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PAGE 1 of 3

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Local Homeless Children to Design Artwork at Week 2 of Kids' University Summer Day Camp held at UT Dallas

DALLAS [June 18, 2010] – Rainbow Days, Inc. is proud to announce its continued partnership with The University of Texas at Dallas in hosting the second week of ***Kids' University (KU II)***, **Monday, June 21 – Thursday, June 24, 2010**. ***Over the last three years, the number of homeless children referred to Rainbow Days' summer camps has more than doubled the number of available camp slots. Rather than turn dozens of children away, Rainbow Days has expanded its number of camps in order to meet the growing demand for services.*



KU II is a four-day summer camp for Dallas-area homeless children, held at UT Dallas. During camp week, approximately 125 children from Dallas area homeless shelters will have the opportunity to experience a real-life college campus while participating in various educational and recreational classes

including Rainbow Days' support groups, computer classes with Cranium Kids, Kidz Science, Nutritional Cooking (provided by **Whole Foods**), Algebra, Artistic Expression, Stress Management, and Anti-Smoking. Executives from **Comerica Bank** will also be on hand teaching a financial management course, entitled "Show Me the Money". All classes are taught by caring community volunteers, teachers, and paid professional instructors. **Classes will be held Monday, June 21 – Thursday, June 24, at the Classroom Building 1 at UT Dallas, located at 800 Campbell Road in Richardson from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** each day. The highlight of this 4-day summer day camp is the graduation ceremony, which is held at the end of the camp week. During the graduation ceremony, each child will have the opportunity to walk across the stage, wearing a brightly colored cap and gown, to receive his/her diploma. The experience is complete with each child shaking hands with **Dr. George Fair, Dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies at UT Dallas.**

Rainbow Days is pleased to announce that **Omar Jahwar , Founder and Executive Director of Vision Regeneration, will serve as commencement speaker for the graduation**

PAGE 2 of 3 Local Homeless Children to Design Artwork at Week 2 of Kids' University Summer Day Camp Local held at UT Dallas

ceremony. Mr. Jahwar was instrumental in creating Dallas' first Violence Free Zone (VFZ), which is one of only five nationally recognized Violence Free Zone programs in the country. **Graduation will be Thursday, June 10th at 2:00 p.m., in Conference Center (CN on the campus map) in room CN 1.112 at UT Dallas.**

In addition to the classes and the graduation ceremony, children participating in KU II will design, draw, and color original artwork during Art class. Each art piece will be considered for use with the ***Help the Homeless Walkathon & 5K***, which benefits **Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance** (MDHA). The winning masterpiece will be featured on T-shirts, advertising, flyers, posters, signs and brochures for the event. Rainbow Days is a member organization of MDHA.

The goal of Kids' University is to help children in area shelters aspire to higher learning, while improving their academic, social, and developmental skills. While KU is designed to promote higher education, it also exposes the children to innovative and creating learning experiences. Children learn valuable life skills that will help them now as well as in the future. *"Kids' University at UT Dallas provides these deserving children with a memorable experience of what their future can be,"* said 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 be hosting Kids' University campers and we are equally thrilled to open our campus for this camp for a second week."*

Rainbow Days is grateful for the generous donors who make this year's Kids University possible. Special thanks to: The ***U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, The University of Texas at Dallas, Comerica Bank, Dallas Independent School District, National Charity League, Protecting Our Children,*** and ***Whole Foods.***

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 110,000 children in the Dallas Metroplex and trained more than 30,000 professionals in facilitating 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 to Conference Center on the UT Dallas Campus: Media and other visitors should enter the UT Dallas campus at Campbell Road and University Parkway. Stop at the temporary Visitor's Information Center, located at the junction of Armstrong Drive and University Parkway. Inform the courtesy officer that you are visiting Kids' University at the Conference Center and that you need a visitor's parking pass. From there, you will be directed to the University Conference Center and appropriate parking. Media, please call the Office of Communications (972-883-2155) prior to arrival to facilitate your visit.

(Link to the campus map <http://www.utdallas.edu/map/>)

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