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**MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE [June 4, 2018]**

**Rainbow Days and UT Dallas to partner for 23rd year of Kids' University summer camp,
inspiring local homeless youth to aspire for higher education**

DALLAS, Texas – **Rainbow Days, Inc.** and **The University of Texas at Dallas** will host the 23rd annual **Kids' University** summer camp for children living in local shelters. The first session will be held at the **UT Dallas** campus in Richardson from **June 5-8, 2018**, and the second session will be held **June 18-21, 2018**, from 10 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. each day. Through diverse classroom experiences such as science, technology, engineering, art, music, career options and more, Kids' University teaches children about goal-setting and aiming **for higher education** while improving their academic, social and developmental skills.



Over two sessions, Kids' University gives over **300 local homeless children and youth** between the ages of 4 and 12 a positive, rewarding and educational summer camp experience. As they explore different career opportunities throughout the week, Kids' University attendees will be exposed to a collegiate environment and see firsthand the value of higher education in their lives. Children also benefit from caring adult staff mentors, social-emotional learning activities and participating in Rainbow Days' nationally recognized, evidence-based **Curriculum-Based Support Group (CBSG[®]) Program**.

Each week will conclude with a **special graduation ceremony** during which camp participants will wear colorful caps and gowns and receive diplomas from **Dr. George W. Fair, UT Dallas Vice President of Diversity and Community Engagement**. This unforgettable experience will allow each child to envision graduating from a higher learning institution in the future. The first session's graduation ceremony will take place **Friday, June 8**, and the second week's will be **Thursday, June 21**. Both ceremonies will begin at **1:30 p.m. in Hoblitzelle Hall** on the **UT Dallas campus**.

Graduates of the first session will hear a commencement speech from **James Munton**, star of the **James Wand Spy Magic Show**, who will emphasize the importance of making good decisions and preventing drug and alcohol abuse. Graduates of the second session will hear from professional artist **Tony Ballard**, affiliated with **The Artist Outreach**. A participant in Rainbow Days programs as a child, Ballard will speak to this year's Kids' University graduates about his experiences and inspire them to work toward achieving their dreams.



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During Kids' University, camp participants will attend interactive, educational courses throughout the week to experience the power of education as a means to unlock their futures. Sessions will include: educational outreach from the **Commemorative Air Force Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP)**; engineering with **Frito Lay's Partners in Education**; physics and geology from the **Perot Museum**; computer science and technology with **Cranium Kids**; math and algebra taught by **UT Dallas students**; nurturing and reading time with four-legged friends from **Heart of Texas Dog Therapy**; dance classes taught by **UT Dallas dance faculty member Melissa Johnson**; and a **petting zoo**. Throughout the week, participants will also continue to develop their coping skills, decision-making skills and social-emotional learning skills through the guidance of caring adult mentors who serve as group leaders and Rainbow Days' **Curriculum-Based Support Group (CBSG®)** facilitators. Kids' University's overarching purpose is to help inspire participants to stay in school, pursue college and consider a multitude of future career paths and possibilities.

Rainbow Days would like to recognize the generosity of **Heart of Dallas** and **American Airlines**, for their generous financial sponsorship of Kids' University. Additionally, Rainbow Days is grateful for the support of **Mi Cocina**, the **Intrinsic Foundation** and **Raising Cane's**, all of which will provide meals and snacks for the children throughout the week. Rainbow Days is also grateful for our partnership with the **Dallas ISD Homeless Education Department**, which provides bus transportation for the children to and from camp each day. Last, but not least, we are grateful for our longtime partner, **The University of Texas at Dallas**, which has been partnering with Rainbow Days for 23 years to make this camp possible.

LOCATION and IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- UT Dallas, 800 W. Campbell Road, Richardson, TX 75080
- Kids' University classes will be held in Classroom Building 1 and 2 and in other buildings for special assemblies. See the additional attachment for specific locations on the UT Dallas campus map.
- Kids' University is CLOSED to the PUBLIC. But, OPEN to MEDIA.

ABOUT RAINBOW DAYS: Founded in **1982**, Rainbow Days has a mission to help children and youth in adversity build coping skills and resilience to create positive futures. Through support groups, camps, mentored events and tangible items, Rainbow Days serves over **11,000 at-risk children and youth in the Dallas area** annually. For more information about Kids' University or Rainbow Days, please visit our website at RainbowDays.org or call us at 214.887.0726.

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