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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Business Students Raise Record Amount for Wheelchair Foundation

SAN LUIS OBISPO - The Cal Poly Wheelchair Foundation recently raised $29,000 at its Fifth Annual Gift of Mobility Benefit at The Cliffs Resort in Shell Beach. Proceeds from the event brought the team's total to more than $60,000, exceeding their original goal of $44,000.

The team will deliver more than 800 wheelchairs to Belize in late August. They chose Belize because the country's government recently dismantled the Disability Services Division of the Ministry of Human Development, and there are currently no formal programs in place to assist people living with disabilities.

This year's distribution will include a large distribution in Belize City as well as personal distributions to homes in rural areas. The team also plans to deliver personal items such as toothbrushes, shoes, socks, and blankets to area orphanages.

This year's Cal Poly Wheelchair Foundation includes Andrea Baza, Vista; Krista Couch, Huntington Beach; Dana DiPasquale, Renton, WA; Brittany Fletcher, Newbury Park; Kristen Hunt, Pleasanton; Katie Kluenker, Roseville; Katie LaFollette, Pleasanton; Kristen Larson, Monrovia; Aaron Mendelovitz, Tarzana; Jaime Ransom, Spring Valley; Molly Roberts, Torrance; Kenny Smestad, San Jose; Jennifer Taber, Shingle Springs; Marjorie Taylor, San Jose; and Scott West, Burlingame.

The Cal Poly Chapter of the Wheelchair Foundation was founded in April 2001 to provide students with an opportunity to apply their educational experiences to a beneficial cause. The Cal Poly Chapter was the first student chapter of the Wheelchair Foundation in the nation. It has received three President's Community-Based Learning and Service Awards for Significant Service. Professor Lynn Metcalf is the group's advisor.

The Wheelchair Foundation is a non-profit organization leading an international effort to deliver a wheelchair to every adult, teen and child in the world that needs a wheelchair, but cannot afford one. The gift of a wheelchair allows people with physical disabilities freedom, self-reliance, mobility, and hope.

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