BANK OF THE SIERRA

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Sierra Grant Awarded to the Golden Empire Gleaners

Porterville, CA —Bank of the Sierra is pleased to announce a Sierra Grant in the amount of $2,500 has been awarded to the Golden Empire Gleaners. The grant funds will be used to support the "Food for Thought" program. Over 115 participating Kern County schools refer families who are in need of food assistance. Each family referred receives a food basket which includes fresh fruits and vegetables, bread, meat, dairy, staples, canned goods pastries and chips. Eligible families can receive food assistance up to once per week.

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.

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