

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## GOVERNOR KEMP RECOGNIZES STONE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY HEALTHCENTER AND ITS TELEMEDICINE PARTNER FOR SAVING EYESIGHT OF UNDERSERVED GEORGIANS

ATLANTA GA: On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Governor Kemp visited a first-of-its-kind telemedicine eye clinic in Stone Mountain that is saving the vision of patients with undiagnosed eye diseases while more cost-effectively delivering healthcare funded by the state's taxpayers.

"Obtaining ophthalmology and other specialty medical exams has been an unsolved problem for patients who receive their primary care from community health centers," explains Raulnina Uzzle MD, Medical Director of the Oakhurst Medical Centers, one of the state's largest Federally Qualified Health Clinics.

Until partnering with Telmedix, only 7% of OMC patients referred to off-site eye doctors completed their exams. Many of OMC patients are at risk for diabetes, glaucoma and other conditions that cause irreversible loss of vision when undiagnosed. "Unknown to our medical staff, some of our patients were sitting in our waiting room slowly going blind," Uzzle explains. Now, more than 70% of OMC patients needing eye exams have them conveniently performed in the Telmedix facility inside of OMC's clinic. Telmedix uses advanced technology for the early detection and treatment of glaucoma and other sight-threatening diseases.

Co-founded by ophthalmologist Keith Thompson MD and biomedical engineer Jose Garcia, Atlanta-based Telmedix is a successful product of the Georgia Research Alliance's VentureLab program, a state-supported incubator that helps fund local technology startups with commercial promise. Following a successful clinical trial, they recognized that Telmedix's telemedicine system could bring ophthalmology and other specialty services onsite to OMC's primary care patients.

Carl Powell, Principal of the Integral Group which is co-leading a syndicate of investors to bring Telmedix facilities to other primary care clinics, explained to Governor Kemp "the Telmedix mission to use innovative technology to bring specialty medical care to underserved citizens fits Integral's mission to revitalize communities."

"After such a successful launch at OMC, we want to help champion and facilitate the expansion of the Telmedix model to other FQHCs that provide care to over 500,000 Georgians." Integral manages large public-private investment funds that invest in community revitalization and renewal projects. "The Telmedix model is scalable and it's growth would significantly increase access to healthcare for many Georgians" said Powell.

During his visit Governor Kemp observed how graduates of the Georgia Research Alliance and other state incubator program are developing new ways to bring affordable, quality healthcare to Georgia citizens.



Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, Keith Thompson, MD & CEO, Telmedix and Carl Powell, Principal, The Integral Group



Keith Thompson, MD & CEO, Telmedix demonstrates Telmedix workstation that allows an ophthalmologist to perform eye exam remotely



Governor Kemp, Dr. Raulnina Uzzle, Medical Director, Oakhurst Medical Centers and Carl Powell, Principal, The Integral Group

**About Oakhurst**

Oakhurst Medical Centers provides affordable, accessible, quality primary care services to ethnically diverse patients. OMC provides over 65,000 patient visits annually through seven locations and strives to improve the quality of life in the communities it serves by healing our community one home at a time. FQHCs have grown rapidly during the past two decades and there are now 1,400 FQHCs in all fifty states that provide primary healthcare to over 28 million Americans.

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**About The Integral Group LLC**

The Integral Group's mission is to create value in cities and (re)build the fabric of communities with a vision of being a premier provider of sustainable real estate, community and infrastructure solutions globally. In it's 25 years the company has created master planned, mixed-use and mixed-income communities, multi-family and senior housing residences, and transit-oriented developments that have lasting positive impacts across the nation has helped to set the stage for better performance in the areas of urban revitalization, infill development, smart growth, and public/private partnerships.

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**About Telmedix Digital Vision Clinic**

Digital Vision Clinic is part of Telmedix, LLC, an Atlanta-based medical technology startup that brings eye care and other specialty services to primary care clinics through a proprietary telemedicine system developed in the Georgia Tech VentureLab incubator. By bringing eye care and other specialty medical services to a primary care clinic, the Telmedix Digital Vision Eye Clinic increases the value of the community health center as a medical home where more medical services will be available without having to visit off-site specialists

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