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April 8, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tara Johnston or Megan Hitchcock
Student Community Services, Beyond Shelter
805-756-5834; scs.beyondshelter@gmail.com

Cal Poly Students Plan Homelessness Awareness Week for April 19-25

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly students will hold a clothing drive, a sleep out and a walk through downtown San Luis Obispo among other events as part the annual Homelessness Awareness Week set for April 19-25.

The week will begin with the Walk to Fight Homelessness on Sunday, April 19. Students, homeless residents and other community members will walk through downtown San Luis Obispo to a barbecue at Mitchell Park.

Events following throughout the week include students serving meals and doing other volunteer work at the Prado Day Center and Maxine Lewis Memorial Homeless Shelter in San Luis Obispo; a Sleep Out on campus; a booth at the Thursday night Farmers Market; and a clothing drive all week for Goodwill.

The event, organized by the Beyond Shelter program within Cal Poly's Student Community Services, aims to educate students and the community about homelessness and provide opportunities for people to get involved in battling the problem.

"The week is aimed at shedding light on issues of homelessness in SLO County and the nation by educating the university and local community through action and service," said Jared Michael Gamm, a coordinator with Student Community Services.

This will be the 11th year that Cal Poly students have organized Homelessness Awareness Week.

For more details on the event or Student Community Services, log on to <http://scs.calpoly.edu> or call 805-756-5834

Homelessness Awareness Week – full schedule:

All week

* Art show – Kennedy Library Art Gallery

* Goodwill Clothing Drive – A Goodwill van will be parked near Dexter Lawn on campus from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
April 20-24

Sunday, April 19

* Walk to Fight Homelessness – 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mitchell Park, San Luis Obispo. Check-in at the park. The walk starts at 11 a.m., followed by a barbecue at the park at noon. Suggested donation for walk participants is \$10 and includes the barbecue and a T-shirt.

Tuesday, April 21

* Soup and Substance – 11 a.m. to noon, University Union Room 204. Includes information on a planned census of the county's homeless population and a panel discussion with local residents who were homeless in the past.

Wednesday, April 22

- * Students serve breakfast to the homeless – 8 to 9:30 a.m., Prado Day Center, San Luis Obispo
- * Film screening – 7 p.m., Dexter Lawn – Film to be announced.
- * Sleep Out – 9 p.m., Dexter Lawn

Thursday, April 23

- * Button Sale fundraiser for the Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless.
- * Farmers Market informational booth – 6 to 9 p.m., downtown San Luis Obispo

Friday, April 25

- * Resume workshop for homeless residents who need assistance finding employment – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Prado Day Center, San Luis Obispo
- * Students serve dinner to the homeless – 4 to 7 p.m., Maxine Lewis Memorial Homeless Shelter, San Luis Obispo

Saturday, April 26

- * Service Day – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Maxine Lewis Memorial Homeless Shelter, San Luis Obispo. Students will fix fencing around the shelter.

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Cal Poly Public Affairs

California Polytechnic State University

San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

805.756.7266

polynews@calpoly.edu

