



LIVE WRIGHT SOCIETY™

FEATURE RELEASE

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Founder's Amazing Survival Teaches Her Unconditional Love for Self, Others Live Wright Society Launches *Dallas Pays It Forward!*

In 1947, Live Wright Society founder, Milly Xu was born in Shanghai, China. In 1966, during the Cultural Revolution, to save her parents the grief of losing their only son, Milly volunteered to replace her brother as one of the thousands of youth Chairman Mao mandated to work as peasants in the countryside for the rest of their lives. After eight years of torture and hard-labor in the rice fields, Milly caught a severe case of Rheumatic fever and had three heart attacks. The labor camp did not want a death on their hands, so she was sent away, barely conscious, in a cart pulled by a donkey.

"Somehow, I made the 10 days by bus, 3 days by train journey back to Shanghai. But I never would have survived without the benevolence of six strangers along the way. They fed me, they carried me on their backs to catch the bus, they slipped me what probably was their life savings, so that I could buy a train ticket home," recounts Xu. *"I truly believe they were my angels, but I still don't know who they are to this day. I will never have a chance to thank them in person. So I use Live Wright Society as my opportunity to treat others as my angels treated me. It is my small way of honoring their kindness and selflessness,"* Xu said.

In 1987, Milly moved to the States, with two suitcases, only \$10 in her pocket, and her three-year old daughter, Jenny. At age 40, she fully embraced American culture and taught herself to read, write and speak English.

"I had already been through so many hardships before even moving to this country. But I never became bitter, and it saved my life. Jenny also saved my life, because she gave me purpose," said Xu. *"I worked my way up from being a caretaker and housekeeper to managing the records department at Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering, the largest law firm in D.C. I didn't care how hard the work was this time around, because I had a daughter to raise. My gratitude for having survived what I did, pushed me to take every opportunity I could to build a better life for us."*

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Milly's daughter, Jenny Bai, is now a serial entrepreneur who lives in New York. She connects China and the U.S. through technology, investment and media initiatives. She is founder of DoubleMarket Group, The Red Connect, Girl 2.0 and serves as the Executive Director of Girls in Tech China and Live Wright Society. Bai is also a singer, pianist and high-fashion photographer.

In 2007, Xu and Bai started Live Wright Society, a nonprofit that uses music, art, film and literature to raise awareness for the following six causes: Multiple Sclerosis, Crohn's/Colitis, Aging Out of Foster Care, Organ Transplant & Donation, Lou Gehrig's Disease, and Music Brings (Healing and Hope). They have spent the past year filming a documentary, to capture the inspirational stories of North Texas citizens who stand behind these causes.

According to Xu, *"The biggest lesson I have learned in my 64 years is how to love and trust myself first, making me then able to love and help others. That's the spirit behind Live Wright. I have passed this on to Jenny, and she has grown into a confident, well-rounded young lady. Together we share a passion for music, the arts and Paying It Forward. And now we are ready to share it with the world."*

Xu and Bai are courageously gearing up to launch their organization's commitment to kick-starting Pay It Forward initiatives in countless cities across the globe. Dallas is their first stop with New York, Los Angeles and Shanghai on the horizon.

On March 9th, Live Wright Society has invited 50+ talented artists, musicians, authors and dancers who will be flying in from New York, Nashville and China, as well as coming from all corners of North Texas to perform at *Dallas Pays It Forward!* at the House of Blues.

Performers will include Greg Barnhill (who has written songs for Etta James, Trisha Yearwood, Tony Bennett, etc.), J Mack Slaughter, Jr. (actor/singer formerly of Sons of Harmony that toured with Destiny's Child), Lady Diamond, Instant Karma, Full House bluegrass band, PowerSurge, In The Mix, Slow Down Chester, among many others. They will also be showcasing 34 short stories from their documentary. Most importantly, the goal of the evening is to unite the North Texas community through music, art, literature and film and let them know how they can collectively Pay It Forward.

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“There are so many good causes out there to support. How do we choose? Usually with our hearts. We support things that move and shake us. But sometimes, there is no one on the other end moving and shaking hard enough to get our attention. Live Wright uses music, art, literature and film to raise awareness because these are the mediums that are most compelling to our passionate side, often the strongest decision maker in our system. In the end, we don’t just want to make a good impression. We want to make a lasting one. Paying It Forward only works if it happens on repeat,” said Bai.

What started as a small mother-daughter project is now a growing community of innovative conversations, creative experiences and pay-it-forward actions. With Bai's expertise in design, technology and communication she was able to quickly share her mother's love and wisdom with a global audience.

Doors open for *Dallas Pays It Forward!* at 7 p.m. and the Show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40 General Balcony; \$50 Box Seats (limited availability) and \$100 front and center (only 23 available). To find out more information about Live Wright Society, or to purchase tickets, visit www.livewrightociety.org.

The public is invited to Pay It Forward by purchasing tickets, donating online, becoming a sponsor or partner, “liking” Live Wright’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/LiveWrightSociety), following them on Twitter (ALWSociety) or emailing payitforward@livewrightociety.org to get more involved.

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