



NEWS

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ACCION SAN DIEGO GAINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

--Spotlight on Oceanside Small Business Owner--

ACCION San Diego, a non-profit organization that provides loans and support services to start-up and existing microentrepreneurs, has gained national recognition in the October issue of Inc. magazine's annual "30 Under 30" list when the writer Tamara Schweitzer featured Oceanside entrepreneur Kyle Smitley.

Kyle Smitley, 24, started her own organic kids clothing line, Barley & Birch, with a \$10,000 loan she received from ACCION in December 2008. Her projected revenue for 2009 is estimated at \$400,000.

"ACCION were the first people to believe in me," said Smitley, upon receiving word that she had been featured in Inc. magazine. "I just want to thank everyone there for supporting and believing in me when no one else did."

Smitley's business embraces the spirit of giving back. From the first day, she has donated more than half of her profits to various non-profit organizations. Her clothes are made using 100 percent certified organic cotton and water-based inks that do not pollute the environment and her donations also include offsetting emissions.

"Smitley was an excellent choice for our "30 Under 30" article," according to Schweitzer. "Her quick success, strong work ethic and self determination make her a role model for young people everywhere."

ACCION San Diego was launched in 1994 and has since been committed to providing small loans and business support services to start-up and existing microentrepreneurs. Located downtown at 1250 6th Avenue, ACCION San Diego assists small and home-based business owners to obtain loans ranging from \$300 to \$35,000, provides access to business resources, as well as publicity and networking opportunities. In addition, it offers other much-needed resources for start-up business owners with little or no credit history.

ACCION operates with the support and generosity from the city of San Diego, local corporations, and private donors dedicated to the mission of micro-enterprise development. Contributions grant hard-working citizens the opportunity to build their businesses and strengthen the economic foundation of our communities through self-employment.

In order to qualify to receive a loan, applicants must work and live in San Diego. The money loaned out to eligible business owners is used for equipment, inventory and supplies, renovations and business expansion as well as basic working capital. For more information on ACCION San Diego, visit the Web site at www.accionsandiego.org or call toll free 800-967-4429.

For more information on Barley & Birch, visit www.barleyandbirch.com.

