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## **Christmas Cheer Spreads to Homeless Children**

**Dallas, TX – December 13, 2017** - Over **700 homeless children and families** from Dallas area shelters experienced holiday joy this weekend at **Rainbow Days'** annual **Saturday with Santa event**. Held at **Lovers Lane United Methodist Church**, Rainbow Days was delighted to host families on Saturday, December 9 from 11:30 am – 2:30 pm, from 17 different shelters in our community to have a meaningful holiday family bonding experience.

Saturday with Santa was a jovial day for families to bond in the holiday spirit, outside of the shelters, with fun carnival games, a delicious hot lunch of tacos and all the fixings provided by **Chuy's**, and a special visit from Santa Claus himself! Each child left with a stocking filled with presents and brand new toy for Christmas and each family member received many necessities and holiday treats. Many individuals and local organizations helped make this day possible through their generous donations, including: The **Rees-Jones Foundation**, **PepsiCo-Frito Lay**, **ORIX**, **Home Depot**, **Attorneys Serving the Community** and many other kind-hearted helpers.

"It's hard to believe in an affluent City like Dallas, that we have thousands of children who are experiencing homelessness on a daily basis. They are often the unseen and forgotten victims of homelessness. Rainbow Days is meeting the tangible, social and emotional needs of homeless children in our community through year-round supportive services and special events, like Saturday with Santa," shared Cathey Brown, Rainbow Days' Founder & CEO. "We are one of the only service providers in our community that is meeting the needs of children residing in a multitude of shelters throughout Dallas and Collin County."

Saturday with Santa has been a key activity offered within Rainbow Days' Family Connection Program since in early 1990. Family Connection is Rainbow Days' award winning collaborative model for meeting the critical needs of homeless children ages 4-12. Family Connection positively impacts over 1,100 homeless children and 300 parents each year through partnerships with over 24 homeless serving sites. Through proven and effective services, Rainbow Days brings hope, coping skills, and resilience to the lives of these children to help them overcome their adversities and create positive futures.

This year children and youth, ages infant to 18, from 19 local partnering shelters participated in Saturday with Santa. Shelter partners include: Family Gateway Center, Salvation Army Domestic Violence and Women's Lodge Shelter, Family Place, Reconciliation Outreach, New Beginnings, Family Gateway Permanent Supportive Sites, Meadow Lane, Cedar Crest and Pemberton Hill, Dallas Life, Under 1 Roof, Union Gospel Center of Hope, Genesis Women's Shelter, Nexus Recovery Center, Interfaith Housing, Shared Housing, Promise House, City House, Our Friends House and Budget Suite Homeless families.

Since 1982, Rainbow Days, a 501c3 Dallas-based nonprofit organization, has helped children and youth in adversity build coping skills and resilience to create positive futures. Founded by current CEO Cathey Brown, Rainbow Days has served more than 210,000 children in the Dallas area and trained over 47,000 adults to facilitate Rainbow Days' award-winning Curriculum- Based Support Group (CBSG®) Program nationwide. Through support groups, classroom-based education programs and other special services, Rainbow Days positively impacts over 11,000 children and youth living in adversity each year. Rainbow Days is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and receives the majority of its funding from foundations, corporations, and individual donors along with the United Way. For more information about **Rainbow Days**, please visit our website at [RainbowDays.org](http://RainbowDays.org) or contact us at 214-877-0726.

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