A close-up photograph of a hand holding a blue pen, writing on a white notepad. The notepad has faint, handwritten text in blue ink that reads "I Thank God For You". The text is written in a cursive, slightly slanted font. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue. Overlaid on the center of the image is a semi-transparent white rectangular box containing the text "I Thank God For You" in a large, white, serif font with a blue outline. The text is arranged in two lines: "I Thank God" on the top line and "For You" on the bottom line.

I Thank God  
For You

I Thank God For You

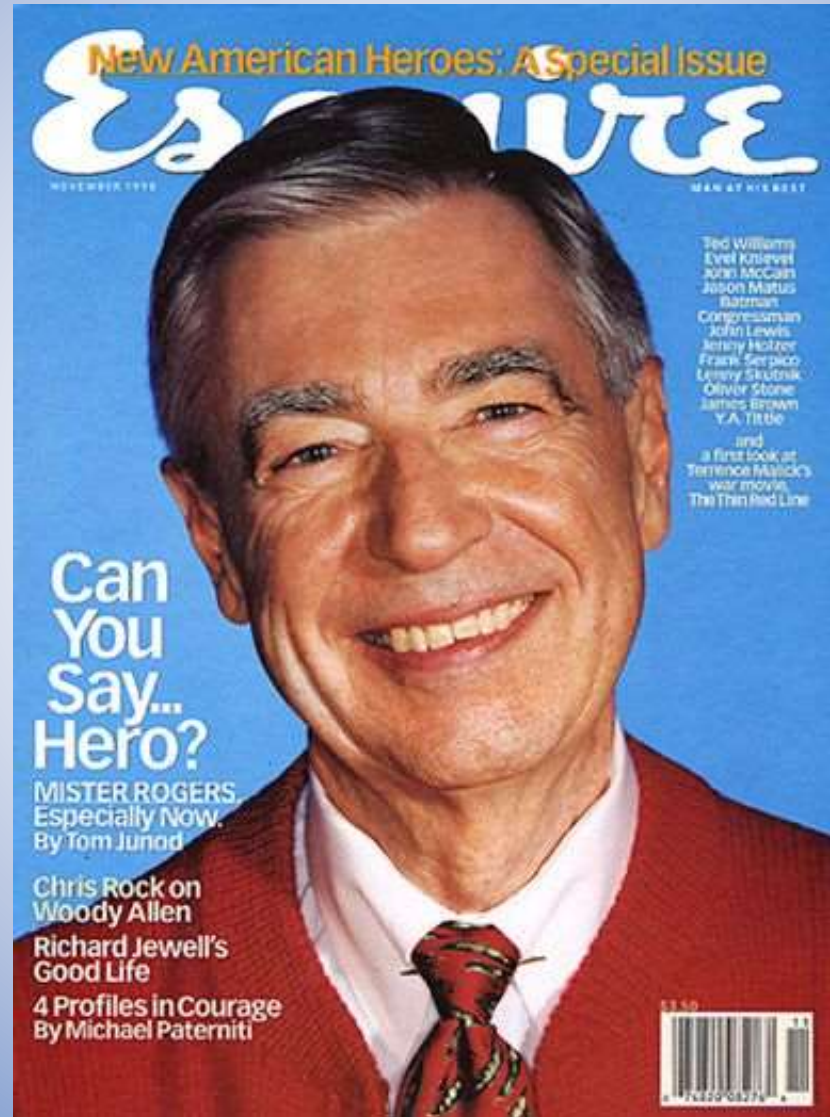


Mr. Rogers

# I Thank God For You



# I Thank God For You





# I Thank God For You



Fred Rogers before Congress in 1969

I Thank God For You



Fred Rogers before Congress in 1969

# I Thank God For You

## This Is What I Give



“This is what I give. I give an expression of care every day to each child, to help him realize that he is unique. I end the program by saying, ‘You’ve made this day a special day, by just your being you.’”

— Fred Rogers



I Thank God For You

This Is What I Give



“There’s no person in the whole world like you, and I like you, just the way you are.””

