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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Mayor Lee Leffingwell Proclaims DiscoverHope Day in Austin**

Austin, TX –The Mayor of Austin recognized a local nonprofit and microlender whose contributions have impacted the lives of women in developing countries by helping them create a path out of poverty. Mayor Lee Leffingwell has declared December 8<sup>th</sup> as “DiscoverHope Day” in recognition of DiscoverHope’s commitment to serving women living on less than two dollars a day and his “profound respects to Maggie Miller, founder of DiscoverHope.”

The proclamation reads that “DiscoverHope is among one of Austin’s leading, inspirational organizations that stands for a world without poverty. DiscoverHope ignites personal power with the belief that everyone has a fundamental desire to share their greatest strengths with the world.”

Since 2008, DiscoverHope has implemented its unique and successful “Microcredit Plus” model in Latin America. The model is a dual approach to poverty alleviation—providing microloans *and* entrepreneurial training to help loan recipients build their businesses. Using this model, DiscoverHope has funded 275 loans with an average loan of \$200 and a 100% payback success rate. More than 1,800 participants have completed over 675 trainings. Loan recipients have reported more than \$9,000 in new income generation directly related to skills and knowledge obtained in the trainings, which cycles directly back into their families and community.

Amy Bryant, co-founder of the multimedia educational company Thinkwell, supports DiscoverHope to make a change. “The women that DiscoverHope is working with just want a chance--a chance to better themselves and earn for their families. DiscoverHope makes that happen. They are the safety net that would otherwise be missing in that community. By providing a means (through microloans) and a way (through community support and education) DiscoverHope is single-handedly changing the lives of women and children that would otherwise live as victims of poverty.”

The official announcement came at DiscoverHope’s “Holiday for Hope” event last Wednesday. Maggie Miller, Executive Director, was excited and grateful to hear of the news. “We are so grateful for Mayor Leffingwell’s honor that captures the essence of the Austin family of volunteers and donors who make this organization thrive. Moments like this reaffirm our commitment to the work we are doing to give the global gift of a future to families in poverty through microcredit and entrepreneurship. Austin is a perfect place with incredible people to ignite the entrepreneurial spirit in people all over the world.”

*DiscoverHope Fund is an international non-profit whose mission is to provide opportunities for women in poverty to create their own prosperity through microcredit, entrepreneurship, and training. Their work serves women living on \$2 a day in developing nations so they can shape their own destinies through creation of entrepreneurial businesses.*

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