



**BANK  
OF THE  
SIERRA**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**\$2,500 Sierra Grant Awarded to  
Fresno Area Down Syndrome Society**

**Porterville, CA** — Bank of the Sierra is pleased to award a \$2,500 Sierra Grant to the Fresno Area Down Syndrome Society (FADSS) for the Heartache to Hope Program. FADSS provides support and education to families touched by Down Syndrome. The Heartache to Hope Program is a new program that will provide a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist to help counsel families with children with special needs. The program will offer a safe and inviting place to share with others the emotional impact the disability places on a family. FADSS workshop will help create an understanding of the best methods to maintain or restore family life; these lessons will be offered in both English and Spanish.

“We feel it is important for families to have an opportunity to support one another and learn about this disability, these workshops will help provide that opportunity.” said Jim Holly, President and CEO of Bank of the Sierra.

**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.

**About Bank of the Sierra**

With over \$1.3 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 23 branches, two Ag Centers and one SBA Center. For more information visit the web site at [www.bankofthesierra.com](http://www.bankofthesierra.com) or call (888) 454-BANK.

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