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CHARITY NAVIGATOR NAMES ACCION TEXAS ONE OF BEST NONPROFITS IN THE U.S.

FOUR-STAR RATING IS SECOND IN A ROW FOR THE NATION'S LARGEST MICROLENDER

SAN ANTONIO – Accion Texas Inc., a nationally respected nonprofit small business lender with the country's largest microloan portfolio, today announced that it has received its second consecutive designation as a four-star nonprofit organization by Charity Navigator –America's premier charity evaluator that rates organizations on such criteria as accountability, transparency and financial reporting.

These ratings help potential donors make informed decisions about charitable giving.

"We are thrilled and honored to receive this news," said Accion Texas President and CEO Janie Barrera. "We work hard to adhere to the very highest professional standards and we are proud of our track record of good stewardship of the funds entrusted to us by private and public sources that ultimately allow us to help small businesses thrive and grow."

In his letter congratulating Barrera on Accion's second consecutive annual ranking, Charity Navigator's President and CEO Ken Berger explained the importance of the designation.

"We are proud to announce Accion Texas has earned our second consecutive 4-star rating. Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that your organization adheres to good governance and other best practices ... and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way," Berger wrote. "Only 17 percent of the charities we rate have received at least 2 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Accion



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Texas outperforms most other charities in America. This 'exceptional' designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Accion Texas from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust."

Berger added that major financial publications, including Forbes, Business Week, and Kiplinger's Financial Magazine, have "profiled and celebrated" Charity Navigator's unique method of applying data-driven analysis to the charitable sector.

Barrera said that since its inception in 1994, Accion Texas – a micro- and small business lender providing loans from \$500 to \$5 million – has grown from one small office in San Antonio to 20 offices in eight states. It remains headquartered in San Antonio. The organization has made more than 13,000 loans totaling nearly \$140 million. More than 3,500 loans have been made in San Antonio alone, with a value exceeding \$30 million.

The organization is currently in the midst of a \$5.5 million capital campaign to consolidate its San Antonio operations and to expand its services throughout the eight-state footprint. According to Barrera, the capital campaign is already 67 percent funded through public and private contributions and pledges, including a \$1.3 million grant from the Economic Development Administration, a bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

ABOUT CHARITY NAVIGATOR

Founded in 2001, Charity Navigator is America's largest and most-utilized independent evaluator of charities. The organization helps charitable givers make intelligent giving decisions by providing information on over 5,000 charities and by evaluating the financial health of each of these charities. By guiding intelligent giving, Charity Navigator aims to advance a more efficient and responsive philanthropic marketplace, in which givers and the charities they support work in tandem to overcome the nation's most persistent challenges. Charity Navigator is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code and does not accept any contributions from any charities it evaluates.

ABOUT ACCION TEXAS INC.

Accion Texas Inc. is a nonprofit, multi-state micro- and small business lender whose mission is to provide credit and services to small businesses and entrepreneurs who do not have access to loans from commercial sources and to provide leadership and innovation to the microlending industry. Through affordable lending and business development services, Accion is committed to empowering diverse individuals and small business owners who have limited access to traditional sources of capital.

Accion Texas Inc. has the nation's largest microloan portfolio and operates in eight states: Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas.