Greetings from the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media. There are beginning signs of spring as the snow and ice melts around us. Spring brings a period of regrowth to dormant trees, plants, and shrubs surrounding the Center and a steady continued growth to the evergreens outside our windows. Our “evergreen” activities at the Center are thriving and show steady growth as well. You'll read more about that work in our updates below. We also have several new branches and shoots that will blossom this spring and we are looking forward to these new initiatives and collaborations.

At the Fred Rogers Center, we find the words, ideas, music and videos of Fred Rogers to be the nourishment that inspires our work. We are looking forward to sharing that work with you in multiple ways and we invite you to connect with us to carry forward the legacy of Fred Rogers. Blessings to you all in this time of renewal.

Sincerely,

Roberta L. Schomburg, Ph.D.
Interim Executive Director
Many Ways to Say I Love You

In 1970, Fred Rogers wrote the song “There Are Many Ways to Say I Love You.” Fifteen years later, the title was used for a computer program that inspired creativity, relationship-building, and computer literacy. The software allowed children and families to create digital greeting cards with words, stickers, and music. Trolley would then “deliver” the electronic cards. Why did Fred delve into the computer industry? In an interview with the magazine Family Computing, Fred explained that a computer is like a building block—it can inspire a child to create. He designed his software program so that children would have creative control, and that it would strengthen interpersonal relationships. Fred’s recommendation to parents was that the computer games they buy be in accord with their family’s traditions and values. Many Ways To Say I Love You was released by CBS Software in 1985.
FRED ROGERS SCHOLARS VISIT HARVARD

“If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person.”

Senior Fred Rogers Scholars Sydney Schoff (Communication), Kyle Ward (Psychology), and Michaela Yonto (Psychology), experienced how important they are in ways they never dreamed of when they visited with Harvard Graduate School of Education students, faculty, and staff earlier this month. During Saint Vincent College’s spring break, the scholars travelled to Harvard Graduate School of Education with Dr. Dana Winters, Director of Academic Programs and the Coordinator of the Fred Rogers Scholars Program.

The students were welcomed by Dr. Junlei Li, former Director of the Fred Rogers Center and current Saul Zaentz Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Education at Harvard Graduate School of Education. They participated in Dr. Li’s graduate class, visited with researchers from Harvard’s Project Zero, and met with local Children’s Museum directors who are modeling the foundation of Simple Interactions through their exhibits and work with children and families. While at Harvard, the students were excited to
engage with others about their experiences with Simple Interactions and how their work with Incubator 143, the Fred Rogers Center undergraduate research lab, continues to integrate the legacy and philosophy of Fred Rogers into current research and projects. They were fantastic ambassadors of the living legacy of Fred Rogers, and look forward to continuing new relationships formed during this visit.

WHEN SOMEONE YOUR CHILD LOVES DIES

New Resources Available to Support Young Children
Students in the Incubator 143 Lab spent a year conducting research in the Fred Rogers Archive and building a comprehensive understanding of the many ways Fred worked to support grieving children. The resulting product of their research is a brochure developed for parents and caregivers as they support children through the loss of a loved one. The brochure is designed to apply to children of any age and circumstance. We hope through this brochure to share Fred’s message to parents and caregivers: “Even in hard times such as this, you are just what your child needs.”

Hard copies of the brochure are available to order. You may also download a free two-page version of the brochure’s content.

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REMAKE LEARNING DAYS
What is Deep and Simple in the Digital Age?

The Fred Rogers Center, in partnership with Carlow University, will present “Simple Interactions + Technology: What is Deep and Simple in the Digital Age?” Join us during Remake Learning Days on Friday, May 17, beginning at 6:30 p.m. to explore the role of interactions between adults and children when integrating digital technologies.

This professional learning session will provide a foundational overview of the Simple Interactions Approach and the Digital Media and Learning Initiative at the Fred Rogers Center. In the session, participants will have an opportunity to engage in reflective discussions on how technology can serve as a tool for learning in the digital age. This session will also include the historical perspective and research-based updates on media literacy in early childhood education.

The session will be held at Carlow University, located at 3333 Fifth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Please submit your RSVP here to receive additional information regarding the location and parking.

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CARRYING THE LEGACY FORWARD
In My Own Words

I have one of the original first printing copies of Our Small World, copyright 1954 which is one of the 4 most treasured items from my
childhood, the others being stuffed animals. I lived in Shadyside down the street from WQED and Carnegie Mellon and had an opportunity to be one of the original members of the Tame Tiger Torganization. Yes, that’s what it was called. I had an opportunity to visit the set when I attended Falk School.

Fred and Josie impacted me in such positive ways. I couldn’t wait to turn on the television after school. I learned the songs in the book and later would sing them to my children, especially Goodnight God. I also taught the song to one of the chaplains assigned to the pediatric division during a rotation with my nursing students. I wrote out the chords for the guitar and we would sing it together on the unit. Its universality is as appropriate now as it was over 60 years ago.

The Children's Corner ended and I was growing up and so I parted company with Fred and Josie...so I thought.

In the summer between my second and third year of college, I was working in a hospital’s employee’s nursery caring for the children of the employees and was setting out the plates for dinner and the TV was on since the kids ate in the "all-purpose" room. My back was to the TV and suddenly, I heard the voice that had guided me during my early years; it was Fred!

I sat quietly staring at the screen and stopped all activity until my co-worker brought me back to reality. I went on to nursing school, became a pediatric nurse and wrote Fred and received a reply.

I live in Orlando and pass by Rollins every day on the way to work. I was asked to do devotion for our college prior to the staff meeting and focused on one of our mission words "nurture" and focused on how Fred spent his life nurturing the children of the world.

Being an only child and a product of multiple divorces as a child, I could count on Fred to be a stabilizing and kind force. Daniel S. Tiger, King Friday the XIII, Lady Elaine Fairchilde, Grandpere, and Xscape the Owl were some of my childhood friends. I now sit with my 2 ½ year old grandson watching Daniel.

So in closing, I will just say...Fred, thank you for letting us love you!
"The world needs a sense of worth, and it will achieve it only by its people feeling that they are worthwhile."