– Fred Rogers



# I Thank God For You

## This Is What I Give



““I’m supposed to be a pretty tough guy, and this is the first time I’ve had goose bumps for the last two days.”

– Senator Pastore

I Thank God For You

This Is What I Give



“Looks like you just earned  
the \$20 million.”

— Senator Pastore

**I Thank God For You**

**This Is What I Give**

“Oh, Mister Rogers, thank you for my childhood!”

“Oh, Mister Rogers, you’re the father I never had!”

“Oh, Mister Rogers, would you please just hug me?”



I Thank God For You

This Is What I Give



World Kindness Day

I Thank God For You

This Is What I Give



World Kindness Day

**I Thank God For You**

**This Is What I Give**

“Fred inspired because he saw the good in everyone.

Fred challenged because he wanted everyone to see the good in themselves.”

— Tom Junod



# I Thank God For You

I'm Proud of You



MY FRIENDSHIP WITH  
FRED ROGERS

With a new afterword by the author

Tim Madigan

I Thank God For You



Fred Rogers and Tim Madigan

# I Thank God For You

**Family Communications**

Producer of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood

July 1, 1996

Family Communications, Inc.  
4802 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
412-687-2990 Fax: 412-687-1226

Dear Tim,

The answer to your request is

"YES"

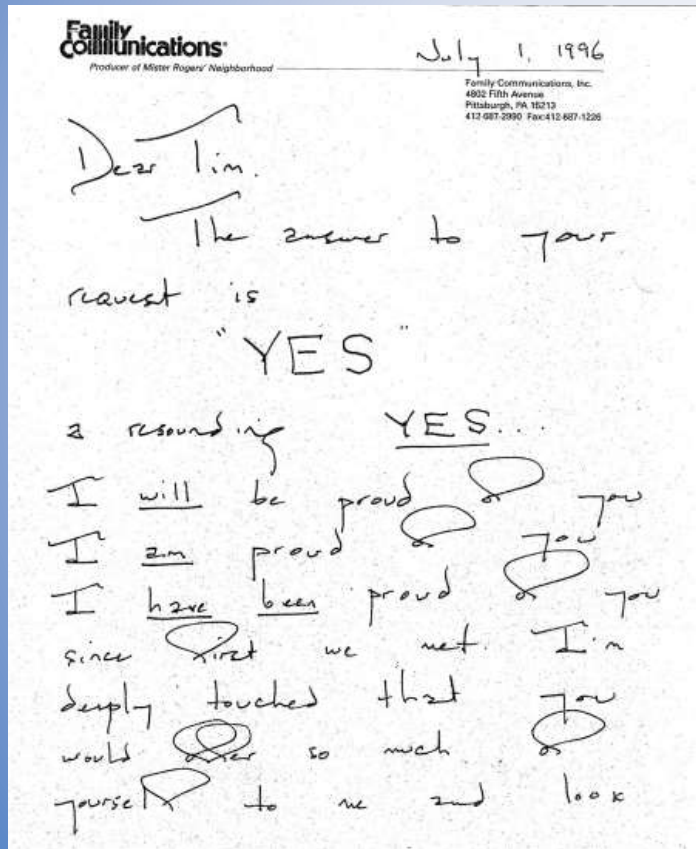
a resounding YES...

I will be proud of you  
I am proud of you  
I have been proud of you  
since first we met. I'm  
deeply touched that you  
would over so much of  
yourself to me and look



