



Rudyard n. Propst

Rudyard n. Propst, the founder and first Executive Director of the ICCD, died on June 16, 2011. As an international Clubhouse community, we mourn the loss of the man who fanned the Fountain House flame into a worldwide movement, and we celebrate his life.

Rudyard was a man who had a fierce emotional passion for the work of bringing dignity, equality and respect to men and women living with mental illness. Along with this passion, Rudyard also possessed a razor sharp intellect. These qualities fueled his success at igniting interest in the Clubhouse model in virtually everyone he met. Rudyard was a powerful, persuasive, committed, determined, outspoken, - and very lovable – champion for bettering the lives of people living with mental illness.

Rudyard is the person credited with developing the Clubhouse colleague training program, which began at Fountain House in New York. We have Rudyard to thank for creating a training program that included both members and staff, at a time in mental health history when this was virtually unheard of. Rudyard would have it no other way.

Rudyard is the person who first conceived of having International Clubhouse Standards, to serve as a bill of rights for members and a code of ethics for staff; and for developing a process through which the worldwide Clubhouse community could have input into the creation of those Standards. Rudyard is the person who first recognized the need for a Clubhouse certification program, and who understood and fought for the need for both members and staff to serve as part of the ICCD Faculty who conducted certification visits.

Today, as we celebrate Rudyard's life, let us take a moment to reflect and to be grateful for all he has given to us. Doing so will help us appreciate where we are today, and inspire us to catch hold of his vision and ride it into tomorrow.

As a Clubhouse community we are grateful to Rudyard for caring about us. We are grateful for Rudyard's gift of appreciating each person for who he or she was. We are grateful to Rudyard for devoting his life's energy to nurturing, strengthening, and believing in each of us as individuals, and in all of us together, as a worldwide Clubhouse movement. We thank him for insisting on treating each of us with respect and dignity. We will always remember him for pushing against the status quo, and standing up for the rights and dignity of people with mental illness everywhere. We will remember him for not compromising, but always holding firm to what he knew to be right.

Thank you, Rudyard, for bringing us all together under our banner of freedom and hope, the Clubhouse Standards. Thank you for your vision, your passion, your laugh, and your bear hugs.

We are really going to miss you.