



El Paso Wellness Network To Receive \$61,000 From WellMed, Rapier Charities

Money To Support La Fe's After-School Program, Parent Training and More

San Antonio, TX (November 27, 2007) – The WellMed Charitable Foundation and the George, Kym and Blake Rapier Charitable Trust have awarded a \$61,000 grant to the El Paso non-profit Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe, Inc. (La Fe).

La Fe, a community organization that began four decades ago with a one-room volunteer clinic in one of the poorest neighborhoods of El Paso. Today, La Fe operates a comprehensive community wellness network that includes after-school care, senior programs, a prep school, parent education, and several health clinics providing critical medical and dental services to underserved, poor and largely minority communities.

The two non-profit foundations providing the \$61,000 grant – WellMed and the Rapier Trust – have ties to Physicians Health Choice (PHC), the Medicare Advantage organization serving El Paso and other areas of Texas and New Mexico. Physicians Health Choice currently serves hundreds of El Paso's Medicare eligibles, with health plans offering no or low premiums and affordable co-payments for various medical services.

PHC founder George M. Rapier III, M.D., established the Rapier Trust along with his wife, Kym, to support non-profits serving children. In 1990, Dr. Rapier formed one of San Antonio's first senior focused medical clinics. His expertise in understanding the needs of older adults is evident in the growth from that first clinic to a total of 12 today. WellMed funds the WellMed Charitable Foundation, established to support seniors and caregivers of seniors on wellness and living with illness.

"What the people at La Fe are doing is wonderful because it impacts the health of the young and old in this remarkable border community," Dr. Rapier said. "We are pleased to support La Fe's efforts to promote family and community well being."

The WellMed and Rapier donation will fund several programs benefiting the La Fe Preparatory School. Funds help pay for teachers to run the after-school program, art and music classes, provide athletic equipment and sponsor the Kids Kitchen, which teaches students and parents how to prepare nutritious meals without using the stove or microwave.

“Our community’s children are typically growing up with working parents and without the necessary skills to safely make their own healthy meals,” said Salvador Balcorta, CEO of La Fe. “La Fe’s Kids’ Kitchen gives our children the skills to create tasty and culturally appropriate meals – all without ever touching a stove or knife. It’s a fun, child-friendly culinary education.”

The \$61,000 also will help pay for school uniforms for children attending the La Fe Preparatory School and the production of a coloring book titled “Viva La Salud,” which will address health issues that are prevalent in El Paso (diabetes, obesity, hygiene) in attempt to educate the young children through culturally relevant coloring activities. Part of the money will also go to a parental training program with a focus on health, nutrition, exercise, financial literacy and reading to your child.

To learn more about the programs offered at La Fe, visit www.lafe-ep.org. Or call (915) 534-7979 or e-mail lafe2@mail.htg.net.

Physicians Health Choice offers a selection of health care plans to Medicare beneficiaries all across Texas, including the Greater Amarillo, Austin, Corpus Christi, El Paso and Rio Grande Valley areas, and in Las Cruces, N.M. and surrounding areas. In addition to your Original Medicare benefits, Physicians Health Choice provides benefits to help you stay healthy. Our goals are to achieve a long-term relationship with our members and to provide the health plan you deserve.

For more information

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