

## CONSERVATORY NOTES

# The Power of Kindness

By Carol Forbes Scheig

*“You are perfect, just the way you are.”* – Fred Rogers

Imagine being a child struggling with either personal or family issues, and hearing those simple yet powerful words coming to you every day! It could be life changing. We could all use this dose of assurance daily. I know I certainly do. Early on, Mister Rogers helped shape my educational philosophy. I believe that every child coming through our doors at South Shore Conservatory (SSC) should (and I hope they do) feel accepted exactly as they are, and it is up to me and my early childhood team to make sure that vision becomes a reality for our children. Mister Rogers’ kindness and gentility resonates with me personally, and I try each and every day to put personal struggles and unfinished tasks aside while I greet the young treasures, who walk through our doors daily, upon arrival and dismissal time. It is not only a pleasure for me, but a tribute I show from my heart to a truly special man and educator.

Again, a simple phrase and yet you cannot help but smile when you hear it. I am fortunate to have the most amazing next door neighbors who are part of the joy I feel daily. In honor of Mister Roger’s birthday (March 20), I urge you to please

go and meet and greet your neighbors. If you already know them, *bravo*, Fred would be so proud of you!

My daughter found an article about a time that Fred’s car had been stolen. As you can imagine he received quite a bit of media attention. Upon finding out that the car they had taken was in fact Mister Rogers’ car, the thieves put it back in the exact location from where it was taken, complete with a note of apology. Who but Mister Rogers could illicit that fabulous response?

**“I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you.”**  
- Fred Rogers

Fred Rogers was a musician, minister, and a supporter of public television. He has spoken before congressional hearings in support of early childhood education, public television and healthcare issues. Mister Rogers was so much more than his kind voice and signature sweater. I appreciated the fact that when the trolley went into The Land of Make Believe, when the imaginative fun was done, the trolley came back to Mister Roger’s home. A very clever message, again simple but yet powerful. I try to insist that my teaching staff respond to me as King Friday’s subjects did, “Correct as usual Miss Carol,” but it’s not taking hold.



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Fred Rogers looked for the good and expected the good from everybody. If you practice that simple step it really affects you as much as the recipient of your gentle kindness and acceptance. As you go through this month of his birth, take a moment in your hectic schedule to think a kind thought, do a kind deed and simply treat everyone as if they were your neighbor! It will make a powerful difference.

*Carol Forbes Scheig is Director of Preschool and Kindergarten at SSC and would love to have a neighbor just like you!*