joke on him. After our accreditation review, we all got together to celebrate the outcome, so I showed up in pigtails. John got a real kick out of it and brought it up many times over the years. Glad I got to capture this memory in a photo.

We will miss you John... You were our leader, my boss, but at the end of the day also a friend. Your impact on CCC and all of us that had the pleasure of working with and knowing you will last forever!

*Always,
Munchkin with the Ducks :-)* (AKA Wendy Ice)

Wendy Ice - April 08, 2020 at 09:32 AM

GE

“ It has been a joy to know and work with John, sharing victories and concerns as a member of CCC's governing board. John's love of mankind and supplying for their needs was passed to all who had the privilege of knowing John. His professionalism will carry on as his leadership will continue to guide the organization in his absence. We are comforted in our resurrection faith that John has completed his earthly journey, and is welcomed as a good and faithful servant. We grieve for John's passing, yet pray that God's peace will be with the family and friends.

*Blessed by John,
We are Gene and Nora Speight*

genesp8@charter.net - April 03, 2020 at 07:28 AM

JH

“ One of the greatest joys of my life was having him as my father. He taught me more than he could possibly know, always had me laughing, and lived such a full life in service to others. I anticipate that so many people that he has positively impacted will be missing him dearly for a long time to come. Yet, I can't help but shake the image in my head of him saying to all of us "Don't worry." He carried with him the same spirit in his fight against cancer from the time he knew he had it to his final day of life. Dad's bravery, sacrifice, and incorruptible hope is a powerful lesson to all of us. We love you. Be at peace with God. -Jonathan Hudak

Jonathan Hudak - April 01, 2020 at 09:22 AM