



**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 Hope Center, Inc.

Porterville, CA —Bank of the Sierra is pleased to announce a Sierra Grant in the amount of \$3,000 has been awarded to The Hope Center, Inc. The grant funds will be used to purchase supplemental foods for its Food Pantry – a program designed to help families create nutritionally balanced meals, alleviate hunger and minimize food insecurity . The food pantry serves as a reliable source of food for people in need in the Oildale community.

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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