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**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE [July 14, 2021]**

**Rainbow Days Hosts 175 Children from Local Shelters for *Camp Bravo!***



**DALLAS** – From June 29 through July 2, **Rainbow Days’ Camp Bravo!** welcomed **175 children** from local homeless and domestic violence shelters, transitional living sites and extended-stay motels for a visual and performing arts summer camp experience at **Lovers Lane United Methodist Church**.

**Camp Bravo!** gave homeless children ages 4 to 13 the opportunity to spend time away from the shelter and discover new talents, explore the arts and have the unforgettable experience of performing onstage. Cultural artists for Camp Bravo! were sponsored by the **Community Artists Program (CAP)**, a program of the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture. This year’s classes and assemblies included **drumming, visual arts, dance, acting, storytelling** and numerous **cultural arts** experiences. Additionally, other local artists and instructors taught campers **music, cooking, video production** and more.

The Camp Bravo! experience culminated with a **special performance** on the last day of camp. Children had the **unforgettable opportunity to shine onstage** during a live performance alongside children’s performing artist **Eddie Coker**. During the show, the kids wore colorful accessories and carried themed props as they danced and sang in front of an audience filled with their fellow campers, parents and numerous Rainbow Days supporters.

The annual Camp Bravo! experience can be **transformative** for many homeless children, who rarely have an opportunity to be a “star” of a production, and Rainbow Days always provides the **red carpet treatment!** For example, the children received “Oscar” awards and signed autographs at the end of the show. For many, performing at Camp Bravo! was their very first onstage experience in front of an applauding audience.



“Exposing homeless children to the arts and creative forms of self-expression can make a lasting 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 potential and talents.”

At Camp Bravo!, each child also participated in Rainbow Days' **Curriculum-Based Support Group (CBSG®) Program**, an award-winning **peer support group** model grounded in social-emotional learning principles that helps children build and develop important **coping, 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 also benefited from the guidance of **caring adult mentors** who served as group leaders.

Rainbow Days is grateful for the numerous donors and volunteers who made this special camp possible. Camp Bravo! 2021 was supported by the generous financial support of the **Holloway Family Foundation, Aegon**



**Transamerica Foundation** and **Women of Saint Michael**. Additionally, Rainbow Days cherishes its continued partnership with **Lovers Lane United Methodist Church**, which hosts Camp Bravo! each year. Special thanks are also in order for the following foundations for their overall support of Rainbow Days' **Family Connection** program benefiting homeless children: **The Rees-Jones Foundation, Citi, Baron and Blue Foundation, Capital for Kids, In-N-Out Burger Foundation** 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, **life enrichment programs** and critical needs services, Rainbow Days makes meaningful connections with at-risk and homeless children and youth and has positively impacted more than **234,000 kids in the Dallas area** to date. For more information, please visit [www.RainbowDays.org](http://www.RainbowDays.org) or call (214) 887-0726.

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