

# NWCCA

Northwest Chinese Cultural Association

Issue No. 1 - Winter 2010 - December

## Volunteering in Ghana

*Tiffany Chou, 16, Junior at Sehome High, traveled to Ghana this June, participating in a 2-week High School Special "CARE & COMMUNITY WORK IN GHANA" program. She was with a group of fellow students, with a mixture of taught sessions, hands-on and observational work as well as evening activities and weekend excursion. This program is coordinated by Projects Abroad, [www.projects-abroad.org](http://www.projects-abroad.org).*

This summer, I was fortunate enough to travel along with one of my friends to Ghana this June to volunteer abroad. Upon arriving in Ghana, I knew that I was not in the United States any longer. Where in the U.S. the buildings were tall and glassy, here the buildings were one-story and cement. Driving around Accra for the first time was pretty crazy. The first thing the rest of the volunteers and I noticed was there were no stoplights. Not only that, but the lanes would come and go. The high speeds of the rickety cars didn't exactly make us feel safe, but it was invigorating.

I suppose now I'll skip to the part where we actually did stuff. The ten volunteers, including myself, in our group spent most of our time at St. Monica's All-Girls School. I learned four things here: 1) turpentine actually sucks to work with, 2) teaching kids that don't understand English is tough, 3) Ghanaian kids absolutely love white people, and 4) the name is a lie, since some boys attend the school too. We spent a large majority of our time at this school painting three classrooms, and let me just say that it isn't nearly as fun as painting on a canvas. But the children at the school were extremely

nice and constantly would come to watch and "help" us. In fact, some girls even came to teach us some of their native tongue, Fanti.

In the first week, our group also visited an orphanage of about twenty children called the Children's Home of Hope. There, I learned that most of the kids were AIDS children, and they didn't know it. Many of them didn't even know how old they were. We spent the day just hanging out with these kids and getting to know them, even though many of them didn't understand much English. I have never felt more fortunate in all my sixteen years. Needless to say, at the orphanage, we all had a great time and I loved it.

In our second week, we spent one afternoon teaching some kids how to swim. That's actually not true, though, because all we did was carry them around in the water. But it was great fun. The kids were all around ages five to ten, but most of them were terrified of the water. It was hard to communicate because none of the children even understood English. Eventually, however, the children did let a little loose and floated around on life preservers, though none of the children dared to go into the deep end of the pool.

I seriously wish that I could print all of my experiences, but unfortunately, I can't. During my two week stay in Cape Coast, Ghana, I had to paint under the hot sun and in the suffocating heat. I had to use a toilet that only flushed occasionally and had no toilet seat. I had to take showers with shoes on and no warm water. I had to sleep with a mosquito net and still I got bitten nearly thirty times. And if I had the chance to do it all over again, I wouldn't hesitate to start packing. ~ **Tiffany Chou**

## TRIP PHOTOS



TIFFANY'S TRIP PHOTOS

# NWCCA Donation to Red Cross Society of China

*On April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 a 7.1-magnitude earthquake hit the Yushu Autonomous Prefecture located in Qinghai Province of the People's Republic of China. The devastating earthquake killed over two thousand people and forced over one hundred thousand people to flee their earthquake damaged homes.*

Like communities throughout the world, the people in Western Washington organized a robust relief effort to assist those in need in the PRC. In August of 2010, the Northwest Chinese Cultural Association assisted in this relief effort by donating \$500.00 (including wire fee) to the Red Cross Society of China to help with their effort in rebuilding the earthquake damaged and destroyed schools, homes and apartment buildings for the earthquake-stricken victims in Yushu City and throughout Qinghai Province.

The list amount of donation was transferred to Red Cross Society of China under Bank Account Number 711211148260000209 at China CITIC Bank Beijing Jiuxianqiao Sub-Branch, using Swift Code CIBKCNBJ100. The donation was wired through Bank of America NA in Bellingham, Washington, from Account Number 0025734708 on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

We would like to thank all the people who participated and contributed to the Association's fundraising effort with the goal of helping the Red Cross Society of China rebuilding health clinics and schools and in providing much needed school supplies to the children of the disaster ravaged area. There are so many people to thank for their financial generosity and the donation of their time and it's not

possible to name them all, but we would especially thank Jenny and David Ji, owners of the Food Garden for sponsoring and donating to our Dine-Out Fundraising effort, the Mei Hua Chinese School teachers and students and the many, many members and families who participated in this effort. We would also like to thank the Northwest Ballet Company for providing us with a fundraising opportunity during their "Little Mermaid" ballet program at Mt. Baker Theater.

On behalf of Northwest Chinese Cultural Association Board of Directors, I want to sincerely thank you all for your generous donations and for your dedicated support!

