

# Rogers Nominated for "Outstanding Older Worker"



photo by Raneë Fladung

Fran Rogers, pictured above, can be found most days working at the Wellman-Scofield Public Library. She was recently nominated for an Iowa's "Outstanding Older Worker" certificate. Congratulations Fran.

by Sandra L. Aggson, Director  
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Fran Rogers, Wellman-Scofield Public Library's Assistant Librarian was recently nominated for Outstanding Older Worker. This is an "experience works" program honoring a senior citizen working 20 hours a week in a paid position. Fran received a certificate "Iowa's Outstanding Older Worker" Nominee for 2002.

Fran's daughter, Teri, submitted the following information.

Fran has nearly 40 years of dedication to public libraries and reading. She continues learning new skills and to grow in her profession. She shows concern and care for others in her community, especially teens and the elderly.

Teri wrote: "In one of my earliest memories of my mother, I am tagging along after her as she and other community members work to prepare our first public library for opening day.

Fran and her Cadette Girl Scout troop had made a com-

mitment the previous year to work towards the creation of a public library for Coralville, Iowa, at that time a town of 3,100. They held a bake sale and a book drive, and garnered enough community wide support to be granted space in the basement of the City Hall.

Volunteers painted, made shelving, and prepared books for check-out. Fran became one of the library's first paid staff members when the library moved to larger quarters 15 months later.

For the next 25 years, Fran served in many capacities at the library, from volunteer wall painter to library Board of Trustees president. Whatever needed to be done was cheerfully tackled.

While she developed her skills as a librarian, she and her husband Robert raised five children. she was actively involved with Scouting, and with a group of volunteers, helped organize and run a short summer day camp for girls. As a committed church member, her involvement ranged from serving as church

secretary to Sunday school teacher.

Shortly before Fran's retirement, she and her husband, Robert, moved to a small acreage near Wellman, Iowa. It was here that she found a new passion and hobby, quilting. She is active in four local quilting groups; as a church quilting circle member Fran helps make quilts that are distributed to children in need.

After Robert's death from cancer, Fran took courses to become a trained Hospice volunteer. Her understanding and willingness to help families during difficult life transitions has made her many friends in the Washington County community.

Upon her retirement from the Coralville Public Library, Fran began volunteering at the Wellman-Scofield Public Library. While helping with reorganization, the value of her years of experience and education led to the offer of a new job, Assistant Librarian.

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In Wellman and throughout her career as a librarian, Fran has been known for her kind and welcoming personality. She believes in the power of libraries and reading to enhance the lives of all people in the community, and willingly shares her lifelong love of books with others. In her current position, she and her co-workers manage many of the daily tasks of the library such as shelving and checking out books, and helping patrons find information. Beyond the warmth of her public personality, she also is an engaging and supportive co-worker who makes coming to work a pleasure.

Fran's love of librarianship includes a detailed understanding of practical library procedures. She strongly encouraged application for Iowa Public Library Accreditation, which recognizes Wellman-Scofield Public Library's ability to pass specific benchmarks of quality public service. She frequently attends continuing education workshops, and regularly attends Iowa Library Association conferences in an effort to maintain and expand her professional skills.

I believe my mother, Fran Rogers, is an outstanding older worker because she continues to challenge herself with new community and work roles. Her faith and spirit give her the courage to respond to community needs with a heartfelt, "I am willing to try."

I learned much about Fran from Teri's memories of her mother's accomplishments. Fran is indeed a pleasure to work with. Daily I see how

very knowledgeable Fran is regarding library procedures, as well as life's experiences, as she pleasantly works with people of all ages. We are very fortunate to have her as one of Wellman-Scofield Public Library's staff members.