



**BANK
OF THE
SIERRA**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$2,000 Sierra Grant Will Keep Children Warm

Porterville, CA — Bank of the Sierra is pleased to announce a \$2,000 Sierra Grant awarded to the Assistance League of Bakersfield. Through the league's "Operation School Bell" program, these funds will purchase new jackets and coats for underprivileged children. Over the lifetime of the program, Operation School Bell has clothed a total of 116,500 students.

"Unfortunately poverty is a serious issue for many people in our area. We hope that this donation will help supply enough jackets to keep our local school children warmer this winter," stated James C. Holly, President and CEO.

About The Sierra Grant Program

The Sierra Grant Program is designed to improve the quality of life for the families, especially the children, who reflect the diversity within Bank of the Sierra branch communities. The Sierra Grant Program is focused on three areas: community services, park preservation, and education. Anyone involved in a non-profit program that is interested in a Sierra Grant can pick up an instructional brochure at any Bank of the Sierra branch, or visit the bank web site at www.bankofthesierra.com.

About Bank of the Sierra

With over \$1.2 billion in assets and strong performance ratios, Bank of the Sierra is the largest independently owned community bank headquartered in Southern San Joaquin Valley's Heartland. The bank serves 15 different communities with 21 branches, two Ag Centers and one SBA Center. For more information visit the web site at www.bankofthesierra.com or call (888) 454-BANK.

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