



## **Dr. George and Kym Rapier, Secretary of State Hope Andrade Named 'Champions of Hope'**

**City Year To Honor Successful Philanthropists, Business  
And Civic Leaders At Ripples Of Hope Dinner At La Villita**



**San Antonio, TX** – City Year San Antonio will honor philanthropists Kym and George M. Rapier III, M.D. and Texas Secretary of State Hope Andrade as “Champions of Hope” this Wednesday, March 4 at its Ripples of Hope Dinner.

**The event is set for 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Wednesday, March 4 at the Villita Assembly Building at La Villita (Arneson and South**

***Alamo at Nueva).***

The Ripples of Hope Awards Dinner is San Antonio’s premiere event that celebrates our city’s Champions and Hidden Heroes. The event also features exceptional cuisine, an inspiring program, live music and excellent networking opportunities with San Antonio’s civic, philanthropic and business community.

The dinner also provides an exclusive opportunity for sponsors at the \$2,500 level to select a Hidden Hero from your corporation, civic, faith or family life. **A Hidden Hero is someone who works behind the scenes and is often unrecognized for their tremendous contributions and untiring commitment to creating ripples of hope in San Antonio.** Hidden Heroes will be recognized and presented a gift during the awards dinner.

### **Champions of Hope: Kymberly Rapier and George M. Rapier III, M.D.**

Kymberly Rapier and her husband, George M. Rapier III, M.D., are the executors of the Blake, Kymberly and George Rapier Charitable Trust, which has distributed nearly \$3 million to local charitable causes since forming in 2006. Through the Trust, which focuses on causes that benefit children, the elderly and homeless animals, the Rapiers will distribute more than \$1 million to local charities in 2009.

The Rapiers are natives of Dallas. Kym Rapier was raised in San Antonio, graduating from Churchill High School as a star volleyball player with multiple college scholarship offers. She chose UTSA, where she studied business management and marketing. Her passion for fitness led her to a career managing and running health clubs. She established Family Fitness Unlimited on the city's South Side in 2000. The gym was purchased by WellMed in 2008 and converted into the Elvira Cisneros Senior Community Center by WellMed, of which Kym Rapier is the director. The center is open to anyone age 60 and older, and their primary caregivers.

George M. Rapier III, M.D., serves as Chairman and CEO of San Antonio-based WellMed Medical Management, South Texas' largest physician-owned practice management company, specializing in senior health care since 1990. The mission of the healthcare company and insurance provider – serving more than 80,000 patients and insured members in four states – is to change the face of healthcare delivery for seniors.

Dr. Rapier has made senior care and improving delivery of healthcare services a priority for WellMed. He has chaired a number of crucial committees required for medical group expansion and gained significant knowledge relevant to the changing payor and income structure of today's medical group practice.

Dr. Rapier earned his medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine and completed his internship and residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He serves as an assistant professor of medicine at the UT Health Science Center and on the board of Boysville of Texas. He recently was inducted into the Mexican American/Hispanic Physicians Hall of Fame.

### **Champion of Hope: Hope Andrade**

Esperanza "Hope" Andrade is Texas' 107<sup>th</sup> Secretary of State and one of six state officials to form the Executive Department of the State of Texas. She was appointed by Governor Rick Perry and sworn in on July 23, 2008.

Secretary Andrade, a successful entrepreneur and leader in the San Antonio business community for more than three decades, serves as Texas' chief elections officer, chief international protocol officer and the Governor's chief liaison on border and Mexican affairs.

Previously, Andrade served as chair of the Texas Transportation Commission. Her civic service has included leadership roles with the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Free Trade Alliance of San Antonio, United Way, the San Antonio Symphony and the board of trustees for her alma mater, Our Lady of the Lakes University.

In recognition of her service to Texas, Secretary Andrade has received a number of accolades including the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Hope for Children Esperanza Award, and the San Antonio Leadership Hall of Fame Award. Additionally she has been named the Woman of the Year by the Houston Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar, Mother of the Year by Avance and Small Business Advocate of the Year by the Small Business Administration.

Andrade resides in San Antonio with her husband of 40 years, Ramiro Andrade, and has a son, a daughter-in-law, and two grandsons.

*About City Year San Antonio*

*As tutors and mentors, City Year San Antonio corps members provide critically needed services to some of San Antonio's most underserved children and youth and the communities they live in. City Year San Antonio serves high-need, low income students who are at risk of academic failure. In addition to our school-based service, our corps members make a positive impact in communities throughout the city by completing transformational neighborhood improvement projects that transform communities.*

*About WellMed*

*WellMed Medical Management is a diversified healthcare company and insurance provider serving more than 80,000 patients and insured members, mostly Medicare-eligible seniors in Texas, Florida, Arkansas and New Mexico. WellMed is an industry leader in medical risk management, highly effective disease management and chronic care programs, healthcare delivery services, and more.*

*WellMed is South Texas' largest physician-owned practice management company, specializing in senior health care since 1990. With more than 30 medical clinics in Texas and Florida, the mission of the healthcare company and insurance provider is to change the face of healthcare delivery for seniors.*

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