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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**INTERFAITH FAMILY SERVICES PROVIDES HOMES AND HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAY | DALLAS, TEXAS**

While some children wish for iPads and toys for Christmas, there are hundreds in Dallas who wish for a place to call home. According to the Dallas Morning News, there are over 294,000 individuals in Dallas living in poverty-more than the total number of people living in Plano. Some of them, like Marquis, will even face homeless this holiday season.

As a 26-year-old single father with a 1-year-old, Marquis has overcome many hurdles within the past 6 months. He and his son, Malachi, recently moved to Texas from Phoenix, Arizona to be closer to Marquis' mother. When he landed a customer service job, Marquis was able to save enough so that he and his child could move out on their own. Then, an auto accident made his commute to work impossible, resulting in the loss of his job and eventually apartment. Marquis was referred to Interfaith Family Services and learned about our transitional housing services. He and his son were accepted into the program and were provided with a fully furnished apartment just in time for the holiday season. Marquis can now celebrate his son's first real Christmas without any worries. With the help of our career services, Marquis is now working for a transportation company and has told his Success Coach, Christie Richie, that he is looking forward to paying off his debt. He is grateful to God for a fresh start and those he believed God sent to help him and his son. We are inviting the community to become Holiday Helpers for Homeless Families in three ways. (See the attached flyer.) We also invite you to interview our families to see what it means to have a home and hope for the holidays.

**ABOUT INTERFAITH FAMILY SERVICES:**

For almost 30 years, Interfaith Family Services (Interfaith) has been a leading resource for working poor families and a haven for homeless children who long for stability and hope. Today, we are even more committed to our mission to empower families in crisis and break the cycle of poverty. At the core of our work is a simple yet effective program formula: Stability + Self-Worth + Skills = Self-Sufficiency. First, we stabilize about 100 homeless families (nearly 90% of them female-led) each year by providing them with fully-furnished housing for up to a year in one of the 26 units that we own debt-free, and we offer daily children's programs tailored to the unique needs of homeless children. Next, we increase their self-worth through on-site counseling for parents and play therapy for children. Finally, we develop their skills via career coaching, financial coaching, and life-skills classes for parents and daily homework assistance and individualized tutoring for children. These comprehensive holistic services lay the foundation for the families' long-term self-sufficiency. Our outcomes prove that our model works. Interfaith families earn more (\$13.51/hour), save more (\$1,631 on average), reduce more debt (\$1,167 on average), and remain self-sufficient longer than the members of any other transitional housing providers that report their outcomes publically.

For more information on Interfaith Family Services or to discover other ways you can support Interfaith's work, please contact Destiny DeJesus, Marketing and Media Coordinator, at [ddejesus@interfaithdallas.org](mailto:ddejesus@interfaithdallas.org) or visit [www.interfaithdallas.org](http://www.interfaithdallas.org).