



**BANK  
OF THE  
SIERRA**

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**FOR** December 1, 2011  
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### **Sierra Grant awarded to Covenant Community Services, Inc.**

**Porterville, CA** —Bank of the Sierra is pleased to announce a Sierra Grant in the amount of \$1,000 has been awarded to Covenant Community Services, Inc. (Covenant). Covenant provides a wide variety of services including foster care, mental health, consulting, emancipated youth housing, and vocational training to foster children residing in Kern County. The funds will be used to purchase needed equipment for a new coffee house which anticipates hiring former foster youth ages 18-24 to work in the coffee house and learn vocational skills for future success. The proceeds from the sale of coffee go towards the training, mentoring an employment of former foster youth.

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](http://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 17 different communities with 25 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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