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Inspiring Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds
at Kids' University Summer Camp held at UT Dallas

DALLAS [June 15, 2011] – Rainbow Days, Inc. is pleased to announce that another successful Kids' University Camp for homeless children took place on the campus of the **University of Texas at Dallas** on **Tuesday, June 7, 2011 – Friday, June 10, 2011**. Over 130 children attended Kids' University I camp from area shelters to experience a week filled with educational and fun courses centered around this year's theme "Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds".



Each year, **Kids' University** Summer Day Camps provides over 220 children from 20 Dallas County and Collin County homeless shelters with a real-life college experience. This year at Kids' University I children participated in various educational and recreational classes including Rainbow Days' support groups, Cranium Kids' computer class, Whole Foods' nutrition class, creative writing and storytelling, UT Dallas' pre-algebra one-on-one education, karate and exciting hands-on science experiments with Dallas' Top Secret Science. One special highlight of this year's camp was the presence of two Secret Service agents who brought their special bullet-proof Suburban as show and tell as they shared about career possibilities in the U.S. Secret Service. Special guest, Trey Brown, from nonprofit prevention organization paxUnited also empowered Kids' University students "with the skills and motivation they need to empower each other to change the world." Trey is a trainer at paxUnited and is committed to providing youth with skills and resources that will empower them to reach their full potential in becoming healthy, caring and socially responsible individuals. Trey delivered an innovative peer mediation activities from Peers Making Peace © which provides youth the life skills they need for peaceful conflict resolution.

All classes were taught by caring community volunteers, teachers, and paid professional instructors. Each day, children enjoyed special outdoor activities led by Bank of America volunteers during lunch and indoor craft activities led by Girl Scout Troop #1687.

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The highlight of Kids' University is the graduation ceremony on the last day of camp. Each child walks across the stage wearing a brightly colored cap and gown to receive his/her diploma. Kids' University graduates shake hands with **Dr. George W. Fair, Dean of Interdisciplinary Studies at UT Dallas**. Following graduation, children enjoy a festive party with cupcakes and decorations which were provided this year by National Charity League – Golden Corridor Chapter volunteers.

Keith Davis, former NFL player and motivational speaker served as the **Kids' University I Graduation commencement speaker on Friday, June 10th**. Prior to graduation, Keith performed powerful motivational presentation for all the children attending camp from **10 – 11 a.m. on June 10th**. Keith Davis is best known for his athletic successes at the University of Southern California and as a New York Giant in the NFL. By sharing his own personal trials and triumphs, Keith relates to every student and delivers the resounding message that they can be champions in their own life. Keith uses his strength and athletic ability to punctuate his messages to the children. Rolling up a frying pan for example illustrates that you can be shaped into a new person, bending a pipe into a U shape helps reinforce the message that students can turn their life around. Keith is partnering with Rainbow Days through the 'Just Say YES' program. The purpose of Just Say YES is to help youth say YES to their dreams and goals and NO to destructive choices. The Just Say YES program has a permanent impact on children and youth and we are excited to have the opportunity for Keith Davis' unforgettable presentation. **Kids' University I Graduation was held on Friday, June 10th at 1:00 p.m. on the UT Dallas campus.**



For **Kids' University II (to be held Tuesday, June 21 – Friday, June 24)**, Rainbow Days is pleased to announce **Raul Magdaleno, Assistant Director of Community Outreach at SMU's Meadows School of the Arts**, as the graduation commencement speaker. Raul Magdaleno is a Hispanic College Fund Scholar who overcame extreme adversity to become the first in his family to graduate high school and college. His inspiring story stresses the importance of never giving up on the pursuit an education despite the challenges involved. Today, Raul is giving back to the community by dedicating his life to higher education and inspiring children and youth who are facing homelessness and other adversities to follow their dreams. **Graduation for Kids' University II will be Friday, June 24th at 1:00 p.m., on the UT Dallas campus.**

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The goal of Kids' University is to help children in area shelters aspire to higher learning, while improving their academic, social, and developmental skills. *"Kids' University at UT Dallas provides these deserving children with a memorable experience of what their future can be,"* said Dr. George Fair, Dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies at The University of Texas at Dallas. *"First-generation college students can find campuses intimidating. This camp provides an early life experience which shows them college is an accepting, encouraging and positive environment. We are pleased to host the Kids' University campers for the 16th year."* One way to introduce children to the college was through campus tours provided the University's Department of Community Engagement.

Rainbow Days is grateful for the generous financial and inkind donors who made this year's **Kids' University I** camp possible. Special thanks to: **The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, The United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, The Baron and Blue Foundation, Citi Foundation, Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation, Capital for Kids, Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation, Bank of America, The University of Texas at Dallas, Dallas Independent School District, Whole Foods, Just say YES, paxUnited, Texas Commission on the Arts, National Charity League – Golden Corridor and Bluebonnet Chapters, Girl Scout Troop #1687 at Hockaday School and Hunger Busters.**

Rainbow Days is proud to be a service provider funded by the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas (UWMD). UWMD is the largest non-governmental funder of health and human services in Dallas, Collin, Rockwall and southern Denton counties. Locally governed and volunteer-led, UWMD creates long-term community impact in the key areas of education, income and health.

Since 1982, **Rainbow Days** has provided children living in high-risk situations with the skills and support they need to overcome adversity and stay drug-free. To date, Rainbow Days has served more than 120,000 children in the Dallas Metroplex and trained more than 34,000 professionals in facilitating award-winning life skills support groups and programs. For more information about Kids' University or Rainbow Days, please visit our website at www.rdikids.org contact us at: 214-887-0726.

Directions on UT Dallas Campus: **Media** - Please contact **UT Dallas' Director of Communications Katherine Morales**, prior to your arrival at: **Office: 972-883-2155/cell: 214-718-1263**. Media and other visitors should enter the UT Dallas campus at Campbell Road and University Parkway. Link to the campus map <http://www.utdallas.edu/map/>