Dr. François Clemmons Joins the Season Finale of *Mister Chris and Friends*

*Vermont PBS Series Welcomes Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood Regular*

Winooski, VT – November 19, 2019 – For 25 years, Dr. François Clemmons performed the role of friendly neighborhood policeman Officer Clemmons in the "Neighborhood of Make-Believe" on the children's television show *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*. This month, the actor and Middlebury, Vermont resident makes a special appearance on another PBS children’s television program, joining the cast of *Mister Chris and Friends* in *Traditions*, the sixth and final episode of season two of *Mister Chris and Friends*. The episode airs November 26 at 10 am and streaming at vermontpbs.org/misterchris and on Passport. The Emmy-nominated kids’ music series from Vermont PBS encourages learning, exploration, and fun for the entire family.

“Working on the set with Mister Chris brought me right back to my time with Fred Rogers. Mister Chris and I share a commitment to nurturing children, and Vermont PBS helps us reach our neighbors everywhere,” says Dr. Clemmons. “Fred Rogers and I and the other neighbors spent 25 years creating a safe place for children to learn and grow. PBS continues our work as a trusted educator available to all children, and I’m proud to call Vermont PBS my neighbor.”

In *Traditions* Mister Chris, played by Chris Dorman, is so excited for the upcoming harvest tradition that he makes a wish to Wishing Well that the tradition will be the exact same as it’s always been. But as Mister Chris prepares for the harvest feast, things don’t go as quite as planned. Dr. Clemmons helps Mister Chris see that traditions don’t have to remain exactly
same, and that what matters most is spending time with those you love. Mister Chris sings a song with Dr. Clemmons called These Days.

“Vermont PBS is honored to welcome the spectacular and legendary Dr. François Clemmons to Mister Chris and Friends,” says Holly Groschner, President and CEO of Vermont PBS. “His lifetime of teaching inclusion, love, and respect makes his character, the wise neighbor, a perfect focus for this episode.”

“In the show, Dr. Clemmons gently guides Mister Chris to remember there is much to be thankful for in our lives,” says Chris Dorman. “The truth is, François regularly shares that same message with me and with so many others in real life. I feel deeply thankful to know Dr. François Clemmons and honored he chose to film with us!”

*Mister Chris and Friends* features the songs and adventures of Mister Chris. Season two celebrates themes of change and transition throughout its six episodes, which mix curiosity, song and friendship with science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematic (STEAM)-based concepts, and music, movement, and routine help to build a safe social and emotional environment for young viewers.

Along with all of season one, watch the full first two episodes of season two now at vermontpbs.com/misterchris, or view all of season two with Passport, a benefit of membership to Vermont PBS. And, watch for the *Mister Chris and Friends in Concert series*, presented by Vermont PBS, Let’s Grow Kids, and ECHO. This series is sensory-friendly and features STEM-based learning activities in addition to a concert full of favorite songs from Mister Chris.

ABOUT VERMONT PBS
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