

For Immediate Release Contact: Anna Post apost@vermontpbs.org 802-655-8042

> It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood! Vermont PBS Asks "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" with Free Broadcast of Award-winning Fred Rogers Documentary

Colchester, VT – February 1, 2019 – <u>Won't You Be My Neighbor?</u>, the critically acclaimed documentary of the life of public television star Fred Rogers, will air on Vermont PBS Saturday, February 9 at 8 pm. "Mr. Rogers is our hero for leading a revolution of kindness and caring for 50 years in public television. We are sharing this award-winning film on Vermont PBS with everyone—for free," states Holly Groschner, President and CEO of Vermont PBS. "We believe our viewers care about the impact of Mr. Rogers's dialogue of inclusion and kindness. When we meet Fred Rogers as adults, through this documentary, we come to understand his fundamental courage. His ideas about radical kindness resonate through the Vermont PBS mission to this day."

Be sure to tune into Vermont PBS for this one-time only broadcast for an intimate look at America's favorite neighbor Fred Rogers, whose beloved television program, *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* was beamed into homes for more than thirty years by Vermont PBS.

Vermont PBS also plans to host community screenings of the film followed by discussion groups throughout the Vermont viewing region in March and April, supported by viewer contributions.

Since its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2018, *Won't You Be My Neighbor*? has become the top-grossing biographical documentary of all time, earning more than \$22 million at the domestic box office. It is the recipient of three Documentary Critic's Choice Awards, including Best Documentary, Best Director, and Best Editing, as well as the Audience Award at the IFP Gotham Awards. Director Morgan Neville's film is also nominated for five Cinema Eye Honors, including Best Documentary; the Producers Guild of America award for Best Documentary Motion Picture; and the Film Independent Spirit Award for Best Documentary.

ABOUT VERMONT PBS

Vermont PBS connects neighbors through stories that change lives. As Vermont's only statewide independent TV station, Vermont PBS is a powerful catalyst that informs, educates and inspires. When you support Vermont PBS, you help all Vermonters learn, grow, and contribute to our great state and the world. Learn more at vermontpbs.org.