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Cal Poly’s Annual PolyHouse Will Renovate Home of Disabled Teenager

SAN LUIS OBISPO – For the past seven years, Cal Poly’s Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering project management class has led a cross-disciplinary team that renovated homes of local families or individuals struggling with issues related to disabilities.

This year, the PolyHouse team will renovate the Shandon home of 15-year-old Jacob Slattery and his parents. Born with a severe form of spina bifida, Jacob is paralyzed from the mid-chest down and has been confined to a wheelchair since the age of two. Over his lifetime, Jacob has endured 12 major surgeries and countless hospitalizations. He also confronts far-reaching impacts from osteoporosis and hydrocephalus, which affects executive functioning skills. For Jacob, daily living tasks require constant prompting and a great measure of assisted care.

The goal of the PolyHouse team is to improve the safety and comfort of Jacob’s home and to encourage his future independence. The renovation plan includes extending the house to add a bedroom and accessible bathroom and other changes that will help the family manage his daily medical needs.

The project involves 38 students from a variety of majors including industrial engineering, engineering management, mechanical engineering, aerospace engineering, biomedical engineering, business and agriculture. The class spends six weeks planning the project, and has a fundraising goal of \$100,000, including donations of cash, building materials and other assistance for the repairs and home improvements. Actual construction will be completed over two weekends: May 13-15, and May 20-22.

The PolyHouse team plans to unveil the renovated home at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 22.

For a complete list of local donors and to read more about PolyHouse, visit www.polyhouse.org/index.html.

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