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

FOUR-STAR RATING IS THIRD 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 third 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.

"This is tremendous news for the team at Accion Texas! We are extremely proud to once again receive this honor," said Accion Texas President and CEO Janie Barrera. "This is a tribute to our team, and the efforts we take to adhere to the very highest industry standards. Accion takes seriously the funds entrusted to us by our donors, which ultimately help our small business clients and the communities they represent."

In his letter congratulating Barrera on Accion's third 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 third 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 12 percent of the charities we rate have received at least 3 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Accion Texas outperforms most other charities



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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 \$5.5 million – has grown from one small office in San Antonio to 21 offices in eight states. It remains headquartered in San Antonio. The organization has made more than 14,000 loans totaling nearly \$160 million. More than 3,600 loans have been made in San Antonio alone, with a value exceeding \$39 million.

Next week the organization will break ground on a new corporate campus and community learning center on San Antonio's West Side - and is in the midst of a multi-million-dollar capital campaign to finance the facility, which will consolidate its San Antonio operations and enable it to expand its services throughout its eight-state footprint. According to Barrera, the capital campaign has been successful and was partially 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 and a financing package of more than \$6 million, thanks to Capital One and the PeopleFund.

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.