



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings to all of you as the first snow falls in Fred Rogers' Neighborhood! I am delighted and very grateful to be in this new position of Interim Executive Director of the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media at Saint Vincent College here in Fred Rogers' hometown of Latrobe. We continue to celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* with the release of Max King's book, *The Good Neighbor*, and screenings of the Morgan Neville documentary, *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*.

At the annual conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) this fall, the keynote session, *The Legacy of Fred Rogers*, focused on Fred's commitment to children. Clips from the 2018 documentary, *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*, launched an insightful discussion

among panelists Joanne Rogers, widow of Fred Rogers; Bill Isler, former President and CEO of The Fred Rogers Company; Nicholas Ma, Producer of *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*; and Junlei Li, Harvard Graduate School of Education, former Director of the Fred Rogers Center and current Senior Fellow. Thoughtful, engaging, and humorous, this session resonated with the 9,000 attendees at this year's NAEYC conference. The messages of Fred Rogers were echoed throughout conference sessions at the Washington, D.C. convention center over the next few days, and they stimulated serious discussions about ways to support children and their families, schools and communities, and agencies dedicated to the well-being of children.

As we celebrate the holidays, we are reminded by the words of Fred Rogers that there are “many ways” to show our appreciation to those who work on behalf of children. Please take some time to reflect on the ways you support children and know that our gratitude is offered to each of you. Also, consider ways that you can support your communities and organizations that serve children and families. Fred encouraged us all to look for ways that we can “make goodness attractive.” Let’s find the “good” in the world around us and model that for our children.

Kind regards



Roberta L. Schomburg
Interim Executive Director

IN THE ARCHIVE

Giving & Receiving

The holidays are a good time for reminding your child about gratitude.

by Fred Rogers

Giving and Receiving

There are many sources in the Fred Rogers Archive for researchers to consult about how to help children handle the holiday season. November and December might be two of the most difficult months of the year for parents to navigate, so Fred wrote about that time period in many publications. We house books, magazine articles, and essays that focus on the holiday season. These writings offer realities for parents to consider, such as “Most young children are not good at being gracious receivers,” and “Family dinners can be very long for a child!” Although parents may long for Thanksgiving to be a perfect day, they might have to deal with tears or temper tantrums. Fred reminds us that it is during those difficult times when children “need our ear, our empathy, and our honesty” more than the food and gifts that we place so much importance on during the holidays.

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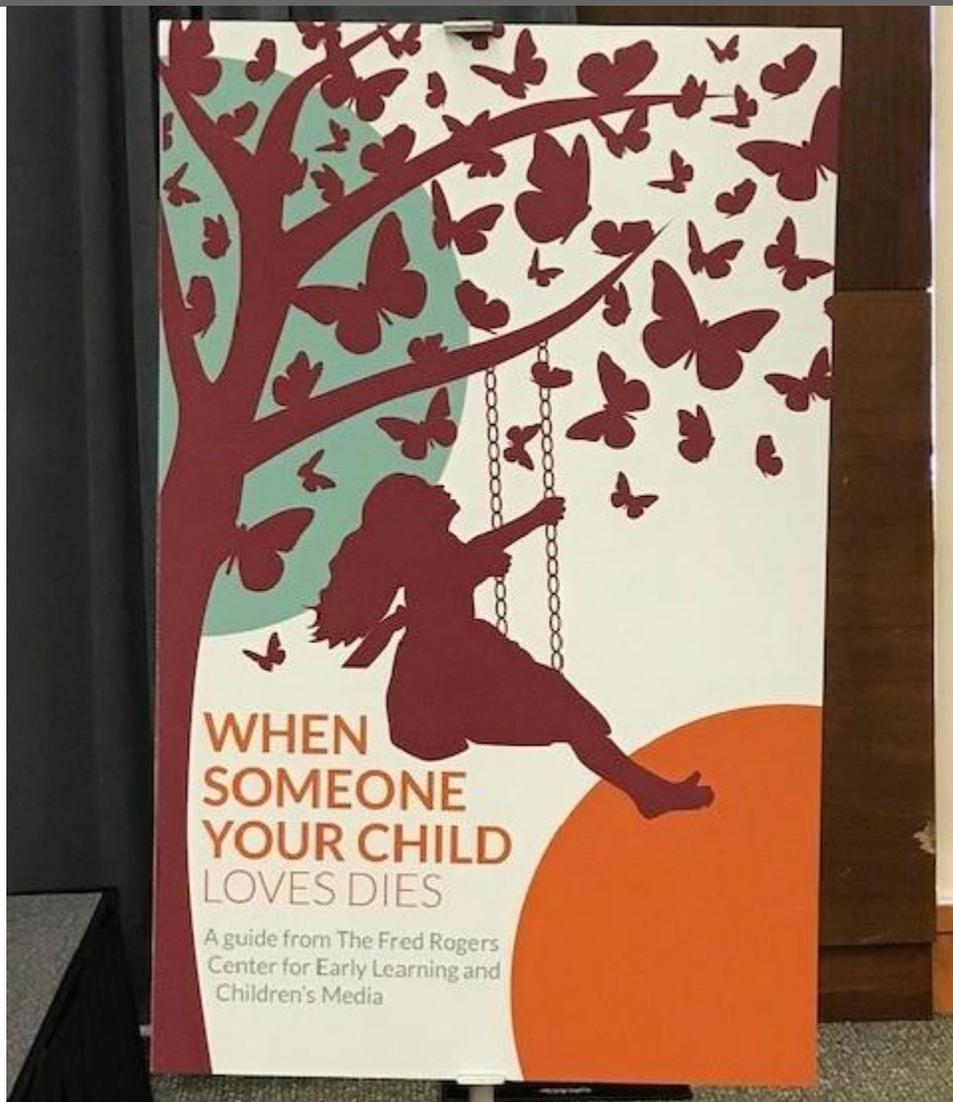
Thanksgiving: Sharing A Priceless Gift