# I Thank God For You

## I'm Proud of You

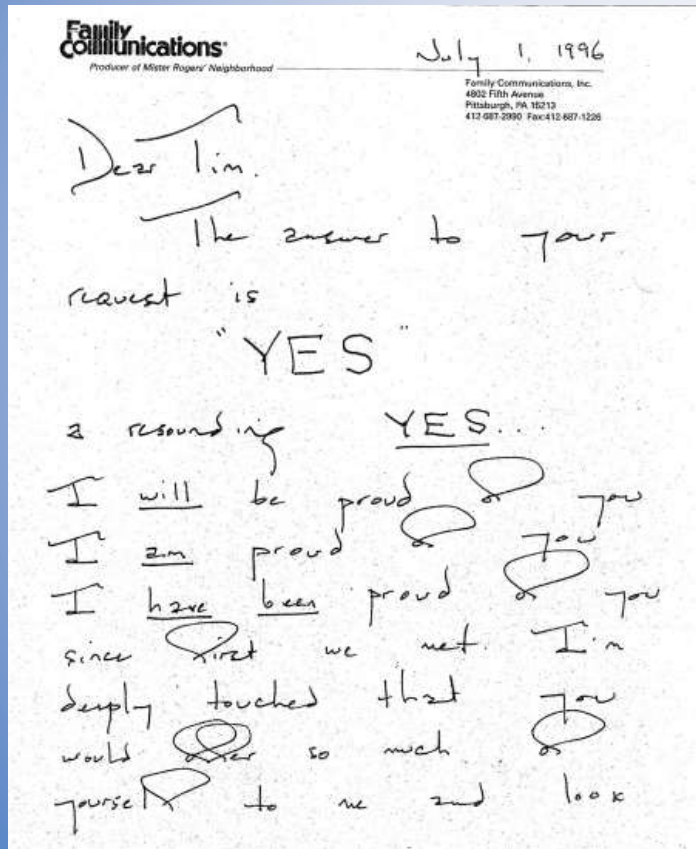


“Dear Tim,

The answer to your question is "YES"...a resounding YES . . . I will be proud of you. I am proud of you. I have been proud of you since first we met.”

# I Thank God For You

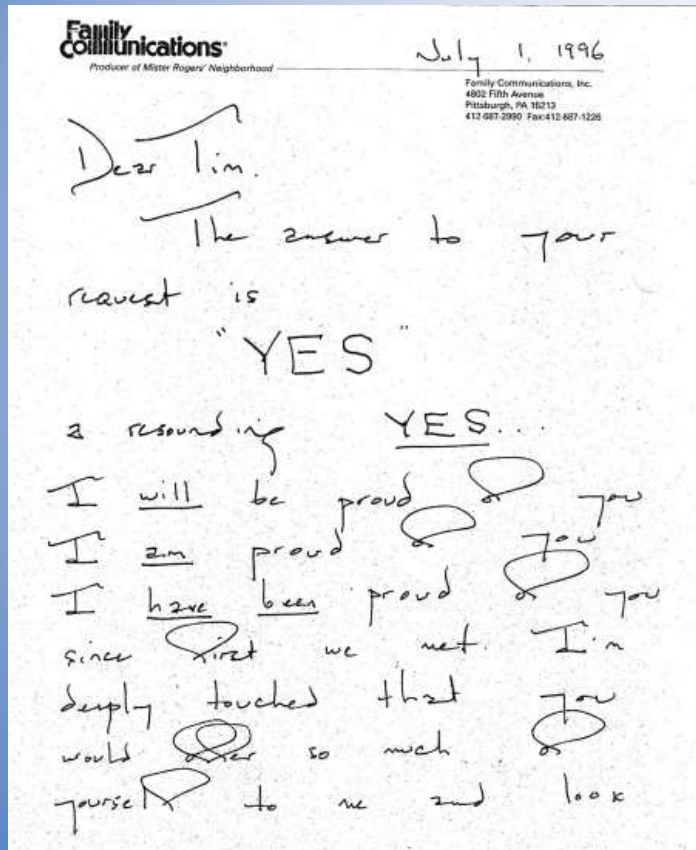
## I'm Proud of You



“Please know how grateful I am for you, Tim. Real friendships work both ways. Your trust confirms my trustworthiness, your love, my loving. I am proud of you and honored to be your friend.”

# I Thank God For You

## I'm Proud of You



“Those of us who love you and are loved by you are a truly blessed band. You can be assured of my prayers for that continued healing. As always, I ask for yours.

