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Association of Women's Business Centers and T-Mobile Work Together to Donate \$21,000 for Women-Owned Businesses in Puerto Rico Affected by Hurricane Fiona

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In September of 2022, Hurricane Fiona forced the Association of Women's Business Centers (AWBC) and its network of 146 Women's Business Centers to reschedule its annual conference planned in San Juan, Puerto Rico. With three Women's Business Centers (WBCs) that operate in various regions of the island responding to the needs of their clients affected by the storm's impact the national network responded with a donation campaign. T-Mobile, with its destination economic development project adjacent to the conference hotel, named El Distrito, generously offered to start the campaign with a \$14,000 donation to the effort. The non-profit organizations pulled together an additional \$7,000 in contributions for a grand total of \$21,000 being directed to the island's WBCs.

"We chose to host the 2022 Leadership Conference on the island to make a positive economic impact, so when Hurricane Fiona changed her course for the island, we did what Women's Business Centers and their clients are known for - take direct action," said Corinne Goble, CEO of AWBC. "Our staff and many of the conference attendees weathered the storm and demonstrated resilience; and we're looking forward to an even better conference than what was originally planned in September. We are so grateful for T-Mobile's contribution, and we hope that this funding will support the effort to rebuild and support the island's women owned businesses."

The money raised will be dispersed to the Metro WBC (Friends of Puerto Rico), Sila M. Calderon Fundación WBC, and Centro Empresarial para la mujer Ana G. Mendez WBC.

"T-Mobile is proud to work with the Association of Women's Business Centers and support women-owned businesses impacted by Hurricane Fiona," said Clint Odom, T-Mobile's VP of Strategic Alliances & External Affairs. "This contribution, alongside the ongoing effort our community support teams are doing to support Puerto Ricans, is a testament to the Un-carrier's commitment to helping small businesses and local communities."

"The donations received will allow the Women's Business Center to continue supporting women business owners affected by Hurricane Fiona with the necessary tools through business training and individualized consulting that will allow them to continue their operations." - Eileen Soler Feneque, WBC Director - Sila M. Calderon Foundation

"The funds raised by the Association of Women's Business Centers will support the growth of women entrepreneurs whose businesses were affected by hurricane Fiona. While we teach resilience in our workshops and during counseling there are occasions such as these that extra support is needed to sustain the existence of women owned businesses in Puerto Rico." - Angelique Sina, President - Friends of Puerto Rico

About the Association of Women's Business Centers (AWBC)

AWBC (www.awbc.org) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1998 to support and sustain

the national network of Women's Business Centers (WBCs). Each year, Women's Business Centers leverage federal and private foundation grants to operate 146 locations throughout the United States. WBCs have more than 30 years of success in providing business training, counseling, mentoring, and access to capital to women entrepreneurs. The WBC program is a public-private partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

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