

June 2007



ACCION San Diego
Small Business Loans

Welcome to ACCION San Diego's June 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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Client Story: Recycle San Diego!!

In honor of World Environment Day on June 5th, this month we are featuring our client Jeffrey Harding, owner of Recycle San Diego. Jeffrey, who is 23 years old, has been in the computer and electronics business for a few years. He opened his own electronics recycling business in March 2006. Recycle San Diego has since then progressed considerably and Jeffrey has just moved operations to a new location in Clairemont Mesa. Jeffrey is highly knowledgeable about his industry and is excited to share his knowledge to anyone who is interested.



Jeffrey heard about ACCION San Diego's loan program at a community event he attended when he was 18. He had no idea that he would become an ACCION client just a few years later. The loan Jeffrey received from ACCION was used to cover a few of the large one-time costs of opening a new location and to incorporate his business. The loan process was not only quick and personalized to Jeffrey's needs but it also provided him with an opportunity to organize his business financials.

So why can't we just throw our old electronic 'junk' away? Electronic waste, or e-waste, contains toxic substances that pose serious risks to both the environment and our health. For example, heavy metals can penetrate into landfill soil and then into our underground water supply, causing severe and even life-threatening illnesses. Computer monitors, TVs, and other video display devices contain hazardous levels of lead. Harmful health effects of lead include decreased growth, hyperactivity, impaired hearing, and brain damage. In addition to the environment and our health, Jeffrey hopes to get the word out about the importance of recycling electronics because it is the law and there are financial repercussions. If these kinds of electronics are disposed of incorrectly, the owners can be fined up to \$20,000. Focusing on homes and small businesses, Recycle San Diego accepts computers, monitors, TVs, small printers, laptops, cell phones, copiers, fax machines, and more. There is a drop off site or a pick up can be scheduled for your convenience. The company's recycling process has been proven to be both efficient and cost effective. Check out www.recycled.com for more information.

Business Accelerator Incubator Program

The San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the first Business Accelerator Incubator Program (BAIP) in San Diego County. The mission of this program is to develop a robust environment for small business growth & development.

The program consists of focused education, skills development and mentoring. In addition, the BAIP will provide clients with the competitive advantage of being able to tap into the Hispanic Chamber's membership for potential long-term mentors.

This innovative entrepreneurial program is now offering free monthly office suites at the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce offices in Downtown San Diego at no additional cost to client businesses who sign up for the professional consulting services for \$500 per month. There are only 6 office suites remaining and all include T-1 internet, use of conference rooms and much more.

If you possess the entrepreneurial spirit and a unique business, idea or concept, please contact Mike Sloan at the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for more information on how to be part of this unique program, msloan@sdchcc.com or (858) 449-9419.

Feature ACCION on Your Website!

Help us get the word out about our program! If you have a business website we would greatly appreciate if you put a link to our homepage so others can also benefit from our services. It just takes a minute and will add a nice touch to your site, so show your ACCION client pride! Check out www.recycledsd.com for an example (lower right-hand corner).

The logo can be linked to our homepage <http://www.accionsandiego.org> or just contact Daniela at dhammeken@accionsandiego.org if you have any questions. Thanks!

ACCION Summer Interns

This summer we have two interns working on impact studies for our organization.

ACCION San Diego was one of twenty-five recipients of a Citigroup grant that allows us to employ a Summer intern who will be conducting a survey through the Aspen Institute's MictoTest initiative. The survey will help our organization track the impact our loan program has in our community. The Citigroup Microenterprise Researchers Program will help develop one of the largest data sets on microentrepreneurs and will introduce the field to young talent, and will stimulate interest in microenterprise development as a promising career. Evelyn Torres will be conducting the survey for ACCION San Diego. She just graduated from UCSD's International Relations and Pacific Studies Master's program and has a wealth of experience working with microfinance institutions in Mexico.

Each year we also host an undergraduate intern from Notre Dame University to engage in projects within our finance and accounting department. In this capacity, we are welcoming Brian Ronan who will be graduating from Notre Dame as a Finance major next year.

Volunteers Available to Help You!

We now have a group of dedicated volunteers who are eager to help our clients in many areas such as

- **accounting**
- **business management**
- **financials**
- **Microsoft Office**
- **QuickBooks**

Any Client who wishes to take advantage of these services can contact his or her loan officer for more information.