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## **WCF Donates \$10,000 For 2<sup>nd</sup> Year To 'Project Cool' For Box Fans For Seniors More Than 20 Local WellMed Clinics to Serve As Fan Drop-off Sites**

**San Antonio, TX** – The WellMed Charitable Foundation today announced it will donate \$10,000 to a collaborative countywide effort help to reduce heat-related health risks to seniors by giving them free box fans.

For the second consecutive year, the non-profit WellMed Charitable Foundation is donating \$10,000 to *Project Cool*, which provides free box fans to anyone age 60 or older. The effort, spearheaded by the San Antonio Department of Community Initiatives and the San Antonio Fire Department, has provided more than 62,000 fans to seniors in San Antonio and Bexar County in the past 13 years. Last year, Project Cool collected and distributed more than 10,000 box fans to vulnerable seniors.

"Health dangers posed by heat are real and potentially deadly," said George M. Rapier III, M.D., Chairman and CEO of WellMed Medical Management, Inc. "More seniors die from heat-related problems than all natural disasters – such as tornadoes, earthquakes and floods – combined.

"At WellMed, we focus on prevention. Project Cool is preventing heat-related deaths by implementing this life-saving program."

In addition to the donation, WellMed clinics will serve as drop-off sites for box fan donations. WellMed operates more than 20 clinics in the Greater San Antonio area, where temperatures may cross the 100-degree mark this weekend.

Other partners in the initiative include the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, Catholic Charities, CPS Energy, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Bexar County Sheriff's Office and the Kronkosky Foundation.

Eligible seniors interested in receiving a box fan may call the United Way help line at **(210) 227-4357** or dial **211** from a home phone. The help line is active weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*The WellMed Charitable Foundation ([www.wellmedgives.org](http://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 Chairman of the Board, the Foundation has contributed more than \$3 million to the San Antonio community.*