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Senator Leticia Van De Putte

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Janie Barrera

### Host Committee

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*Senator Van De Putte*

Margaret Anaglia.  
*Al's Gourmet Nuts*

Barbara Ankamah.  
*City Center, COSA*

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*Capital One Bank*

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*SWEB Development*

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*Gideon Construction*

Annie Hudspeth. *SBA*

Melinda Jackson.  
*All State*

Leanne King. *Seeking HR*

Irene Maldonado. *UTSA*

Patrice McElfresh. *UTSA*

Sagrario Mejia Gonzalez.  
*Citi Barney Smith*

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*Baby Besos*

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*Realign Organize, LLC*

Theresa Rangel.  
*Congressman Charlie  
Gonzalez*

Patricia Tovar. *PTAC*

Anita Uribe Martin.  
*Bartlett Cocke*

Ruby Webb. *Bexar County*

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Rene Dominguez  
Economic Development  
Director,  
City of San Antonio

Janie Barrera,  
CEO and President  
Accion Texas-Louisiana

July 7, 2010

## Women's Business SYMPOSIUM

2010

Dear Partner:

It is sometimes said that small businesses form the backbone of the U.S. economy; we might add that women-owned businesses are its central nervous system. Women-owned businesses add \$3 trillion to our annual GDP; they create or maintain 23 million jobs (16% of all U.S. jobs).

For the past four years the South Texas Women's Business Center has served women, minority, and men entrepreneurs from all walks of life. The 900-plus clients whom we serve through business counseling and business training represent the emergent entrepreneurial class: 68% have a household income lower than \$44,000; 68% are minorities; 64% have a high school or associates degree; and 87% are women.

STWBC was founded to serve and nurture the entrepreneurial spirit of those who may not have access to capital, come from a low income background, need guidance in starting or expanding a business, or who want an organization to walk with them as they venture into small business. We provide business support services in the Alamo Area Council of Government footprint, and STWBC is now a program of Accion Texas-Louisiana the largest micro lender in the nation.


This is big news and we want you to be part of our team! From donations and fundraising efforts, we have provided services this year to over 900 clients through training and counseling. As well with your investment we have built strong partnerships with organizations such as NAWBO SA, Avenida Guadalupe, The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, The Empowerment Center at San Antonio College, and more.

We have created dozens of new jobs and we are working with our clients on creating more. We have supported over 65 businesses, both startups and established firms. Examples of our work in action include:

- Mrs. White and her husband Pastor White: With our business plan assistance, the kernel of an idea grew into the Reading Room on the San Antonio east side. Their persistence and dedication allowed them to access a microloan at Accion.
- Garment Exchange: Long-time client Marilyn Caskey grew her *tween* clothing resale business from a small location on Broadway to a bigger location near 281 and Thousand Oaks.
- Seeking HR: With our help, Leanne King connected with small diversity counselors and has expanded her business.
- Because of our work with business planning, Magaly Chocano was able to determine her business SWEB Development grew by over 600%.

With your investment we can strengthen our small businesses' success and vitality. Enclosed is information regarding our **Women's Business Symposium**, taking place at the Norris Conference Center September 1, 2010. We look forward to your continued support of our small businesses and of our economy.

Sincerely,

  
Celina Peña