Cal Poly Fraternity Pledges Gather Gift Boxes for Needy Children

SAN LUIS OBISPO – About 65 Cal Poly students spent some time before their Thanksgiving break putting together gift boxes to be sent to needy children around the world.

The volunteer work, organized by Cal Poly's Junior Greek Council, was performed Nov. 18 through a program called Operation Christmas Child – part of international nonprofit Samaritan's Purse.

The group helped pack, wrap, write letters and send off about 45 boxes. The participants were members of several Cal Poly fraternities. Many of them were new pledges.

Organizer Audrey Egan said this is the first year Cal Poly fraternities have gotten involved in the Operation Christmas Child program. She hopes to continue it next year, though, and expand participation among members of the university's Greek community.

"I have taken part in Operation Christmas Child since I was 8 years old," Egan said, "and it is something I hold very close to my heart. I love that I have the chance to share it with the Greek community. I have high hopes that next year we can pack 200 shoeboxes and include the entire Greek community."

The Junior Greek Council is a subgroup of Cal Poly's InterFraternity Council that began two years ago.

"The Junior Greek Council offers young members of the Greek system an opportunity to get involved in philanthropy activities outside their house as well as hold leadership positions," Egan said. "The council has great potential, and we have worked this year to create some new philanthropy events."

In addition to Operation Christmas Child, the Junior Greek Council takes part in book drives and student forums for high school seniors. And Egan hopes to see the number of philanthropy efforts by the council grow in coming months and years.

For more on the Junior Greek Council and its philanthropic endeavors, contact Egan at 949-370-3036 or
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