



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Summer is under way, and our students are on break. A gentle quietness has returned to the campus at Saint Vincent College, home of the Fred Rogers Center. It's been a time of reflection for me as I deal with my post-cancer treatment.

First, I want to give you a quick update on my health. I recently had my first post-treatment scan. The good news is that it showed me clear of any cancer, and I remain positive that it will stay clear moving forward. Also, I am also recovering very quickly. Some of you have seen me recently and know I am almost back to full speed. I even have hair growth.

But I want to share with you some other news, which is that it's time for me to move on from this amazing position. These four and a half years have been incredibly special to me and I will never forget them.

Thank you for the notes, calls, and encouragement during my time here. I will always be grateful for your support of the Center's mission.

I would like to thank one person in particular, and that is Joanne Rogers. Joanne has

been my biggest cheerleader since I arrived in Pittsburgh, and she is a large part of the reason I came here. Joanne knew how to make me laugh. She gave me guidance and always knew the right thing to say. At the end of last year's *Fred Forward* she hugged me and said, "You did it. The place is finally what Fred imagined." That was the moment when I started thinking about what's next for me. How does one top that?! She is the heart of the Center and she will always be in my heart.

I hope to stay in contact with many of you. Although I don't know where I'll land, I look forward to the journey. I will leave you with one of my favorite Fred quotes, which has deep meaning to me today:

"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else."

All the best,



Rick Fernandes

IN THE ARCHIVE



Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Over the past year, we were lucky enough to work with the producers of the documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* Their research interests guided us back through those items that had already been cataloged, waiting to be put to use in a project such as this. It is rewarding to see Fred's work, that we preserve, presented in a loving, thoughtful, respectful way. The producers also discovered items such as film reels and audio cassettes that had not yet been added to the archive. We learned so much from their research and the documentary and are grateful to have been part of the project.

The documentary made us laugh. It made us cry. Plus, we discovered things about Fred that we never knew.

[SEE MORE](#)

NEW ON THE BLOG

Dining with Kids...and Screens

by Warren Buckleitner, Ph.D.

During a dinner date with my wife last week, we observed a startling interaction involving children, their parents, and screens.

The restaurant was particularly busy, and a family of four had just been seated nearby. Mom, dad and daughter (a young teen) were immediately glued to their phones, while the youngest -- a boy of about 8 who was probably too young for his own device, started squirming.

I was fully expecting the worst -- a condemning technology fueled decrease in parent-child interactions. But then the mom handed her fidgety son her iPhone 6+ with a photo booth style app running on it (most likely Snapchat or Messenger Kids).

After he took a few selfies, he reversed the camera and took a photo of his big sister, who was sitting directly across from him texting her friends. After a few seconds of editing he passed her his mom's phone with a photo of her head...

shrunk to the size of a prune. The resulting laughter was infectious, and mom and dad soon also enjoyed head reduction treatments; and the girl stopped texting long enough to shrink her brother's head.

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CARRYING THE LEGACY FORWARD

In My Own Words

Just as Fred Rogers understood the importance of community, we know that it takes advocates, collaborators, donors, and so many other friends, to help achieve our mission.

I just finished watching *Won't You Be My Neighbor*, and I wanted to share a story about the impact of Fred Rogers.

Growing up, my parents would always turn Mr. Rogers on for us four kids to watch. My oldest brother one day declared that he when he grew up, he was going to name his dog Fred Rogers. As you know, this is the highest compliment a little boy can give to a friend.

Flash forward 25 years later, and my brother Bob did just that. Here is a picture with his 8-year old dog, Fred Rogers, who has been a loving, loyal best friend.

Thanks for all you do,

Suzanne Simpson



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WORDS OF WISDOM



“The greatest gift you ever give is your honest self.”

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