The Southwest depends on small business, and since 1994 Accion serving Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas, has made loans and provided training to help entrepreneurs realize their dreams. It’s a nonprofit whose mission is to increase access to business credit, make loans, and provide training, which enable emerging entrepreneurs to realize their dreams and be catalysts for positive economic and social change. A specialist in microlending, the organization was established to help entrepreneurs whose modest capital needs, lack of business or credit history, or limited collateral prevented them from getting the financing they needed. The organization is a member of the U.S. Accion Network of Accion International.

Success Story: True Love Honey, Marana, AZ

Anthony Tubbiolo was looking for a change when opportunity came knocking. While working at a stand at a farmers market a beekeeper’s son approached, announcing his father had a two-year supply of honey to sell. With only $212 dollars to his name, Anthony decided to take a risk and purchased a case of honey to sell. Later, sitting on the side of the road with a handwritten sign, Anthony sold the entire case and True Love Honey was born. Six years later, True Love Honey has its own shop in Marana, and can be found on the shelves of a growing base of Arizona retailers, as well as at farmers markets. Each month, True Love Honey donates a portion of its proceeds to three organizations which support childhood development. Anthony’s vision to pay it forward and interrupt the cycles of need in his community are already coming to life. “Looking at the trajectory of our lives before this business, we had very limited prospects, and now it’s unlimited.”