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MEDIA ADVISORY

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



DALLAS – Rainbow Days’ Camp Bravo! welcomed **127 children** from local homeless and domestic violence shelters and transitional living sites for a visual and performing arts summer camp experience hosted **July 12-15** at **Lovers Lane United Methodist Church**.

Held annually since the early 1990s, **Camp Bravo!** gives homeless children ages 4-13 the opportunity to spend time away from the shelter and discover new talents, explore the arts and have the unforgettable experience of performing onstage. This year’s classes and assemblies included **drumming, visual arts, dance, acting** and other **cultural arts** experiences. Programming at Camp Bravo! was supported in part by the **City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture**. Additionally, other local artists and instructors taught campers **pottery, music** and more.

After attending three days of interactive arts classes, the campers closed out the week with a **“Christmas in July” themed production**. During the show, the children wore colorful costumes and accessories as they danced and sang onstage to classic Christmas songs in front of an audience filled with their fellow campers and supporters of Rainbow Days.

The Camp Bravo! **experience was transformative** for many homeless children, who seldom have an opportunity to “star” in a production. Rainbow Days provided the **red carpet treatment** as the children received “Oscar” awards and signed autographs at the end of the show. For many, performing at Camp Bravo! 2022 was their very first onstage experience in front of an applauding audience.



At Camp Bravo!, children also benefited from participation in Rainbow Days' **Curriculum-Based Support Group (CBSG®) Program**, an award-winning **peer support group** model. The CBSG® Program, which is grounded in social-emotional learning research and principles, 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.

Additionally, children received individualized writing assistance during camp through the **Picture Writing Process (PWP)** from **EZWrite**. Campers learned and practiced their writing skills in a fun, engaging way with picture boards used to emphasize the "Christmas in July" theme of the final production. As Rainbow Days has observed many children falling behind even further in school since the onset of the pandemic, this creative learning opportunity was of extra importance at this year's camp.



Rainbow Days is grateful for the numerous donors and volunteers who made this special camp experience possible. Camp Bravo! 2022 was sponsored in part by the generous financial support of the **Aegon Transamerica Foundation, Holloway Family Foundation** and **Women of Saint Michael**. Additionally, Rainbow Days cherishes its longstanding partnership with **Lovers Lane United Methodist Church**, which graciously continues to host the camp year after 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 Moody Foundation, The Rees-Jones Foundation, Citi, Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation, Capital for Kids, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, Baron and Blue Foundation, In-N-Out Burger Foundation, Simmons Bank** and **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 **241,000 kids in the Dallas area** to date. For more information, please visit www.RainbowDays.org or call (214) 887-0726.

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