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Rapier Charitable Trust Donates \$300,000 To Prevent Homelessness

SAN ANTONIO - The Blake, Kymberly and George Rapier Charitable Trust has donated \$300,000 to SAMMinistries over a three year period for its homeless prevention program.

In 2006, George M. Rapier III, M.D., and his wife, Kymberly, established a personal non-profit charity, the Blake, Kymberly and George Rapier Charitable Trust.

Dr. Rapier is the founder and CEO of WellMed Medical Management, Inc., 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 headquartered in San Antonio, Texas.

With so many worthy charities in San Antonio, Dr. Rapier explains he and Kymberly selected the **SAMMinistries** homelessness prevention program to support with a donation "because so many families are in need in San Antonio."

He added, "It is an honor for us to be able to help those who find themselves in a situation in which they are in great need of a helping hand. **SAMMinistries** record of success in reaching out to the least fortunate in our society is phenomenal and we are so pleased to be a small part of its mission."

Navarra Williams, president and CEO of **SAMMinistries**, says, "When **SAMMinistries** first began contemplating how to make a larger impact on preventing homelessness, George and Kym were two of the first people to step forward with a financial gift. Their initial support enabled us establish a program that helped over 300 families stay out of homeless over the past year.

"More and more social service providers believe that it is far more cost effective and more humane to prevent homelessness rather than just provide emergency shelter and

food. The Rapier gift goes a long way toward making that a reality for so many families in need in Bexar County,” Williams noted.

Some of the families who receive assistance are those who need funding for a one-time event such as paying the rent or a utility bill. If a family has debt that exceeds income and face homelessness in the future even after receiving financial help, then other assistance is recommended such as transitional housing.

SAMMinistries’ Homeless Prevention Program provides rental assistance, utility assistance and supportive services to enable individuals and families who are in imminent danger of eviction, foreclosure or homelessness. These services are provided in an effort to stabilize families in their existing homes. Payments, which average \$250, are paid directly to a landlord, utility company or other vendor who provides housing or other services to an applicant.

Williams noted the Rapier Charitable Trust donation is so critical because, “The downturn in the economy has had the most impact on individuals and families who are living paycheck to paycheck. By assisting in this time of need, we are able to help keep families out of homelessness and keep children in school,” he explained.

Anyone who would like more information about the **SAM**Ministries homeless prevention program is invited to call (210) 377-1616.

SAMMinistries, an interfaith ministry dedicated to helping the homeless, was launched in 1983. The ministry assists over 600 individuals including 175 children every day of the year with emergency services, transitional and supportive housing as well as an after-care program. Last year the agency cared for more than 4,000 individuals and provided more than 172,000 bed nights of shelter and services to the area’s homeless. Today **SAM**Ministries is supported by more than 126 churches and synagogues and over 3,000 volunteers.

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 30 medical clinics in Texas and Florida, the vision of the healthcare company and health plan provider is to change the face of healthcare delivery for seniors.

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