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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMERLY HOMELESS CHILDREN TAKE CLASSES ON COLLEGE CAMPUS | DALLAS, TEXAS

For many homeless and disadvantaged children in Dallas, summer is a time of isolation, stress and academic regression. While children may enjoy being outside of the classroom for the summer months, it is vital to their future success that they continue their academic gains while on summer break. Through Socialization, Academic Advancement, Volunteer Opportunities, and Exploration, Interfaith is able to SAVE Summer by giving homeless youth a summer to remember.

On June 22, Interfaith's children "graduated" from Rainbow Days, Inc. and University of Texas at Dallas' 22nd annual Kids' University summer camp where local homeless children, ages 4-15, gathered to study robotics, algebra, engineering and more. Interfaith's K-5 youth wore colorful caps and gowns and received diplomas onstage congratulating them for their successes and allowing them to envision future graduations from high school and college.

"I want to graduate because then I can have an education and a good job and a family. Then I can buy my kids everything they want because I have a good job", says Jazmin, age 9. Thanks to Rainbow Days and the University of Texas at Dallas, Interfaith children have an even brighter future to look forward to and goals to accomplish. Interfaith invites you to witness the amazing work being done in the children's area in conjunction with their many wonderful community partners. To schedule a tour of Interfaith's campus, please contact Tenetia' Kelley, Community Relations and Events Manager, at tkelley@interfaithdallas.org.

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' SAVE Summer camp, please contact Destiny DeJesus, Marketing and Media Coordinator, at ddejesus@interfaithdallas.org or visit www.interfaithdallas.org.

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