

# Celebrating a Life for Children

**Rich Scofield**

**Founder, School-Age NOTES**

Children, their families, their teachers, and all of us *Exchange* readers and staff, lost a great friend and advocate in the passing of Rich Scofield. He served as a guiding light in the provision of quality school-age programs for over 25 years and his legacy to our field is beyond measure.

Rich will long be remembered for his trail blazing creation of School-Age *NOTES* newsletter and publishing company. He also provided visionary leadership as one of the founders and first vice president of the National School-Age Care Alliance (now known as the National AfterSchool Association). Rich was an inspiring public speaker, trainer, and crusader who advocated passionately for children and families. Although he usually spoke to crowds of hundreds of people at a time, he never forgot the importance of reaching out to help just one person in need. Rich was funny, lovable, and often had a unique perspective on the world. His spirit was irrepressible. He, in recent years, traded in his suits and colorful ties for Hawaiian shirts and flip-flops. Integrity, generosity, and loyalty were his trademarks. While the field of school-age care is mourning the loss of Rich, his legacy of School-Age *NOTES* newsletter and publishing company will go on and is celebrating its 25th year in business.



Richard Tremont Scofield was born in Hartford, Connecticut, the son of Frances (Tremont) and Kennard Scofield. From the time he was a child, Rich loved swimming, boating, and fishing. Most of all, he loved telling stories and helping other people to be the best they could be. He graduated from University of Connecticut in 1970 and received his Masters degree in Psychology in 1979 from George Peabody College. He was married to Bonnie Johnson for almost 20 years. They shared a love of children, their neighborhood, the natural world, and spending time with their family and friends. They were devoted to their children Tara Johnson, Susie Johnson, Quintaria Brunson, and Joel Williamson, as well as their four grandchildren, Joel (LJ), Yhazmyn, Jaliyah, and Aanya.

When those of us who love Rich find ourselves remembering the excitement he showed during teachable moments, we are inspired by his life work of advocating for nurturing environments for children. His passionate personality demanded attention whenever he was fighting for life-enhancing environments for children, school-age care professionals, for family, or in his neighborhood.

## The Buddha's Words on Loving-Kindness

May all beings be at ease.  
Whatever living beings there may be;  
whether they be weak or strong, omitting none,  
The great or the mighty, medium, short or small,  
The seen or the unseen, those living near or far away,  
Those born and to-be-born — may all beings be at ease!  
Let none deceive another, or despise any being in any state.  
Let none through anger or ill-will wish harm upon another.  
Even as a mother protects with her life her child, her only child,  
So with boundless heart should one cherish all living beings;  
Radiating kindness over the entire world:  
Spreading upward to the skies, and downward to the depths;  
Outward and unbounded . . . .

From *LOVING-KINDNESS, The Revolutionary Art of Happiness* by Sharon Salzberg  
— Read at Rich's service by daughter Tara Johnson —

To honor the work of Rich Scofield, we can continue to support the work of School-Age *NOTES* and to create our own personas (which may or may not include Hawaiian shirts and flip-flops), to stand up and be noticed, and speak in our strongest voices for quality programs and services for young children and their families.

A Rich T. Scofield Memorial Education Fund for Children has been established in Rich's memory. Contributions can be made at Bank of America, 645 Thompson Road, Nashville, TN 37204-3620.

Thanks to Tracey Ballas for help  
in writing this tribute.