



Rosalyn C. Koo

November 11, 1926 – January 30, 2021

For over 48 years Rosalyn (Roz) had been a passionate community volunteer, advocate and leader. She has continuously served Self-Help for the Elderly since 1984 with fierce and committed leadership, fueled by a sincere desire to help others and stand up for justice. Her interest in serving the elderly population stems from her own mother's affliction with Alzheimer's disease.

Roz's public service began 1973 when she joined the American Institute of Architecture's Task Force on Unemployment. Three years later, she joined the Chinese Cultural Foundation Board. In 1984, she joined the Board of Directors at Self-Help for the Elderly. Since then she has selflessly given her time and resources to us and has played a vital role in improving the lives of low-income elderly in the Bay Area.

Roz was instrumental with many significant Self-Help projects. Despite many challenges,

Roz was the key fundraiser and strategist for Self-Help's acquisition and construction of the 70-unit Lady Shaw Senior Housing; the 15-bed Autumn Glow Alzheimer's Care Home; and the 82-unit Lincoln Court Senior Apartments in Oakland. Furthermore, she started the San Mateo and Millbrae Senior Centers in 1992 and 2018 respectively.

In addition to her work with Self-Help, Roz spearheaded the Spring Bud Project for the 1990 Institute since 2001, which supported scholarships for 1,000 girls living in rural villages in Shaanxi Province in China. Most of the students graduated from college in 2014-2015. They referred Roz affectionately as their Grandma Koo.



Roz has received many awards and citations for her dedication and commitment to making the world a better place for others. She was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame for San Mateo County. Roz was a fearless, independent thinker who often challenges convention. Her belief that education and empowerment nurture the spirit was evident in her philanthropy and volunteerism.



Mrs. Rosalyn Chin-Ming Koo

Mrs. Rosalyn Koo is a role model and heroine for many aspiring girls, women and men worldwide. She continues to inspire and encourage us to make a difference every day.

Roz is survived by her two daughters, Debbie and Jackie, her grandchild, Sam, and her two sons-in-law, Dennis and Pete. In lieu of flowers or a service, her family is asking that any donations be made to **Self-Help for The Elderly San Mateo**.

The Self-Help for the Elderly family extends our deepest admiration and gratitude to Roz, who for almost four decades had served the seniors with her heart and soul. Her vision, wisdom and actions had transformed Self-Help from a storefront operation to the Bay Area's premier senior service organization.

Dearest Roz: we salute you and thank you for your life-long commitment, support and love of our seniors, staff and volunteers at Self-Help. May you rest in peace.



**Self-Help for
the Elderly**
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