KATZ, George

George Katz; Big Brothers leader in R.I. helped establish agencies throughout U.S.

EAST PROVIDENCE — George Katz, 86, of 20 Argyle Ave., the first executive director of Big Brothers of Rhode Island and director of development for Big Brothers of America for 10 years in Philadelphia, died yesterday at home. He was the husband of Eve (Cohen) Katz.



Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Max and Sophie (Tchuchman) Katz. He lived in Ventnor, N.J., from 1963 to 1977, while he worked in Philadelphia.

He traveled throughout the United States to establish Big Brother agencies. Earlier he had been assistant director of the former Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island for six years. For one year he directed the Downtown Jewish Orphanage of Philadelphia, and returned to Rhode Island to become a probation officer for several years. He then became chief intake supervisor for the Rhode Island Juvenile Court.

Mr. Katz also was a community relations director and fund raiser for Miriam Hospital. He was a volunteer worker with Hospice Care of Rhode Island, and with the United Way. He was a volunteer with the Jewish Community Center in Providence, working in athletics and as a boys basketball coach. He was one of the founders of Little League Baseball in the Providence area. In 1991 he was inducted into the Rhode Island Jewish Hall of Fame for his work in teaching, playing, and coaching basketball, football and baseball.

He was a member of Temple Beth-El, Providence.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Steve Kass of Providence, a WHJJ-radio talk show host, and Jon Katz of Montclair, N.J., media critic for Rolling Stone Magazine and former executive director of CBS Morning News,; a daughter, Jane Richter of Malden, Mass.; and eight grandchildren.

The funeral service will be Sunday at 1 p.m. at Temple Beth-El, Orchard at Butler Avenues, Providence. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

KATZ, George

December 3, 1992. Beloved husband of Eve (Cohen) Katz. Residence 20 Argyle Ave., East Providence. Dear father of Steve Kass, Providence, and John Katz, Montclair, NJ, and Jane Richter, Malden, MA. Devoted grandfather of Randy, Donnand Robert Kass, Eve Miller, Maria Richter, Emma Span, Amylynne and Benjamin Jaccarino. Funeral services 1 p.m. Sunday at TEMPLE BETH-EL, Orchard at Butler Aves. Relatives and friends are invited. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Big Brothers of RI. Memorial Observance at his late residence Sunday 7-9 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday 2-4; 7-9 p.m. Arrangements by MOUNT SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL.

KONOPKA, Edward