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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Recognizes ACCION
San Diego as one of the Outstanding Businesses of the year during 2008
Illuminada Annual Gala**

San Diego, Ca. – April 7, 2008. ACCION San Diego was presented with the 2008 Community Investment Leader of the Year award by The San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SDCHCC) during the Illuminada Gala which was held on April 5, 2008 at the fabulous Hard Rock Hotel in downtown San Diego. During the evening's program the SDCHCC recognized outstanding leadership and the important work of its members and small businesses throughout San Diego County. Nominees for the categories were required to be SDCHCC members and their leadership and work relevant to Hispanic America. Award categories included:

- **Community Leader of the Year** - - A chamber member recipient who is notable engaged and leading community, social and economic advancement efforts on behalf of Latinos and underrepresented populations.
- **Entrepreneur of the Year*** - - Entrepreneurs of the year, in their respective categories are recognized for their outstanding performances of their business enterprises. They are active chamber members who exemplify the mission of the organization, the growth and the expansion of their business.
*Category I: Under 1 million in annual revenues, *Category II: Over 1 million in annual revenues, *Category III: Over 5 million in annual revenues
- **Community Investment Leader of the Year** - - Typically a financial institution, who shows leadership and commitment to community advancement through reinvestment dollars, corporate support and presence in the historically underrepresented communities.
- **Corporate Visionary** - - A corporation who is an active chamber partner and has been a leader in corporate community investment through their vision and actions.
- **Chamber Member of the Year** - - A notable individual, chamber member, who has volunteered his/her time, energy and resources on behalf of the organization. (NEW CATEGORY)
- **Supplier Diversity/Procurement Partner of the Year** - - The selection of SDCHCC's top partnership is conducted by the Diverse Emerging Vendor Outreach Program (DEVO) annually and is designed to recognize a specific partnership doing business, building capacity and/or direct business mentoring through our DEVO membership that are accomplishing more than any others to break down barriers that impede "diverse" micro enterprises from gaining fair access to procurement opportunities.

As a SDCHCC member, ACCION San Diego was recognized for its leadership and commitment to the advancement of San Diego in the historically underrepresented communities.

Community Investment Leader of the Year – ACCION San Diego

ACCION San Diego is one of the largest non-profit microlending organizations in California. Their mission is to provide economic opportunity through business loans and support to low-to-moderate income entrepreneurs who lack access to traditional financing. Since 1994, ACCION San Diego has assisted more than 1,300 local entrepreneurs with over 2,200 loans exceeding \$11million dollars. By assisting San Diego's underserved community with business loans ranging from \$300 to \$35,000, their program creates opportunity for increased income, economic stability and employment for San Diego. ACCION San Diego values community development and works strategically with community organizations and banking partners to empower entrepreneurs and create social and economic change. For more information, please call (619) 685-1380 or visit www.accionsandiego.org

About the San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

The San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1989 to create and promote opportunities for Hispanic businesses and the greater community. The SDCHCC is San Diego's largest business association representing the San Diego-Tijuana Hispanic business community. The diverse membership of nearly 1000 members is an ideal mixture of small business owners, corporate representatives, government leaders, and students. The SDCHCC is a 501(C)3 non-profit membership organization. For more information call 619.702.0790 edaniel@sdchcc.com. Or visit www.sdchcc.com/illuminada.