



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we enter this holiday season, we hope that each of you will find ways to express gratitude to those around you - children, family, friends, co-workers, the helpers in our communities, and people who may seem like strangers to you. We all have something to contribute and looking for the ways that others contribute to our well-being is one of the messages we have learned from Fred Rogers.

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“Anyone who has ever been able to sustain good work has had at least one person - and often many - who have believed in him or her. We just don’t get to be competent human beings without a lot of different investments from others.” - Fred Rogers

There are many ways to show our expressions of gratitude: a phone call, an email, a short note to those who are distant but still important in our lives; a smile, a nod, an expression of thanks to the people we encounter as we move around in our communities, and the gentle daily reminders to our closest family, friends, and colleagues that we are grateful for their daily love and support.

Letting others know that we are grateful for the places they hold in our lives enriches our relationships and helps to sustain a sense of well-being. And for those of you who work with children or have children in your lives, we know that you realize that they learn from us...by our examples... how to express gratitude to others. We hope that you will find some time to talk with children about what it means to be grateful and show them by your example how it feels to be a recipient of gratitude.

We are so incredibly grateful that you are all in our lives and we would love to know what gratitude means to you in these more difficult and challenging times.

Best wishes for 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roberta L. Schomburg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

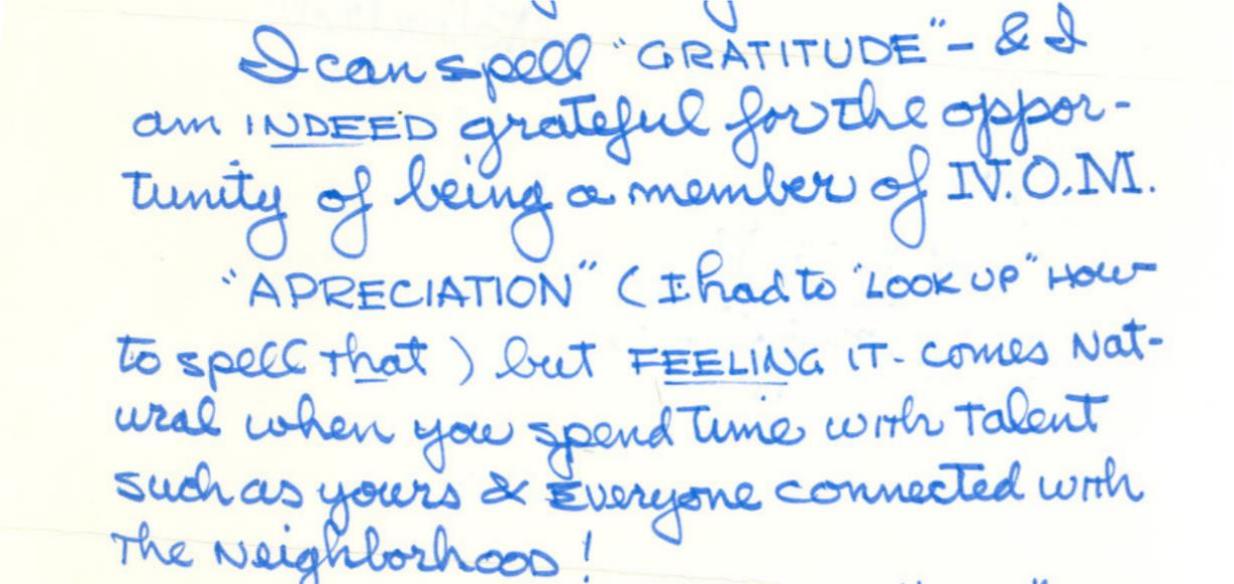
Roberta L. Schomburg, Ph.D., Executive Director, Fred Rogers Center

“Anyone who does anything to help a child in this life is a hero to me.” –Fred Rogers

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## IN THE ARCHIVE



I can spell "GRATITUDE" - & I am INDEED grateful for the opportunity of being a member of I.V.O.M.I. "APRECIATION" (I had to "LOOK UP" how to spell that) but FEELING IT - comes natural when you spend time with talent such as yours & everyone connected with the Neighborhood!

Sometimes in the Archive we find fun writings and letters by the *Neighborhood* characters. Here we have a note from Robert Troll thanking Fred Rogers for making him part of the Neighborhood of Make-Believe. Robert Troll spoke in gibberish, which some parents did not appreciate. But Fred believed that the character was a positive influence, encouraging children in their experimentation with word play and language sounds. Bob Trow was the talented artist behind Robert Troll. He also created the Neighborhood of Make-Believe models displayed in Mister Rogers' kitchen. He appeared in nearly 100 episodes before his death in 1998.

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## FROM THE CENTER

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## In Appreciation of Children's Helpers

*“There must be times when you wonder what in the world you can do for a certain child or a certain family, yet you wanted so much to be of service that little by little the answer often comes to you, and you discover the way to be that helpful appreciator which invariably makes the difference – no matter how primitive the resources may be.” – Fred Rogers’ 1998 Address to the National Association for the Education of Young Children*

In our work with families and children’s helpers through the Fred Rogers Center, we often talk about Fred’s idea of being a “helpful appreciator.” While we talk about this in the context of supporting helpers to be helpful appreciators of children, we want to take this time to show our appreciation for you, the helpers. Through your tireless efforts, you have brought hope, joy, and understanding to so many children and families during the challenges and uncertainties of 2020. Thank you for your continued efforts to support children and their families, and for your being there, which we know matters the most. You make an invaluable difference, and we are so grateful for the gift of you, the helpers.

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## WORDS OF WISDOM

"The gifts we treasure most over the years are often small and simple. In easy times and in tough times, what seems to matter most is the way we show those nearest us that we've been listening to their needs, their joys, and to their challenges." - Fred Rogers

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**Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning &  
Children's Media**  
Saint Vincent College  
300 Fraser Purchase Road  
Latrobe, Pennsylvania 15650-2690