

Profile in Compassion #16

In Memoriam

Volunteer Mark Human, “Child Whisperer”



Mark Human became an uncle at the age of ten and for the rest of his life he was proud to be a citizen of many villages raising children. The cradle of his arm was a warm and comfortable place for a fussy baby, and overwhelmed parents and caretakers marveled at the ease with which he could calm a child. Children he loved called him "Uncle Mark," while to grown-ups he was “the child whisperer.”

For more than 15 years Mark devoted his time and heart to Children's Place Association. As a longtime volunteer at our Residential Center, he cared for babies and young children with serious medical conditions – including cancer, heart ailments and HIV – who also suffered from abuse or neglect.

“Mark not only administered to their physical needs, he buoyed their spirits with his bright smile and hopeful disposition,” said Children’s Place Development Director Dan Dever.

He also volunteered at numerous Children’s Place events over the years, including the annual Once Upon a Time Gala. “Mark was one of our most committed volunteers, helping us raise millions of dollars to support services for sick and needy kids,” Dan stated.

Mark passed away in 2015, but he leaves a legacy of unconditional love and patience. Children’s Place will always value his advice to “listen to the children, they can show us things we cannot see.”