~Xinrong Lynch NWCCA President

## Silent Auction Items Needed for CNY

We are working on procuring items for our 2011 Chinese New Year Silent Auction. If you or someone you know might be able to donate to our auction we would greatly appreciate it. Money raised from the auction will go toward paying for events and activities within our organization.

Please don't feel that your donated item needs to be something big. If you donate something small we can group it together with other small items and make themed gift basket to auction off. Anything you can do will help us.

Ideas for auction items:

Restaurant Gift Certificates, Rounds of Golf, Golf Accessories, Horseback Riding Lessons, Spa Products, Family Fun Night (games, puzzles, etc), Spa Services, Hair Salon Services, Tanning Salon Services, Kid's Party, Music Lessons, Artwork, Chinese Language Tutoring, Children's Museum Membership, Bottles of Wine, Camping Equipment, Condo or Time Share, Latte a Week for a Year, Sports Gear, Movie Theatre Tickets, Maid Service, Backyard Play Equipment, Bikes, Kid's Games, Electronics - MP3 Player, Laptop, etc., Boat Trip, Concert Tickets, Sporting Event Tickets, Martial Arts Classes, Gym Membership, Personal Training

Services, Nursery Gift Certificate/ Plants, Lawn Care, Gardening Tools, Sporting Event Tickets, Museum Tickets, Tutoring Services, Theatre Tickets, Kitchenware, Cash donations will also be accepted so that we can purchase items to put in the auction.

If you have an item to donate please drop it off at the Food Garden, Xing's Panda Palace, Chinese Christian Church, Mei Hua Chinese School or contact Bobbi Buchanan [funkneepharm@yahoo.com](mailto:funkneepharm@yahoo.com) to arrange for pick-up of item.

# Please Welcome our Newest Members



## MINTZ FAMILY

FREDERICK AND KATHY MINTZ, MOVED TO BELLINGHAM THIS SUMMER 2010 FROM CHATSWORTH, CALIFORNIA



## KONG FAMILY

YIN KONG AND VERA YIN (NOT PICTURED) JOINED NWCCA IN AUGUST.



## GIGANTE FAMILY

PETER GIGANTE: MY WIFE JOANA (ZHU HONG WEI) IS FROM QINGDAO, SHAN DONG PROVINCE, WHERE I LIVED THE PAST 7 1/2 YEARS. TOGETHER WITH OUR DAUGHTER LUCY, 15 (WANG MAN DING) WE RECENTLY MOVED TO BELLINGHAM IN TIME FOR LUCY TO ATTEND 9TH GRADE AT SEHOME HIGH SCHOOL. I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN BUT SINCE GRADUATING FROM MBA SCHOOL THERE IN 1987 I HAVE LIVED IN CHICAGO, THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, MALAYSIA, ALASKA AND CHINA BEFORE FINALLY TOUCHING DOWN IN BELLINGHAM.

# Please Welcome our Newest Members



## LO FAMILY

The Lo Family has four members: Dad--Sansom Lo, Mom--Michelle Lai, Son--Christopher Lo and Daughter--Florence Lo.

Sansom came from Hong Kong in 1984 to further his higher education in the U.S. In 1987 Sansom graduated at Humphreys College in Stockton, California with his

Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and then

received his law degree four years later. Sansom was a legal consultant at Kuvara Law Firm, a personal injury law office, in San Francisco, California for ten years. He then became a Realtor at Prudential California Realty for 12 years. Recently, Sansom and his family moved to Bellingham, Washington because of the nature beauty and excellent schools for the children. Now, He is an insurance advisor at Farmers Insurance Group in downtown Bellingham.

Michelle Lai immigrated with her family from Hong Kong in 1989 and was a cosmetologist in California. Currently, she is studying at Bellingham Technical College and soon becomes a dental assistant. Michelle is an active dancer at Wendy Setter's Dance Studio and will be performing as one of the parents in the Christmas Nutcracker show at Mt. Baker Theatre this December 2010.

Christopher Lo is 11 years old and a six-grader at Fairhaven Middle School. He is a member of the Bellingham Bay Swim Team and an active ballet and tap dancer at the Dance Studio. Christopher also will be performing as Fritz, Clara's brother, in the Christmas Nutcracker.

Florence Lo is 5 years old and a first-grader at St. Paul's Academy. She is also an active ballet and tap dancer at the Dance Studio and will be performing as one of the mice in the Christmas Nutcracker as well.

## Up Coming Events

**Saturday January 29, 2011**

Chinese New Year Celebration at Whatcom Community College (WCC) Syre Student Center

**Saturday April 30, 2011**

Chinese Family Activity Day at Whatcom Museum.