Students Offer Alternative Giving Fair for Charitable Holiday Shopping Nov. 14, 17

SAN LUIS OBISPO - No idea what to get your father for Christmas? Instead of another tie, how about a heifer?

Heifers, rafters, windows, "fairly traded" gourmet coffee, food for AIDS orphans and "fairly bought" native crafts are among the range of holiday gifts available at two Alternative Giving Fairs sponsored by Cal Poly's Lutheran Student Movement club.

The fairs run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 14 in the University Union Plaza at Cal Poly and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 17 in the fellowship hall at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, 1701 Fredericks St.

Each event offers the chance to purchase a variety of gifts that will support both secular and non-secular charities throughout the county, the state, the nation and the world, said event chairman Jon Ericson, retired dean of Cal Poly's College of Liberal Arts.

At the Nov. 14 event in the University Union, shoppers will be able to order "fairly traded" gourmet coffees grown in Latin America, Africa, and Asia and handmade crafts from throughout the world. The coffees and crafts are marketed through nondenominational, nonprofit organizations that provide growers and craftspeople a fairer share of market value and encourage sustainable farming and market practices.

At the Nov. 17 gift fair, shoppers can also make a donation to a variety of local, state and national charities in the name of a gift recipient. In return, they'll receive a card indicating the charity donation, Ericson explained.
"Gifts" to purchase in the name of recipients include building supplies - windows, rafters, doors, and more - for projects that build homes for the poor in Mexico; livestock - from heifers to goats to chickens to rabbits - for rural Third-World families; food for African AIDS orphans; and goods for San Luis Obispo County children in child abuse and homeless shelters.

Both fairs are open to the public. For details, contact the Lutheran Campus Ministry at (805) 542-0260.

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