



Paul Clayton Christie

March 26, 2021

Paul Clayton Christie, 76, of West Hartford, CT died March 26, 2021. He was a devoted husband, father, son, brother, and community leader. He is predeceased by his wife Kathy (Lillig) Christie, parents George and Beatrice (Abigail) Christie, and brother Robert Christie. His daughters and their families, Kysa (wife Lauren & son Harrison) and Cara (wife Jar & son Hoban) carry his loving memory forward. Paul was born in Detroit, Michigan, received his BA at Ottawa University (KS), studied at Colgate Rochester Divinity School (NY) and graduated from the American Baptist Seminary of the West in Berkeley, CA. Paul's life mission was to exemplify compassion and love, and he fulfilled these in his work and at home. He fell in love with his wife and started his family in California. In CA, he worked for Greater Richmond Interfaith Program and Urban Ministries, advocating for those without a voice and working to establish equitable services. In 1983, he moved to the Hartford area to serve as Executive Director of Center City Churches, which became Hands On Hartford. Paul served as Executive Director for 26 years, caring for Hartford families and individuals in need through community engagement. Paul was particularly proud that Center City Churches established Peter's Retreat, Hartford's first supportive housing program for people living with AIDS, as well as the state's first and only group home for adults with serious mental illness. Outside of work, Paul loved being with his family, and traveling with his wife and daughters to new destinations both near and far, most notably camping in Yosemite, traversing Europe and New Zealand, and

visiting family in northern California. Paul will be remembered for his compassion, integrity, and calm, kind soul. An online service will be held June 15 via the Unitarian Society of Hartford (see <http://www.ushartford.com/events/> for details). In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Hands On Hartford to establish a memorial fund in Paul's name for housing stability, or a contribution to the Campership Program at Camp Asto Wamah.

Previous Events

Online Service

JUN 15.

<http://www.ushartford.com/events/>

Tribute Wall

AC

“ *Kysa and Cara,
We are so sad to learn of your Dad's passing. We didn't realize he went to Colgate Rochester Divinity School. We both grew up in Rochester and Ritch's parents were involved with and supported CRDS for many years.
He was so kind and gentle yet powerful in all the right ways, helping so many underserved members of the community. His legacy will live on in all the organizations for which he worked and supported.
Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.
Ritchard and Annette Cable*

Annette Cable - June 08, 2021 at 06:12 PM

PW

“ *To the family of Paul Christie, I am saddened by the loss of a such a kind and deeply faithful man. I work for Center City Churches from 1990- 1993, Paul was my executive director but more than that he was my friend who I learned so much from. May you take joy in knowing what a wonderful and compassionate man your father was. For sure he made the world a better place.*

Pat Wrice

patricia wrice - April 19, 2021 at 11:45 AM

ME

“ I had the pleasure of working with Paul on the establishment of Peter’s Retreat. Center City Churches responded to an RFP the City issued to develop supportive housing for people living with AIDS. As we worked to identify a location, Paul and Laura Thornton asked Linda Bayer and me “if they could dream.” The answer was yes and the end product was Peter’s Retreat. Paul helped so many and he will be missed. Dreams do come true.

Marian Eichner - April 19, 2021 at 07:24 AM

FC

Today I learned of Paul's passing. I feel an incredible sadness. Paul was director during my time at CCC. He was incredibly focused and driven. He was patient and kind and pleasant. He was a joy to work with and for. May his spirit be at peace and may his family remember him in love and admiration.

Peace and Blessings
Tracea G.

former ee of CCC - January 23, 2024 at 07:37 PM

PE

“ Kysa and Cara,
I was so shocked to see the notice of your Dad's passing in this morning's paper. I had the pleasure of working with him after he "flunked retirement" (his words to a friend) and worked at PLAN of Connecticut for a few years. He was a lovely human being and I am so happy that I got to know him, even for a short time. I hope that your lifetime of memories are your comfort during this challenging time.

My sincere condolences

Peggy Embardo

peggy embardo - April 18, 2021 at 02:31 PM

EH

“ Kysa and Cara, I was saddened to hear of your dad's passing. I met your dad (and mom) when he joined our support group at Arden Court in Farmington. Your dad was a kind, gentle, soft spoken, and caring man who's love, support, dedication and caring for your mom was inspiring. I will always remember your dad with that beautiful smile that on occasions would come out and light up our meetings. I wish you the strength to face tomorrow in the Love that surrounds you today.

My deepest condolences to your entire families.

In sympathy,

Esther Harvey

Esther Harvey - April 11, 2021 at 01:04 PM