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Rapier Trust, WellMed Charitable Foundation Donate \$1 million For Solar Water Heaters Partner With American Sunrise To Install Them In 200 San Antonio Homes

San Antonio, TX -- As the 40th anniversary of Earth Day approaches, the Blake, Kymberly and George Rapier Charitable Trust, in partnership with the WellMed Charitable Foundation, are announcing a \$1 million grant to American Sunrise for a green housing revitalization project.

The grant (\$500,000 a year for two years) will enable low- to moderate-income families to install solar water heaters. At present there are only nine homes in the entire City Public Service system with solar water heaters.

According to CPS Energy, the grant will increase that number of solar water heaters in area homes to 209 over the next two years. The grant pays for heaters and installation.

Savings estimates on utility costs for solar water heaters are more than \$300 a year, according to the solar water heater manufacturer. Retail cost plus installation are normally \$4,800.

"This effort will create a new population of 'green' supporters who will gain wisdom and appreciation for an environmentally friendly lifestyle, producing a green culture within our city," said WellMed Chairman and CEO Dr. George Rapier III. "Most importantly, these heaters are a cost effective and environmentally responsible alternative to conventional methods of producing domestic hot water."

American Sunrise is offering homeowners a Pay As You Save (PAYS) plan. Homeowners pay just \$25/month for 5 years which, with a federal tax credit of \$450 per installation, comes to actual out-of-pocket costs of only \$1,050 -- which is more than covered by estimated energy savings.

In addition to the solar hot water heaters, American Sunrise created a partnership with other leaders in the energy and water industry to maximize the efficiency of the homes. Other partners to this project include SAWS, who is providing 200 low water consumption toilets and faucet aerators; CPS Energy is replacing all light bulbs with

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Compact Florescent Light (CFL) bulbs; and Moen is providing 100 low flow goose neck kitchen faucets.

“This partnership reflects a fantastic collaboration between public, private and nonprofit groups to ‘green up’ our city and benefit San Antonians from all walks of life,” Mayor Julián Castro said.

Mr. and Mrs. Francisco Martinez will be the first family to install a solar water heater and the other efficient products under this new program in their home at 319 S. Pinto, near Lanier High School and the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center.

“The Martinez Family are the real deal; young homeowners who moved back to the West Side, renovated their home and are taking their home to the next level by making it more efficient; they are the true pioneers of a comprehensive green housing revitalization effort in San Antonio,” said Henry G. Cisneros, Chairman of American Sunrise.

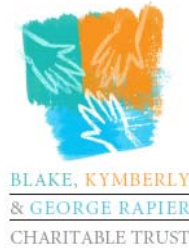
“We want to thank WellMed, American Sunrise and the others who have joined in this effort to give us an opportunity to have a solar hot water heater,” Francisco Martinez said. “We are honored and, frankly, humbled, by their gesture.”

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About WellMed Charitable Foundation: The WellMed Charitable Foundation (www.wellmedgives.org) is a non-profit 501(C) 3 organization that supports seniors and their caregivers in our community with special emphasis on wellness, prevention and living with chronic illness. Established in 2006 by Dr. George M. Rapier III, a noted geriatrician and the Chairman of the Board, the Foundation has contributed more than \$3 million to the San Antonio community.

About American Sunrise: In 2001, former HUD Secretary and former Mayor of San Antonio Henry G. Cisneros and his wife, the Honorable Mary Alice Cisneros, currently a member of the San Antonio City Council, established American Sunrise, a non-profit community builder organization. The mission of American Sunrise is to create communities where working families find housing, economic, and educational opportunities in the neighborhoods where they reside in order to achieve an adequate and equitable standard of living.

About the Blake, Kymberly and George Rapier Charitable Trust: In 2006, WellMed Founder Dr. George M. Rapier III and his wife Kym established this family trust, which often supports causes that help education (particularly dropout reduction efforts), disadvantaged children and families, homeless animals, seniors and healthcare. The family charity has donated more than \$3 million to local causes, and is on track to donate more than \$1 million in 2010.



The Solar Project - Solar Hot Water for San Antonio

The WellMed Charitable Foundation, in partnership with the Blake, Kimberly and George Rapiet Charitable Trust and American Sunrise, is spearheading **The Solar Project**, a solar hot water heater program to assist in reducing utility bills in low- and moderate-income homes in San Antonio and to create a green culture in our city.

American Sunrise is receiving a \$1 million grant (\$500,000/year for 2 years) for the purchase and installation of 200 solar water heaters. There are currently only nine customers in the CPS system with solar water heaters. This project will increase that number to 209.

Savings estimates on utility costs for solar water heaters are more than \$300 a year, according to the solar water heater manufacturer. Retail cost plus installation is normally \$4,800.

Pay As You Save (PAYS)

Qualifying homeowners receive the solar water heater and installation under a Pay As You Save (PAYS) plan for just \$25 a month for 5 years.

Homeowners may receive a federal tax credit of \$450 per installation, so the actual out-of-pocket costs covered by the energy savings are \$1,050.

Funds from the PAYS program go toward purchase and installation of additional solar water heaters, expanding and sustaining the program.

Who Qualifies?

Must be a homeowner

Must have currently have an electric water heater

Must have good exposure to the sun

Must have garage or storage shed for an 80-gallon tank

Must have a roof in good condition