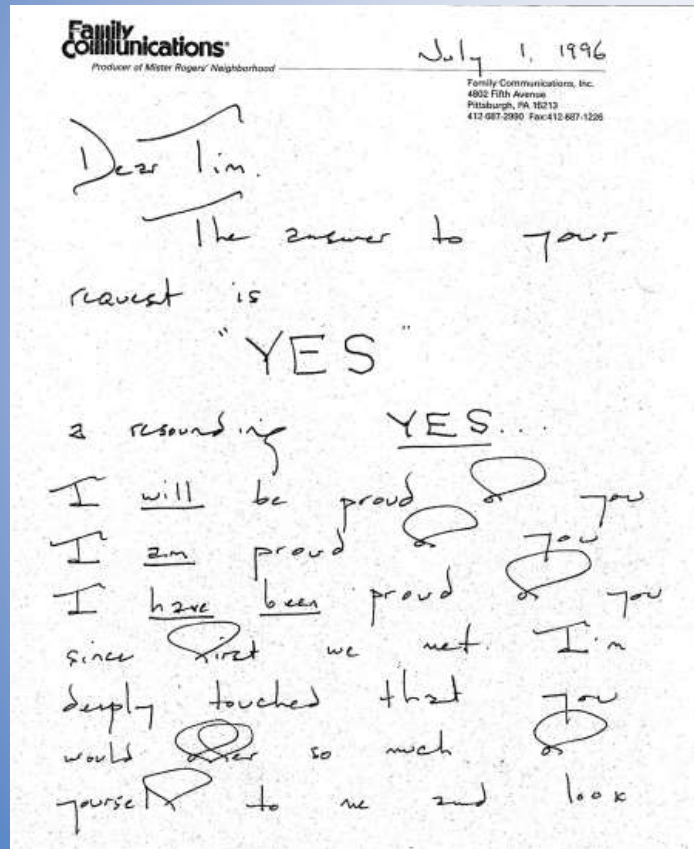
To be sure,

I POY.”



# I Thank God For You

## I'm Proud of You



“You're an important part of [*my*] life, Tim. I'm grateful to God for you. My love is with you always...

Most importantly...

IPOY.”



# The Power of Thanksgiving

# I Thank God For You

## The Power of Thanksgiving

*“Give thanks to the LORD. Call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!”  
(1 Chronicles 16:8)*

# **I Thank God For You**

## **The Power of Thanksgiving**

**An attitude of thankfulness...**

- **Refocuses our life on what's good in the world.**
- **Offers us a higher perspective—no matter our circumstances—that life is still precious and worth celebrating.**
- **Gives us hope for the future.**



# I Thank God For You

## The Power of Thanksgiving

An attitude of thankfulness *for others...*

- Refocuses our life on what's good in others.
- Offers us a higher perspective on others—no matter their present circumstances—that they are still precious and worth celebrating.
- Gives us hope for their future and who they can become.

# **I Thank God For You**

## **The Power of Thanksgiving**

**Thanking GOD for others...**

- **Allows us to believe in and encourage others in a way we could never accomplish within our own power.**



# Paul's Thankfulness

# I Thank God For You

## Paul's Thankfulness

*“I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God’s will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.” (Romans 1:8-10)*



# I Thank God For You

## Paul's Thankfulness

*“Because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him...” (Ephesians 1:15-17)*

# I Thank God For You

## Paul's Thankfulness

*“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”  
(1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)*

# I Thank God For You

## Paul's Thankfulness

“Paul’s thanksgivings generally follow the same pattern:

1. Give thanks...
2. to God...
3. Always...
4. for the recipients...
5. For certain reasons, which are then elaborated...”

— Gordon Fee

# I Thank God For You

## Paul's Thankfulness

“As with the salutation, [*Paul's thankfulness*] contains a number of items that anticipate the body of the letter.”

