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**MEDIA ADVISORY
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Children experiencing homelessness to shine onstage at *Camp Bravo!*

DALLAS – Rainbow Days’ Camp Bravo! will welcome more than 300 children from local homeless and domestic violence shelters, transitional living sites and motels for two weeks of visual and performing arts learning experiences at **Lovers Lane United Methodist Church**. The first session is **July 9-12**, and the second session will take place **July 23-26** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. *This annual camp is closed to the public, but reporters and media are welcome to attend.*



Camp Bravo! gives homeless children ages 4 to 12 the opportunity to spend time away from the shelter and discover new talents, explore the arts and have the unforgettable experience of performing live onstage. Cultural artists for Camp Bravo! are sponsored by the **Community Artists Program (CAP)**, a program of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs. This year’s CAP classes and assemblies include **drumming, visual arts, dance, acting** and other **cultural arts** experiences. Additionally, other local artists and instructors will teach campers **music, cooking, video production** and more!

A highlight of Camp Bravo! will be a special performance held the last day of each session on **Friday, July 12**, and **Friday, July 26**, at **1:30 p.m.** in **Asbury Hall at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church**. Children will have the chance to shine onstage during a **live performance** alongside children’s performing artist **Eddie Coker**. During the show, the kids will wear colorful T-shirts and accessories and carry circus-themed props as they dance and sing in front of an audience filled with their fellow campers as well as Rainbow Days supporters.



The Camp Bravo! **experience is transformative** for many homeless children who rarely have an opportunity to be a “star” of a production, and Rainbow Days provides the **red carpet treatment!** For example, the children receive “Oscar” awards and sign autographs at the end of the show. For many,



performing at Camp Bravo! may be their very first onstage experience in front of a live audience.

“Exposing homeless children to the arts through creative learning opportunities provided by caring, positive artists from our community makes such an incredible impact in their lives,” shared Rainbow Days’ **Director of Family Connection Kelly Wierzbinski**. “It only takes one

moment, one mentor or one memorable experience to **build a child’s confidence** and help them realize their own limitless potential.”

At Camp Bravo!, each child will also participate in Rainbow Days’ **Curriculum-Based Support Group (CBSG®) Program**, an award-winning **social-emotional learning program** that helps children build and develop important **copng, decision-making and life skills**, such as how to resist negative peer pressure, make healthy choices and set goals for the future. Throughout the week, campers will also benefit from the guidance of **caring adult mentors** who serve as group leaders.



Rainbow Days is grateful for the numerous donors and volunteers who make this camp possible. Camp Bravo! is supported by the generous financial support of **Communities Foundation of Texas**, the **Holloway Family Foundation** and the **Aegon Transamerica Foundation**. Additionally, Rainbow Days cherishes its continued partnership with **Lovers Lane United Methodist Church**, which graciously hosts Camp Bravo! each year. Special thanks are also in order for the following foundations for their overall support of Rainbow Days’ **Family Connection** programs benefiting homeless children: **The Rees-Jones Foundation**, **Citi**, **Baron & Blue Foundation**, **Capital for Kids** and the **United Way of Metropolitan Dallas**.

ABOUT RAINBOW DAYS: Camp Bravo! is a program of **Rainbow Days**, a 501(c)(3) Dallas-based 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** annually. For more information on Camp Bravo! or Rainbow Days, please visit www.RainbowDays.org or call (214) 887-0726.

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