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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Students Collect Books to Help Ugandan School

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The Schools for Schools student club at Cal Poly is holding a book drive through Jan. 31 to raise money for repairs and improvements at a partner school in northern Uganda.

The Cal Poly club is part of the national Schools for Schools fundraising program created by the nonprofit Invisible Children organization. Invisible Children was launched in 2003 by three Southern California filmmakers to call attention to the ongoing war in northern Uganda. Schools for Schools focuses on the negative effects of the war on schools and education in northern Uganda.

The program, launched in 2007, raises money for 10 secondary schools. More than 580 schools around the world joined the program's first fundraising drive and, in about three months, collected $1.6 million, program officials report. The money was used at the Ugandan schools to build classrooms, labs and dorms; provide textbooks and classroom and lab equipment; and repair and improve infrastructure such as plumbing and fencing.

"These schools are not just learning facilities but safe havens for the students," said Amy Anderson, a coordinator of the Cal Poly drive. "These schools offer children in Uganda the opportunity to better themselves and improve their lives so they can support their families through the hard times of this ongoing war."

This is the first year Cal Poly has taken part in the book drive program. So far, the effort has netted about 2,000 books, including large donations from the Cal Poly campus warehouse and Aida's University Book Exchange.

Cal Poly's Schools for Schools club will send the books it collects to an Indiana-based online bookseller, Better World Books. All profits from the sales of the donated books will be given to Cal Poly's partner school, Anaka Secondary School.

Books can be dropped off in a box located outside the Student Community Services office on the second floor of the University Union. Books that have been damaged or written in cannot be resold. All other books are acceptable.

For more information about Cal Poly Schools for Schools' book drive, contact Amy Anderson at 760-703-1918 or amymichellea@gmail.com.

For more information about the national Schools for Schools program and Invisible Children, log on to www.invisiblechildren.com.

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