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## **Local Homeless Children “Dream Big” at Kids' University Summer Day Camp held at UT Dallas**

**DALLAS [June 2, 2010]** – Rainbow Days, Inc. is proud to announce its continued partnership with the University of Texas at Dallas in hosting the **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids' University (KU)**, summer day camp for homeless children, **Monday, June 7 – Thursday, June 10, 2010.**



KU provides approximately 125 children from 12 Dallas area homeless shelters with a real-life college experience. Children participate in various educational and recreational classes including Rainbow Days' support groups, fun computer classes with Cranium Kids, art, nutrition with Whole Foods, creative story telling, pre-algebra, music, chemistry experiments, and exciting science lessons with Kidz' Science—all taught by caring community volunteers, teachers, and paid professional instructors. **Classes will be held Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Classroom Building 1 at the University of Texas at 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 and receive a diploma. The experience is complete with each child shaking hands with **Dr. George Fair, Dean of Interdisciplinary Studies at UT Dallas** and **State Senator Royce West.**

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Drug Demand Reduction Program is scheduled to land a helicopter in the soccer field south of the School of Management on Thursday at 12:45 p.m. The Demand Reduction's pilot will conduct an assembly to help the children understand the damage drugs cause to individuals and communities. They also will provide the children with real-life insights into the dangers of drug use.

Rainbow Days is pleased to announce that **Senator Royce West, District 23**, will serve as this year's commencement speaker. Senator West's key initiatives over his legislative career have included creating college admission opportunities for all students. His legislation has created the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center at Prairie View A&M University, increased funding for at-risk youth programs, imposed a new zero tolerance law for minors who drink and drive, enacted stiffer penalties for adults who sell or provide alcohol to minors, awarded greater compensation to victims of violent crime, addressed the problems of criminal street gang violence, established new standards for child care and enhanced enforcement of protective orders. Graduation will be **Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., in Conference Center (CN on the campus map) in room CN 1.120 at the University of Texas at Dallas.**

The goal of KU 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 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 the Kids' University campers for the 15<sup>th</sup> year."*

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, The Holloway Family Foundation, Dallas Independent School District, National Charity League 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](http://www.rdikids.org) contact us at: 214-887-0726.

**Directions to Conference Center on the UT Dallas Campus:** From Waterview Parkway, turn right onto Drive L from the south, left onto Drive L from the north. Lot H lies just beyond the stop sign. Prepare to stop at the intersection of Drives L and H. Follow the vinyl green stripe up Drive L to access parking. To the right is Lot H. Park your car. Use the walking path, and head southeast toward the oak trees and buildings and see the Conference Center.