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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Rainbow Days Hosts 22nd Annual Pot of Gold Luncheon Featuring Actress Marlee Matlin

DALLAS – Rainbow Days hosted its 22nd annual **Pot of Gold Luncheon** at the **Hilton Anatole Grand Ballroom** on **May 3**. On this beautiful Friday afternoon, **545 supporters** and guests gathered to raise more than **\$179,000** for Rainbow Days through sponsorships, individual seats, auction bidding, raffle ticket sales and donations.

Held **annually** since 1997, the Pot of Gold Luncheon is a cheerful and **celebratory fundraising event benefiting Rainbow Days'** mission and services. Each year, the luncheon features an inspiring keynote speaker, special performances from the Rainbow Days children, **moving program testimonials** and silent auction bidding.

The 2019 event did not disappoint: Guests enjoyed an **intimate keynote address** from **Academy Award-winning actress** and activist **Marlee Matlin**. Although Matlin lost her hearing when she was only 18 months old, she never let her challenges dictate her future or deter her dreams; in 1986 at age 21, she became the youngest woman to receive the Academy Award for Best Actress.

At the luncheon, Matlin inspired guests with the story of how she **pursued her goals and dreams while overcoming adversities**, abuse and addiction. Further, she encouraged guests to support and believe in the children of Rainbow Days: kids who, just like her, have boundless dreams and limitless potential despite the present situations they may be facing. Matlin left guests with one final message, a mantra to always remember: **"Courage + Dreams = Success."**



Rainbow Days program participants from **Exodus Ministries** and **Tom Field Elementary School** also took to the stage at the 2019 Pot of Gold Luncheon. In honor of Matlin's presence, the children performed a touching rendition of "This is Me" from "The Greatest Showman" using American Sign Language.



Another highlight of the luncheon program was the premiere of **Rainbow Days' new short film, "[Reflections of Hope: A Short Film](#),"** which features **program participants of the past and present**. Their **raw, uplifting testimonials** demonstrate the true impact of Rainbow Days and how it feels to have **supportive people who care** in their lives. Thank you to **M3 Films** for helping film and produce this moving piece!



This year's event was made possible through the hard work, time and resources of the wonderful **2019 Pot of Gold Committee** members. Event leadership included Luncheon Chair **Nikki Chriesman-Green** and Auction Chair **Nicole Williams**. Special thanks are also in order for **Todd Whitthorne**, who served as the event's emcee.

Rainbow Days would also like to recognize the many **sponsors, donors** and **volunteers** who helped make the 2019 Pot of Gold Luncheon possible. Featured here are sponsor levels Silver and above:

- *Diamond: Nancy Ann & Ray L. Hunt, Anonymous, Hilton Anatole, Mary Kay and PwC*
- *Gold: American Airlines, Citi, ORIX Foundation and Thompson & Knight Foundation*
- *Silver: Advanced Group, Phyllis & John Horan, Jill & Dale Hurd, Mary Jo & James McKellar, The Oxley Family and USI*

Additionally, Rainbow Days is honored to have had **The Park Cities News** and **Good Life Family Magazine** as Media Sponsors for the 2019 Pot of Gold Luncheon.

ABOUT RAINBOW DAYS: **Rainbow Days** is a Dallas-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. 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 more than **10,000 at-risk children and youth in the Dallas area** each year. For more information, please visit www.RainbowDays.org or call (214) 887-0726.

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