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For immediate release: Monday, June 6, 2011

## WellMed Charitable Foundation Donates \$10,000 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 is once again a partner in a collaborative to reduce heat-related health risks to seniors by giving them free box fans.

The non-profit Foundation has donated \$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, the San Antonio Fire Department and Catholic Charities, has provided nearly 72,000 fans to seniors in San Antonio and Bexar County. Now in its 15<sup>th</sup> years, Project Cool kicked off the 2011 campaign today (June 6, 2011).

More than 20 WellMed clinics in the San Antonio area also will serve as drop-off sites for box fan donations, along with all city fire stations with the exception of the one at the San Antonio International Airport.

"As the largest primary care provider for seniors in South Texas, we recognize the importance of Project Cool," said George M. Rapier III, M.D., Chairman and CEO of WellMed Medical Management, Inc. "The elderly are especially vulnerable to extreme weather conditions. In fact, more seniors die from heat-related problems annually 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."

WellMed operates 22 senior-focused multi-specialty clinics in the San Antonio area, where forecasters predict the mercury will reach 99 or 100 degrees most days this week.

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 the Chairman of the Board, the Foundation has contributed more than \$3 million to the San Antonio community.