



British Columbia Society for  
**Educating Girls of Rural China**  
資助中國鄉村女大學生教育基金會 A Registered Canadian Charity

## Spring Newsletter 2012

I hope you are doing well!

Even though the rain is still hanging around in Vancouver, I do notice that spring is around the corner - the days are getting longer and the flowers are budding in our beautiful city.

Fundraising is always the most challenging part for all charities. Over the past seven years, as the founder of EGRC, I have devoted most of my time and energy to raise funds. It is always rewarding for me to see more individuals and organizations that have become part of this endeavor. As a result we are able to give more rural women the opportunity to receive an education.

With this newsletter I invite you to come to our upcoming fundraiser and will also share with you EGRC's recent fundraising successes. I am fortunate not only in being able to successfully raise funds for the girls in need but also, through my work, I have met men and women who are truly amazing and inspiring. You will get to know a few of them through this newsletter.

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### Dim Sum Lunch - April 13th

EGRC's annual Dim Sum Lunch is fast approaching. This year we will take a larger space in the Kirin Restaurant – one of the best Chinese restaurants in town. We will have more tables – more space for you to mill about – and it will be easier for people to examine the raffle prizes and auction items. The event chair, Kathy Mann, and co-chair Chloe Angus, are working very hard to make this event more successful than ever.

The money we raise will be part of the funds which we are going to provide for the 160 girls' university education for the 2012 - 2013 school year.

I encourage you to invite your family and friends and to even organize your own table of 10 people. We have always appreciated

### READ ABOUT:

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your presence at the luncheon and rely on your continued support to make this event a success. I look forward to seeing you there!



**EGRC**  
**ANNUAL**  
**DIM SUM**  
**FUNDRAISER**

**You're Invited to...**  
A fundraising Dim Sum lunch  
for BC Society for Educating Girls of Rural China

**Emcee Dr. Art Hister, Global TV**

**Kirin Chinese Restaurant**  
555 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 13TH 2012**  
**11:45 - 2:00 pm**  
Ticket: \$88 with \$65 tax receipt

To book your tickets, or for more information  
Call 604-732-9370 or email [info@egrc.ca](mailto:info@egrc.ca)

Visa, Mastercard, Cheque payable to EGRC  
4326 Dunbar Street PO Box 45098  
Vancouver, BC V6S 2M8

### Facts in China

- *Top 10% of the wealthy population owns 45% of the national wealth; bottom 10% of the population owns 1% of the national wealth.*
- *Gansu Province has the highest poverty rate and illiteracy rate.*
- *One man moves one ton of concrete and earns \$1.00.*
- *One year university cost is equivalent to one Gansu rural family's annual income.*
- *60% of the middle school graduates are not able to attend high school in rural Gansu.*
- *Only 7.52% of the population in Gansu has post secondary education*

### "Whiskey and Women" on International Women's Day in Beijing

While I was traveling in South Africa at the beginning of February I received an email from Harold Broese Van Groenou, a young Dutch business man. Through email exchange I learned that he lives in Beijing and imports Compass Box Whiskey from Britain to China.

Harold told me that he would like to organize a whiskey cocktail party on International Women's Day and raise funds for EGRC. Viva and 85Broads (both international women's organizations) are co-organizers of this event. I was thrilled to learn about this. As an event organizer and a fundraiser for the past 7 years I could imagine the hard work, the creativity and the amount of time would be involved to make it happen.

Although I was not able to attend the party, from the photos I received I saw the elegant setting, a good crowd, musicians for

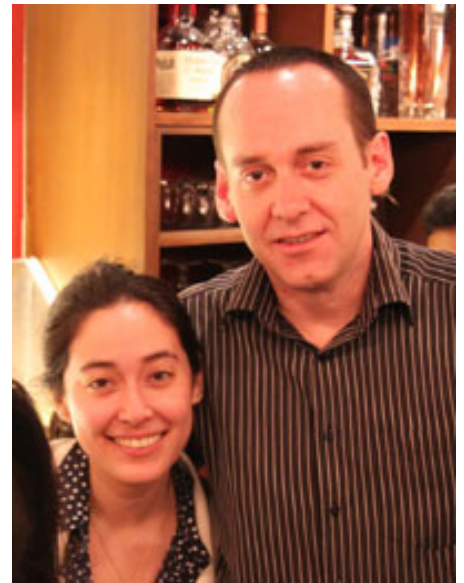
entertainment, Compass Box Whiskey cocktails, beautifully wrapped raffle prizes...I could see people were having good time there. They were all pleased to meet the three EGRC sponsored students at the party. The next day Harold informed me that RMB 10,000 was raised from the party.

It was a truly successful event in every aspect! Cindy Jensen spoke on behalf of myself and EGRC at the event. Cindy, a Canadian business woman who has lived in Beijing now for the past 10 years, has become a good friend of mine and has become a friend and the anchor of EGRC in Beijing.

The Canadian Ambassador to China David Mulrone opened the door to Beijing for EGRC over one year ago. I can foresee more support will come from China through Canadian and international businesses and organizations.



**Harold Broese Van Croenou the event initiator and organizer**



**Alisha Bailey and Chris Hebert, the owners of the Starfish Restaurant**





**Three EGRC students attended the party**

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### **A Family's Effort to Raise Funds in Vancouver**

Carol Wong has been a donor of EGRC since 2008. But only since the summer of 2011 did I get to know her better. She asked me what she could do to be more helpful to EGRC.

On January 7th 2012 Carol, her husband, and their three young adult children hosted a dinner party at their house in Vancouver. I was invited to do a presentation.

It was wonderful to see such a good crowd and a variety of delicious food. A music performance was arranged with a soprano and a few Western and Chinese music instrumentalists.

All the guests there were keen to know more about EGRC and to meet Bixia, the EGRC student who is completing her masters degree at SFU. To my surprise, the "shy" Carol I knew had transformed into such an outgoing person. She spoke to her friends about EGRC with great passion.

Carol Wong, her husband, and all the guests at the party are from Hong Kong. They obtained their higher education in Canada and made their careers and had their families here. They certainly deemed EGRC a worthy charity to support. At the end of the evening most people left donations - \$11,500 was raised!

I was so proud of Carol and very thankful for her family and friends' support.



**Carol Chow (right), provided raffle prizes**



**Cindy Jensen, the anchor of EGRC in Beijing**



Carol Wong (right) is doing introduction at the dinner party

### Musicians of the Evening:



Tien is talking about EGRC to the guests



Carol Wong and her family

## **A Believer and Supporter – Don Kayne, CEO of Canfor**

Mr. Don Kayne read about EGRC in a Globe & Mail article in December 2011; later I met him in person in his office in Vancouver.

Don told me that throughout the long journey of establishing a significant business presence in China (he has been to China over 50 times in 15 years and traveled to many different rural regions of China), he found himself struck by the opportunities that exist there, as well as the challenges that many face.

Having daughters of his own, Don was particularly aware of the lack of access to education and opportunities for girls in rural China. Through his work he has also witnessed how capable and exceptional women become once they are educated. He was looking for a way to give back to that country.

After our meeting he made a very generous personal donation to EGRC. I know his support comes from his heart.

I hope you enjoyed reading the news.

Sincerely,

Tien Ching



**Don Kayne, CEO of Canfor**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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