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**MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE [March 7, 2023]**

**Rainbow Days Partners with Texas A&M MSC Spencer Leadership Conference
to Bring Joy and Mentorship to Local Homeless Children and Youth**

DALLAS – On **March 4th**, **The Children’s Aquarium at Fair Park** was visited by a very special group of guests: **45 homeless children and youth** living in local motels and transitional living sites joined **student mentors from Texas A&M University** for a day of fun, mentorship and one-of-a-kind experiences with aquatic animals.



Rainbow Days children interact with sea animals at Children's Aquarium at Fair Park on Saturday, Mar. 4, 2023, in Dallas.

Such a wonderful event was made possible through a longstanding partnership between **Rainbow Days** and **Texas A&M’s MSC Spencer Leadership Conference**, a tradition started by former Rainbow Days intern, Lindsay Lammers in 2010. For **thirteen** years, sophomore college students from Texas A&M’s annual MSC Spencer Leadership Conference have traveled to Dallas to partner with Rainbow Days to **serve, mentor and bring joy** to children and youth experiencing **homelessness and adversity in the Dallas community**.

This year was no different; the kids in attendance had the rare opportunity to experience the **Children’s Aquarium at Fair Park** firsthand. The children participated in **petting stingrays, minnows, snakes and reptiles** while learning about various sea animals. All children were paired with individual student mentors from Texas A&M with whom they could tour the Aquarium, observe animals and enjoy lunch.

“It is amazing to see the kids’ excitement for a fun adventure, make memories and **form genuine bonds** with their new friends from Texas A&M,” said Kelly Wierzbinski, Rainbow Days’ Director of Family Connection. “We are **grateful** to our partners at the Texas A&M MSC Spencer Leadership Conference, who consistently help us create **positive experiences** for the children we serve and **expose them to what their futures could be like.**”



Texas A&M student Daniel Orosco, middle, observing stingrays with Rainbow Days children on Saturday, Mar. 4, 2023, in Dallas.



Texas A&M student Sharon Ruiz, right, poses with Rainbow Days children on Saturday, Mar. 4, 2023, in Dallas.

The day prior, all the student mentors attended the **MSC Spencer Leadership Conference**, which is hosted **annually in Dallas**. For this prestigious conference, Texas A&M sends a **select group of sophomore students** to learn from top business professionals about **leadership, ethics, mentorship** and **service**. Thus, a day spent with Rainbow Days was the perfect way to end the conference; through this **direct mentorship event**, the students put what they learned into practice while encouraging, mentoring and **impacting the children and youth** and creating special memories to last a lifetime.

Rainbow Days would like to thank the following individuals and organizations without whom this event would not have been possible: **Texas A&M MSC Spencer Leadership Conference; Mikayla Slaydon; Dario Maaskant; and the Children's Aquarium at Fair Park; Interfaith Housing, Family Gateway Downtown; Family Gateway North.**

ABOUT RAINBOW DAYS: Rainbow Days is 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 over **10,000 at-risk children and youth in the Dallas area annually**. For more information, please visit www.rainbowdays.org or call our office at (214) 887-0726.

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