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'Santa Claus is coming to town'

DALLAS [December 13, 2014] – Rainbow Days will host its annual Christmas party for homeless children, *Saturday with Santa*, on December 13, 2014 at St. Monica Catholic Church in Dallas. Through this event, Christmas will come early for over 500 homeless children and their parents residing in one of 27 different domestic violence and emergency homeless shelters, transitional living centers and Permanent Supportive Housing Apartments in Dallas and Collin County. This magical day will be filled with carnival games and a Christmas movie. It is a special time for parents and children to bond and have time away from their stressful living situations and focus on enjoying the holiday season. Refreshments, Christmas themed arts & crafts, games, stockings filled with presents and even a visit from Santa Claus himself will all be a part of this exciting day.

Saturday with Santa is closed to the public, but open to the media. Saturday with Santa is one of the many activities within Rainbow Days' Family Connection Program, which is the organization's collaborative model for meeting the critical needs of homeless children ages 4-12. Family Connection positively impacts over 1,100 homeless children and 300 parents each year through partnerships with 27 homeless serving sites. Through a variety of programs, activities and support groups, Rainbow Days brings hope to the lives of these children and teaches them life skills for a promising future.

"We want these children to know they aren't forgotten," says Cathey Brown, Founder and CEO of Rainbow Days. "Last year, while approaching Santa to receive his stocking, a little 6 year old boy joyfully exclaimed 'I knew you wouldn't forget me Santa.' Even these children who do not have a home need to know people care about them and that the magic of Christmas is alive for them even if they don't have a physical home."

Rainbow Days is grateful for the generous donors who make this special day possible. A special thanks to St. Monica Catholic Church for opening their hearts and facilities for the event, Rees-Jones Foundation for their generous underwriting of transportation, Chuy's on Knox in Dallas for providing lunch to the families, Bank of America for underwriting the cotton candy machine and t-shirts, and JCPenney for underwriting the popcorn machine, Kids in Distressed Situations and The Toy Industry

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Foundation for over \$40,000 in toys and Skillman Church of Christ for providing over 500 stockings filled with scarves, hats, umbrellas, books, markers and lots of Christmas goodies. In addition, we would like to extend a special thanks to Skillman Childhood Development Center, The Grace Place-Duncanville Church of Christ, Grace Place Properties and The Nehemiah Project, ReGeneration Recovery Ministry, Drake Athletics, Pepsico/Frito-Lay, Mary Kay Corp, Ernst & Young, Home Depot, Citi, US Department of Housing & Urban Development, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, Preston Hollow Women's Group, National Charity League (Golden Corridor & Preston Bluebonnet Chapters), Young Men's Service League (Plano & Legacy Chapters), Bishop Lynch - Brighter future for Rainbow Days Kids and numerous individual donors for their generosity to make this event possible.

Rainbow Days is a local nonprofit organization that gives children hope for a promising future by providing them with both the skills and support they need to make healthy choices, stay drug free and believe they have a purpose. Rainbow Days' core programs include support groups, classroom education, parent classes, summer camps and a variety of other activities which are conducted in partnership with schools, recreation centers, community centers, homeless shelters and other sites. On an annual basis, Rainbow Days serves over 11,000 children and youth in the Dallas area. For more information about Rainbow Days, please visit our website at www.rainbowdays.org or contact us at 214-877-0726.

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