



Rosalyn Koo

Rosalyn (Roz) Koo was born and raised in Shanghai. Upon graduation from McTyeire High School she came to the U.S. to attend Mills College. After transferring to U.C.-Berkeley, she graduated with a B.A. in Economics (with honors). After a 30-year career, she retired as a business executive of a major San Francisco Architectural firm in 1988. A life-long volunteer and social activist, Roz has served on the Board of Self-Help for the Elderly for the past 25 years, leading the agency through phenomenal expansion. Simultaneously, she has dedicated herself to the betterment of impoverished girls through education—first in restoring her alma mater into the pre-eminent public girls' school in China. Her Hope Project, launched in 1995, sent 84 girls through senior high school, 56 of whom completed college. In 2001, she began the Spring Bud project, which made it possible for 1,000 girls in Shaanxi Province to complete middle school. Through Roz's 13-year commitment, some of these students completed high school or vocational school, and 170 are now attending college. Roz has received many awards for community service including her induction into the Women's Hall of Fame in San Mateo County.