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Contact: Jo Ann Lloyd
(805) 756-1511

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cal Poly Student Chapter of Habitat for Humanity Seeks Funds to Help Build House in Portland During Spring Break

While many college students will be enjoying spring break at the shore or on the slopes, 20 Cal Poly students will be swinging hammers as part of Habitat for Humanity International's Collegiate Challenge.

The students, members of Cal Poly's chapter of Habitat for Humanity, will travel to Portland, Ore., during spring break March 23-April 1 to help a family build their own home.

"At Cal Poly we 'learn by doing,'" said Shirley Paredes, a chapter member and mathematics graduate student. "We are about to learn one of life's biggest and most important lessons: humanity."

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, nondenominational Christian housing organization. "We welcome all people to join us as we build simple, decent, affordable houses for low-income families," Paredes said.

Since 1976, Habitat for Humanity has built more than 100,000 houses in more than 80 countries, including some 30,000 houses across the United States. To ensure that the houses remain affordable, they are sold at no profit, and no interest is charged on the mortgage; the homeowners and volunteers build the houses under trained supervision; and individuals, corporations, faith groups and others provide financial support.

Homeowner families are chosen according to need, their ability to repay the no-profit, no-interest mortgage, and their willingness to work in partnership with the organization.

The student chapter is seeking donations to help them make the trip to Portland.

"Part of our job as volunteers is to raise the funds necessary to take
this trip," Paredes said. "We are required to provide our own transportation and food and to make a donation to the affiliate that will host us in Portland. In the true spirit of college students and humanitarians, we are seeking the community's help in reaching our goal of $4,000. We greatly appreciate any contributions that can be made to our cause," Paredes said.

The student group has received a $400 grant from Cal Poly's Center for Community Volunteerism and $300 from the San Luis Obispo Habitat for Humanity affiliate.
For more information or to donate money to the Cal Poly Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, e-mail polyhabitat@yahoo.com or call 756-6468.

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Cal Poly Public Affairs
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
805.756.7266
polynews@calpoly.edu