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**MEDIA ADVISORY  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE [June 5, 2018]**

**Rainbow Days and UT Dallas to partner for 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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, 2018** and the second week's will be **Thursday, June 21, 2018**. Both ceremonies will begin at **1:30 p.m. in the Science Learning Center Building Auditorium** 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 **Tony Ballard**, professional artist, composer, musician and minister who is affiliated with **The Artist Outreach**. Tony is a participant in Rainbow Days programs as a child and will speak to this year's Kids' University graduates about his experiences and inspire them to work toward achieving their dreams.

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 in other buildings for special assemblies. See the additional attachment for specific locations on the UT Dallas campus map.
- Kids' University GRADUATION CEREMONY will be held in the SCIENCE LEARNING CENTER Building.
- 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](http://RainbowDays.org) or call us at 214.887.0726.

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