



**BANK
OF THE
SIERRA**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 27, 2011
Contact: Matthew Hessler, CFMP
Title: Director of Marketing
Phone: (559) 782-4900 or (888) 454-BANK
NASDAQ Symbol: BSRR
Website Address: www.bankofthesierra.com

**Sierra Grant Awarded to
Community Youth Ministries**

Porterville, CA —Bank of the Sierra is pleased to announce a Sierra Grant in the amount of \$2,500 has been awarded to Community Youth Ministries (CYM). CYM serves the social and spiritual needs of the Reedley area youth by supplementing the work of community agencies, schools, and churches to ensure that every child has a strong sense of self-worth, knowledge to make positive decisions, skills needed for future success, and supportive community relationships. The grant funds will be used to support the “Empowering At-Risk Children to Achieve in School” project.

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 \$1.3 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 25 branches, two Ag Centers and one SBA Center. For more information visit the web site at www.bankofthesierra.com or call (888) 454-BANK.

#####