



**BANK
OF THE
SIERRA**

FOR December 1, 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 the Fresno Rescue Mission

Porterville, CA —Bank of the Sierra is pleased to announce a Sierra Grant in the amount of \$2,000 has been awarded to the Fresno Rescue Mission. The Fresno Mission has been helping homeless and at-risk individuals in the greater Fresno County area since 1949. The grant funds will be used to support the ongoing need for education and practical tools to promote wellness. Supplies needed include food supplements, cleaning sanitizers, cough & cold medicines, smoking cessation supplies and drug testing supplies.

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 17 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.

#####