

February 2007



ACCION San Diego Small Business Loans

Welcome to ACCION San Diego's February newsletter! We are pleased to use these newsletters to keep our clients, partners and friends informed so that we can continue to serve our community in the best way possible.

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Shop at the International Seasonal Market in Old Town

Marie Coots, owner of the International Seasonal Market in Old Town, offers a taste of every season or holiday no matter what time of year it happens to be.

Located at the Old Town Market, Marie's shop is stocked with souvenirs, gifts and décor, that offer something different from the mostly Mexican and Southwest inspired shops in the market. In late January the majority of her merchandise consists of red and pink decorations, heart-shaped vases and cupids ready to be given to a friend or sweetheart on Valentines Day. Soon she will begin to get Spring shipments ready for Easter.

Marie initially began working at another shop in



Old Town, but with determination and help from ACCION San Diego, she was able to receive a loan to buy inventory and rent her own vending area. As a

start-up business owner, Marie was referred to ACCION by Union Bank and was able to live her dream of having her own business. She says she really appreciated the personal help she received from her loan officer at ACCION and felt comfortable very going to her for advice.

Marie is looking forward to her upcoming summer shipments which will have her best-selling items including windchimes, spirals and other spring merchandise. The warmer months will also bring more tourists eager to shop in Old Town. Marie is sure she will then see all the hard work and long hours it took to become her own boss come into fruition.



Full-time VISTA position open



ACCION San Diego has one exciting position for an AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer to get experience in the microfinance industry! The member will work in various fields including fundraising, grant writing, marketing, community outreach and volunteer coordination. The VISTA member will also have the opportunity to work closely with the ACCION staff so that we can expand our programs and better serve our clientele. VISTA members make a 1-year, full-time volunteer commitment, and in return, receive a monthly living allowance, end-of-service \$1,200 cash stipend or \$4,725 education award and health coverage.

Skills and Qualifications: General business, computer and communication skills; strong writing skills a plus; bilingual in English and Spanish; must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident.

For more information about the AmeriCorps*VISTA program and to apply online, please visit www.americorps.org Click "For Individuals", "I'm Ready to Serve" and search our program listing.

Please also send your resume and cover letter via email to:

Elizabeth Makee

ACCION San Diego AmeriCorps*VISTA Supervisor
emakee@accionsandiego.org

Call for ACCION San Diego Volunteers

Whether you're a retired professional, a student, or just have the urge to give-back by volunteering, ACCION has many opportunities for part-time volunteers. ACCION San Diego's volunteer program has three different tiers; our Volunteer Resource Committee seeks experienced micro-entrepreneurs who can work directly with our clients and share their business knowledge and skills, the Technical Assistance Committee is designed for college students and professionals looking to apply their skills to help our clients and our organization, and the ACCION Volunteer Committee helps get the word out to the community about the organization and the services we offer. For more information and to receive our Volunteer Manual, please email aescalante@accionsandiego.org or call 619-685-1430.

Ralph's Club Cards



ACCION San Diego thanks the clients and partners who have emailed their Ralph's Card information!

Through the Community Contributions program, shoppers can support ACCION San Diego by shopping at their local Ralph's grocery stores. With each purchase made using their Ralph's Club Card, up to 4% of the proceeds will be donated to ACCION San Diego at no additional cost to the shopper. To become a participant, contact Arlyn Escalante at ACCION San Diego with your **club card number and your address**. Call (619) 685-1430 or email: aescalante@accionsandiego.org

Quick Loan and Online Application

Our new Quick Loan is designed for loans up to \$2,000 and offers financing within 48 hours; help us get the word out! We have also re-designed our online application so you can download it from our website and fill it out directly on your computer.

WBCC-Beyster Community Coalition



ACCION San Diego is a proud member of the San Diego Community Coalition. The Coalition's mission is to create stronger awareness of the programs and services available to small businesses and better serve clients by referring them to other organizations when applicable. The Coalition also facilitates collaboration and partnering, while strengthening individual events and programs. Go to www.wbcc-sd.org/outreach.htm to see the complete list of Coalition members and learn more.

Donate to ACCION San Diego Online

Your donation helps create jobs, develop our community and allows passionate people to break out of poverty. Visit our webpage www.accionsandiego.org and click on the Donate Now tab.



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