

## Don Hufford

Don Hufford has an undergraduate degree in Psychology from Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas, a masters in education from Ft. Hays State University, and, he writes, - late in life, after one retirement- a Ph. D in Foundations of Education from the University of Kansas. His first year of graduate study was in the theology program at Southern Methodist University. He later transferred to the Boston University School of Theology. With one semester of a three year graduate program to complete, he followed a “call” to involve himself fulltime with youth in the “notorious” south end of Boston. He served as Boys Worker for two years, and then three years as Director of a Settlement House in the area. His responsibilities for four of these years included summers spent as Assistant Director of a summer camp program in the Berkshires of Massachusetts. During his fifth summer he agreed to assume the role of Resident Director of the Hayden School for Boys, a program loosely connected to the summer camp. The Hayden School was an accredited residential school and treatment center for adolescent boys referred by the courts and social welfare agencies.

He his wife, Evie, and their three children, returned to Kansas where he accepted a position as Campus Life Supervisor of United Methodist Youthville in Newton, Kansas. Youthville is a residential treatment program for youth with emotional, psychological, and behavioral problems, and includes an on-campus accredited school. After two years he was asked to move to Dodge City, Kansas to oversee the development of a new facility, “Youthville at Dodge City.” Youthville at Dodge City grew to include a campus facility- with an on-campus school related to the local school district, group homes for both boys and girls, and a foster care program. During his over 25 year tenure at Dodge City, his wife, Evie, served as one of the teachers. While in Dodge City he also served as an adjunct instructor at Dodge City Community College and St. Mary of the Plains College.

After twenty-five years, he retired from Youthville, so that he and Evie could follow their interests in education and pursue a new adventure. They began their Ph.D. journeys at The University of Kansas. After receiving the Ph.D. degree in 1992, he began a new career at Newman University, Wichita, Kansas. A year later Evie joined him on the Newman University faculty. In 2002 a month after their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, he lost Evie to breast cancer, and says “my life was forever changed.”

Don and Evie have three children. Tara, the oldest, is an award-winning art teacher at North High School in Wichita, Kansas. Scott works with the Massachusetts Cultural Council. His office near the Boston Commons is only a short walk from where he was born. Brian, the youngest, is a partner in a law firm with an office two blocks from Grand Central Station in New York City. They have eleven grandchildren.