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Dallas Women's Foundation getting \$1 million gift from Trea Yip

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ROBERT MILLER

When **Trea Yip** came to the United States from China in 1972, she had no money or connections, just the desire to earn a college degree and a strong work ethic.

Now she's giving \$1 million to the **Dallas Women's Foundation's** \$30 million comprehensive campaign to help other women who are starting from scratch or facing major hurdles as they build a life for themselves and their families.

Yip, the chief executive of **TY Commercial Group** and co-founder of **Oriental Accent Inc.**, made the donation to help fund operations of the women's foundation, which has a threefold mission to:

- Research the needs and issues of women and girls.
- Make grants.
- Empower women philanthropists.

"The Dallas Women's Foundation has a reputation for meticulous grant-making standards and provides important guidance and education to women coming into their own as donors," said Yip, chairwoman-elect of the foundation.

Part of her donation will support the **Suzanne Ahn, M.D. Speaker Endowment Fund** for the Dallas Women's Foundation's annual luncheon, the group's biggest annual fundraiser.

Yip was raised in a family that, like many traditional Chinese families at the time, didn't believe in higher education for girls. She persuaded her father to pay for a one-way ticket to the U.S. and tuition for one semester so she could follow her dream.

Yip then worked her way through college at **Loyola University** in Los Angeles.

After college, she married **Richard Yip**, and they helped establish the U.S. arm of her family's company, which imports Chinese antiques and furniture. Later, the Yips came to Dallas and started **Oriental Accent**, which sells hand-painted porcelains, handcrafted furniture, lighting and accessories from China. Yip is vice president and secretary of the company.

In 1990, Yip founded **TY Equity**, which later became **TY Commercial**, a commercial real estate investment firm. She is chief executive of the company, which has bought more than 100 U.S. properties, including shopping centers, office buildings and storage facilities in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and Florida.

Yip has also served on the executive committee of the Dallas Women's Foundation board of trustees and chaired the Development Committee.

She also serves on the board of executive directors of the **Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University** and the advisory council of the **Women's Funding Network**. She formerly served on the board of trustees for **Girls Inc. of Metropolitan Dallas** and **Hockaday School**.

For more information about the foundation, visit www.dallaswomensfoundation.org or call philanthropy director **Lesly Bosch Annen** at 214-965-9977, ext. 118.