— Gordon Fee



# I Thank God For You

## Paul's Focus of Thankfulness

*“I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you...” (1 Corinthians 1:4-9)*

# I Thank God For You

## Paul's Focus of Thankfulness

*“So that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

*(1 Corinthians 1:4-9)*

# I Thank God For You

## Paul's Focus of Thankfulness

“What is remarkable here is the apostle’s ability to thank God for the very things in this church that, because of the abuses, are also causing him grief.”

— Gordon Fee

# I Thank God For You

## Paul's Focus of Thankfulness

Paul's thankfulness had a past, present, and future focus:

Past:

- *'The grace of God given you in Christ Jesus'*
- *'Enriched in him in all speech and knowledge'*
- *'The testimony of Christ confirmed among you'*



# I Thank God For You

## Paul's Focus of Thankfulness

Paul's thankfulness had a past, present, and future focus:

**Present:**

- *'You are not lacking in any gift'*

# I Thank God For You

## Paul's Focus of Thankfulness

Paul's thankfulness had a past, present, and future focus:

Future:

- *'As you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ'*

# I Thank God For You

## Paul's Focus of Thankfulness

Paul's thankfulness had an absolute GOD focus:

- *'I give thanks to my God always for you'*
- *'The grace of God given you in Christ Jesus'*
- *'In every way you were enriched in him'*
- *'As the testimony about Christ was confirmed'*

# I Thank God For You

## Paul's Focus of Thankfulness

Paul's thankfulness had an absolute GOD focus:

*“God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 Corinthians 1:9)*



# I Thank God For You

## Paul's Focus of Thankfulness

“If Paul’s confidence lay in the Corinthians themselves, then he is in trouble.

But...in Paul’s theology the *indicative* (God’s prior action of grace) always precedes the *imperative* (their obedience as response to grace) and is the ground of his confidence.”

— Gordon Fee

# I Thank God For You

## Paul's Focus of Thankfulness

“Even though Paul is concerned to remind the church that they have not yet arrived, at the same time he holds out before them his great confidence that by God’s own action they will indeed make it in the end.”

— Gordon Fee

# I Thank God For You

## Paul's Focus of Thankfulness

“Consequently, by means of thanksgiving Paul redirects their confidence from themselves and their own giftedness toward the eternal God, from whom and to whom are all things.”

— Gordon Fee

# I Thank God For You

## Paul's Focus of Thankfulness

*“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart.” (Philippians 1:3-7)*





Those We Hold  
In Our Hearts

**I Thank God For You**  
**Those We Hold in Our Hearts**



**Lifetime Achievement Award Speech, 1997**

# I Thank God For You

## Those We Hold in Our Hearts



“All of us have special ones who have loved us into being. Would you just take, along with me, ten seconds to think of the people who have helped you become who you are. Ten seconds of silence.”

# I Thank God For You

## Those We Hold in Our Hearts



“I’ll watch the time.”



# I Thank God For You

## Those We Hold in Our Hearts



“I’ll watch the time.”

# I Thank God For You

## Those We Hold in Our Hearts



“May God be with you.”

# I Thank God For You

## Those We Hold in Our Hearts



*“You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts to be known and read by all.”*

*(2 Corinthians 3:2-3)*

# I Thank God For You

## Those We Hold in Our Hearts



*“And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.”  
(2 Corinthians 3:2-3)*



# I Thank God For You

## Those We Hold in Our Hearts


“In the external scheme of things, shining moments are as brief as the twinkling of an eye, yet such twinklings are what eternity is made of—moments when we human beings can say ‘I love you,’ ‘I’m proud of you,’ ‘I forgive you,’ ‘I’m grateful for you.’ That’s what eternity is made of: the invisible, imperishable good stuff.”

— Fred Rogers

I Thank God For You

Those We Hold in Our Hearts

*“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;  
another withholds what he should give, and only  
suffers want.” (Proverbs 11:24)*

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a blue pen, writing on a white notepad. The notepad has faint, handwritten text in blue ink that reads "I Thank God For You". The text is written in a cursive, slightly slanted font. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue. The overall image has a warm, personal feel, suggesting a moment of reflection or gratitude.

I Thank God  
For You