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WellMed Foundation, Leeza's Place End Partnership Caregiver Resource Center To Remain Open In Edinburg

The Leeza Gibbons Memory Foundation and WellMed Charitable Foundation have agreed to end a successful partnership that resulted in the creation of a Leeza's Place caregiver resource center the Rio Grande Valley.

Although the partnership is ending, the center will remain open, providing free support programs for caregivers and loved ones with chronic illnesses.

WellMed will operate the center at 5401 South McColl Road in Edinburg under a new name with new programs to be announced soon. The Leeza Gibbons Memory Foundation will continue to operate Leeza's Place locations across the country. Both nonprofits expressed gratitude and pride over the relationship.

"We are happy to have had the opportunity to work with WellMed and we thank them for their support," said Bobby Xydis, Leeza's Place Associate Director of Communications. "We look forward to continuing our national efforts serving caregivers at our remaining Leeza's Place locations across the country and we wish WellMed all the best as they offer caregiver support in their community under their own banner."

The WellMed Charitable Foundation is the charitable arm of WellMed Medical Management, one of Texas' largest senior healthcare providers. "WellMed is committed to changing the face of healthcare delivery for seniors. To do that, we must address the needs of caregivers, who provide 80 percent of the care in this country," said Carol Zernial, Executive Director of the WellMed Charitable Foundation. "We thank Leeza Gibbons and her team for their commitment to this critical mission, and we look forward to making this resource center part of our efforts to positively impact seniors and caregivers in the communities we serve."

In the Rio Grande Valley, WellMed partners with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council's Area Agency on Aging (AAA), the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, and Physicians Health Choice (a WellMed subsidiary HMO) to fund the Edinburg center.

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.