



News Release

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**BANKWEST OF NEVADA INVESTS IN PROGRAM TO SUPPORT CHARTER SCHOOL & SHELTER FOR DISADVANTAGED KIDS**

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**CRA Qualified Investment Fund Earmarks Dollars  
For Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation**

**FORT LAUDERDALE, FL – February 15, 2004** - As a nearly perfect example of public/private partnership for the benefit of communities in need, the Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation recently borrowed \$13 million from a City of Las Vegas bond issue to help disadvantaged kids. The CRA Qualified Investment Fund, a community-development mutual fund, purchased a portion of the bonds on behalf of BankWest of Nevada, a community bank in Las Vegas.

The Foundation will use a majority of the proceeds from the bond issue toward construction of Phase II of the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy (AACPA), a charter school serving disadvantaged youth. The bond will also go towards construction costs for a cottage for medically fragile children at Child Haven, a facility that provides temporary care and treatment for abused, neglected and abandoned children.

“As a Foundation that strives to provide educational opportunities and services for at-risk children, it is gratifying to find other organizations such as BankWest that share in our commitment to the local community,” said Kari Uno of the Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation.

The goal of the AACPA is to offer academic programs designed to enhance a child’s character, respect, motivation and self-discipline. Advanced technology, smaller class sizes and extended school hours are just some of the practices the school utilizes to achieve a higher standard of education. Many of the students come from low socio-economic backgrounds and because the AACPA is a public charter school, they do not charge any student tuition.

Child Haven is the only public shelter for abused and neglected children within Clark County. The facility, operated by the Department of Children Services, also provides schooling and medical care for children ages 3 days to 18 years. Without the services available at Child Haven, many of the kids would be left without any resources.

“This kind of project is exactly in line with our goals to better serve our community,” said Larry Woodrum, President and CEO of BankWest. “We’re proud to be involved with such a great cause – helping low-income families and disadvantaged youth get the support they need.”

“This is a prime example of the benefits that can be achieved through the expanding partnership between the capital markets and organizations devoted to community development,” said Alyssa G. Sibley, CFA, Director of CRAFund Advisors. “It enables Foundations such as the Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation and banks such as BankWest to focus on what’s truly important: Helping local Las Vegas kids improve their lives,”



BankWest originally invested in the CRA Qualified Investment Fund as part of its compliance with the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), which requires large banks to invest a portion of assets in activities that support community development. The fund invests primarily in high credit quality (A-rated or better), community development-oriented securities that assist low- to moderate-income families. This positive social thrust has allowed many of the fund's investors, which are banks, to earn regulatory credit under the guidelines of the CRA, hence the name "CRA Qualified Investment Fund."

BankWest is one of Nevada's leading community banks. It was founded on the philosophy of providing innovative, quality financial services that represent exceptional value to their customers.

*Las Vegas Economic Development VRDN due June 1, 2028 representing 0.24% of the Fund's portfolio as of 12/31/03. Holding is subject to change. This is not an offering, which can be made by prospectus only. For more information about investing in the Community Reinvestment Act Qualified Investment Fund, contact CRAFund Advisors at 1-877-CRA-1977. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing or sending money. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that shares when redeemed may be worth more or less than the original cost. The fund is not available to residents in all states. Citco-Quaker Mutual Fund Services, Inc., distributor.*

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