



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 6, 2014

Contact: Michael Leos, Marketing Associate
Phone: 210-226-3664, ext. 1142
Email: mleos@acciontexas.org

**ACCION LOUISIANA REACHES A MILESTONE - \$1 MILLION
DISBURSED TO ITS CLIENTS**

NEW ORLEANS –Accion Louisiana, an extension of Accion Texas Inc. – the nation’s largest microlender – hit \$1 million in loans since the beginning of 2014, helping more than 100 entrepreneurs and small businesses.

Since the opening of the New Orleans office in 2009, more than 300 businesses have benefited from an Accion loan totaling more than \$3 million disbursed to clients around the city. In 2013, the New Orleans office disbursed \$601,863 in business loans and currently is 79 percent ahead in lending compared to last year. This is the first time they’ve achieved these figures since opening its doors.

“This is a historic moment for not only our New Orleans office, but for Accion as well,” said Chief Lending Officer Dan Lawless. “We are proud to continue providing small business and entrepreneurs with the resources and education they need to start, sustain and grow their business. Achieving such outstanding numbers reaffirms our commitment to making positive differences in the communities we serve.

After hundreds of loans, one particular Accion client, Brenda Murphy, owner of Jambalaya News – the oldest bilingual publication in New Orleans and cohost of En Broma o En Serio, a daily radio show on NOLA’s 105.7 FM Station Tropical Caliente—closed her loan on October 31st. Her loan put the office over the \$1 million mark.

“We are excited to help Ms. Murphy grow her business, which has served the Latino community in Louisiana since 2004,” said VP of New Orleans Region Lending Jarrett Woods. We are excited for Ms. Murphy, and our many other clients that are helping to pave the way to economic growth.”

About Accion Texas Inc.

Established in 1994 in San Antonio, Accion Texas Inc.’s financial and business-support services help entrepreneurs strengthen their businesses, stabilize and increase their incomes, create employment and contribute to the economic revitalization of their communities. Accion Texas manages the nation’s largest nonprofit microloan portfolio in the nation and is the largest member of the Accion U.S. Network. It is committed to providing capital to entrepreneurs who do not have access to loans from commercial sources and to providing educational services to help them succeed. Since its inception, Accion Texas has made more than 14,000 loans totaling more than \$150 million. Accion now operates in 21 offices in eight states – Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas. For more information, visit www.acciontexas.org.

--30--