by Emily Uhrin

Thanksgiving Day is one of the most important days of the year for my family. All of my mother's relatives come over to spend the afternoon and evening with my parents, brother, and me. Every one of my Thanksgivings has been at my parents' house, and the flow of the day is the same every year. There is a level of comfort in being in my own house and having an idea of what to expect, but it can still be a stressful day. When I start to feel anxious, I turn to Fred's words for comfort and assurance that my ambivalence—feeling excited and worried at the same time—is normal and nothing to feel guilty about.

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WHEN SOMEONE YOUR CHILD LOVES DIES



New Partnership Launched

The Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media, Excela Health, and Seton Hill University commemorated a new partnership to serve bereaved children and their families in Westmoreland County. On November 13, 2018, the partners hosted a press conference to unveil the brochure “When Someone Your Child Loves Dies: A Guide from the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media” and discussed emerging services to support parents and other adults as they care for a grieving child.

Saint Vincent College students and the staff of the Fred Rogers Center have developed the brochure based on research on child bereavement across age groups and Fred Rogers’ work focused on child grief. The brochure was created to give parents and caregivers an understanding of how their child may

experience grief, how their presence and support is what children need most as they grieve and to offer resources for emotional support.

As the project continues to develop in the coming year, the partnering organizations are developing age-appropriate curricula for grief support groups for children age 2 to 19. The groups will be offered by bereavement counselors at Excelsa Health in connection with existing support groups provided to parents and caregivers.

CARRYING THE LEGACY FORWARD

In My Own Words

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood was main show in my house. Growing up I was bullied in school because I had a fatty mass on my spine diagnosed as tethered spinal cord with spinal bifida. I was called all sorts of very mean names. I was painfully shy (much like Daniel Tiger). Mister Rogers singing "It's You I Like" really hit home for me. Here he was looking right into the camera (I felt like it was right at me!) and said "I like you just the way you are. There is no one else like you. You are special." It got me right in the heart. It made me feel that I was going to be okay in this world. I grew stronger every day, and the bullies went away.

As I grow older, things are still tough from time to time, but I am happy just being me. I think of Mister Rogers each day, especially now during these most trying times, and I often wonder what he would do. I am so blessed to have what remains of my health, my beautiful family and friends, and Mister Rogers.

—Karen Cavalliere

GIVING TUESDAY REMINDER

Today kicks off the charitable season. If you like what we've been doing, please

consider a gift to keep Fred's legacy of kindness going. Whether it's \$5 or \$50, no gift is too small to strengthen children and their caregivers. To donate, visit our [website](#). We simply can't fulfill our mission of helping children to become confident, competent, and caring without you.

#GIVING TUESDAY™

WORDS OF WISDOM



"All our lives, we rework things from our childhood, like feeling good about ourselves, managing our angry feelings, being able to say good-bye to people we love..." -Fred Rogers



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