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April 16, 2008

**GIVE RECEIVES \$50,000 GRANT FROM  
BANK OF AMERICA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

*Funding will promote ongoing educational and economic development programs.*

**CORONA, Calif.** – The Green Institute for Village Empowerment (GIVE) today received a \$50,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation in support of ongoing policy, education and economic development programs promoting balance between the way people live and the impact those decisions have on the environment.

Specifically, the grant funding will support a variety of GIVE programs and initiatives including:

- Monthly Symposiums, featuring prominent speakers on issues related to sustainability
- Community Events, including workshops on topics such as earthquake preparedness and Internet safety
- The Green Valley Initiative: a regional economic development plan designed to bring green technologies and jobs to the Inland Empire, [www.greenvalleynow.org](http://www.greenvalleynow.org)
- The Green Valley Earth Festival: the largest Earth Day celebration in Western Riverside County, to be held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 19 at Dos Lagos in Corona, Calif., [www.greenvalleyearthfestival.org](http://www.greenvalleyearthfestival.org)

The grant will be awarded ceremoniously Saturday at the Green Valley Earth Festival, during a special presentation to be held at 1 p.m at the festival's amphitheater.

Al Arguello, Inland Empire Market President for Bank of America, praised GIVE for its efforts to galvanize Riverside and San Bernardino counties under the Green Valley Initiative to bring green jobs to the Inland Empire.

“GIVE’s efforts to bring together the region’s most influential leaders to develop comprehensive approaches to educate and promote sustainable strategies is to be commended,” Arguello said. “By working with our business and community leaders, GIVE is demonstrating how green technology can be an economic driver in the Inland Empire.”

The grant is part of Bank of America’s \$20 billion environmental initiative to support the growth of environmentally sustainable business activity to address global climate change. Bank of America’s 10-year initiative encourages development of environmentally sustainable

business practice through lending, investing, philanthropy and the creation of new products and services.

Les Hamasaki, Executive Director of GIVE, thanked the Bank of America Charitable Foundation for its generous support, and praised the financial institution for its social and environmental agenda.

“Bank of America is leading by example, showing the world that it makes good business sense to support the environment, support community and to support initiatives designed to benefit others,” Hamasaki said. “GIVE is pleased to partner with such an organization in the efforts we take so closely to heart.”

Building on a long-standing tradition of investing in the communities it serves, Bank of America is in its fourth year of achieving an unprecedented 10-year goal to donate \$1.5 billion to nonprofit organizations engaging in improving the health and vitality of their neighborhoods. Funded by Bank of America, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation will give more than \$225 million in 2008, making the bank the most generous financial institution in the world and the second largest donor of all U.S. corporations in cash contributions. Bank of America approaches giving through a national strategy called “neighborhood excellence” under which it works with local leaders to identify and meet the most pressing needs of individual communities. Through Team Bank of America, bank associate volunteers contributed more than 650,000 hours in 2007 to enhance the quality of life in their communities nationwide. For more information about Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy, visit [www.bankofamerica.com/foundation](http://www.bankofamerica.com/foundation).

GIVE is a nonprofit organization established in 2005 to promote balance in the way people live, how their choices impact the environment and others in their community. GIVE hosts events and initiatives, and sponsors college campus chapters to educate the public on issues related to sustainability, a term used to describe this social, economic and environmental balance. For more information visit [www.giveforthefuture.org](http://www.giveforthefuture.org)

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