

Bridgeport International Academy's Telethon Raises Sizable Scholarship Funds

Naokimi Ushiroda
April 8, 2022



Bridgeport International Academy's ([BIA](#)) annual telethon fundraiser raised thousands of dollars toward student scholarships on April 8. The virtual event, which raised more than \$4,000 of its \$7,000 goal, showcased a great pool of talent from students, staff and alumni, all for a good cause.

"At this school we have an incredibly rich, culturally diverse environment that focuses on the development of our students' characters," said BIA Vice Headmaster, Emily Kise. "We pride ourselves not only in our academics but in investing in what it truly means to be a global citizen."



BIA, which was founded in 1997 by True Parents, provides exceptional education where students learn respect, character development, integrity, and citizenship. The school's telethon is BIA's primary source aiding students with financial need and has combined BIA's annual drama production and auction event into one virtual program during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We have people literally all across the world who watched this broadcast," said telethon organizer and

BIA teacher, Daniel Kingsley. "It's an honor and privilege to have them join us for the telethon."

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Streamed [live](#) on social media, the telethon featured a wide range of performances and skits. From piano and flute solos, to a jazz duet, teacher monologues, merengue dance, and music videos, there was no shortage of entertainment throughout the night. Student emcees rotated introductions as the audience enjoyed all the original content while donations poured into BIA's [scholarship fund](#).



For every thousand dollars that was raised, students participated in different challenges. Once the telethon reached \$1,000 in donations, two students ate a plate of lemon wedges. At the \$2,000 mark, two more students partook in a mystery drink challenge that included pickle juice, coconut milk and apple cider vinegar. And once the telethon reached \$3,000 in donations, another two students took pies to the faces.

"The pie went in my nose, I'm going to get them back!" exclaimed one student jokingly.

All in good fun, the student-run telethon brought to life the creative vision of some 40 students, staff and alumni who worked hard for several weeks leading up to the event. A photo montage captured classroom projects, group games, and the great teamwork of all the participants. A few students were also recognized with awards throughout the program for their exemplary work at BIA.

As the fundraiser topped \$4,000, two more students participated in a "mystery box" challenge where they each tried to identify an unseen object enclosed in a box - a pineapple and a piece of octopus. "We've had some extremely generous donations and are very grateful," said one of the student emcees.

The event concluded with a heartfelt message from BIA Headmaster, Dr. Frank LaGrotteria. "I laughed, I cried, and I wrote notes on all the interesting things I saw," he said. "This production was so well done and I applaud everyone who was involved. We saw beautiful art, listened to lovely music and poetry, and watched some incredible dances ... It was just a glorious night with harmony, beauty, and cooperation, which is really the hallmark of what happens at BIA."

You can donate to BIA's scholarship fund [here](#).





Northeast

BIA Telethon Celebrates Community



Photo courtesy of Bridgeport International Academy

“Our telethon entertains people, but it also helps make a difference,” says Unificationist Daniel Kingsley. “The telethon really showcases the incredible diverse student body that represents Bridgeport International Academy while also raising funds for our student scholarships.”

At [BIA](#), Kingsley wears many hats – a PE teacher, online education coordinator, and the lead organizer of the school’s annual telethon. It’s the second year BIA is hosting the virtual fundraiser, an alternative which came about last year during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We had a longstanding tradition of having a drama production and annual auction that was the main fundraiser for our scholarships,” explains Kingsley. But that all changed in the midst of restrictions and lockdowns. So, Kingsley got creative.

“The telethon combines the production and auction while doing everything safely,” he says. “This is a student-driven production, so they are the ones who have made it a reality. They can showcase their skills and talents and artistic abilities, all for a good cause.”

On camera and behind the scenes, some 40 students and staff are preparing for the telethon. Donations to BIA's [scholarship fund](#) helps students in financial need. With rehearsals underway this week, students are perfecting various songs, dances, and short skits for the big night.

The telethon will stream live on April 8 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. EDT through BIA's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages, and will be shared on the Family Federation USA [Facebook page](#) as well. Kingsley says special appearances from BIA's headmaster and vice headmaster are also lined up.

"This year, we really want to emphasize this is a community event," he says. "We want everyone that is involved with BIA at some level to participate, including BIA alumni and teachers, who are performing. It's about promoting and celebrating our community."

Over the last 25 years, BIA has continually drawn a diverse, co-ed student body, with as much as 45 percent of its students coming from different countries around the world. "What makes BIA special is that we are a global school with people from different cultures and backgrounds," says Kingsley. "BIA becomes an extension of our families."

Kingsley says the virtual telethon is a great way for students to connect with their families and friends back home. For Kingsley, a New Jersey native who joined BIA in 2020, teaching and coordinating the telethon has enabled him to share his passion and strengths with his students.

"I love working with people and creating things," he says. "I have the opportunity to collaborate with people, and students can utilize my creativity and tap into that side ... As an extended community of the Unification movement, this family-oriented sense of community is extremely important to me. I love connecting with people on a deeper level and my job allows me to do that."

In more ways than one, BIA's telethon bridges people, experiences and opportunities – while supporting and celebrating its global community.

You can register for an event reminder for BIA's telethon [here](#), and donate to the scholarship fund [here](#).

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Our holistic approach to education helps students develop the ability to use knowledge responsibly, choose and incorporate information most essential to their life goals, distinguish between useful or harmful exposures, and understand universally-recognized values. The multinational composition of the school community provides students with the opportunity to gain cultural competence and a broad understanding of the world in which they live.

[Learn More](#)[Go To Virtual Open House](#)

Fast Facts



6:1

Student/Teacher Ratio

44

Countries Represented

47,000+

Service Hours Logged

97%

Move to Higher Education

Facebook Page



News



Newsletter March 2022

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Newsletter February 2022

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Newsletter December 2021

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Upcoming Events

Thursday, April 14
Friday, April 15 Good Friday, ½ day
Saturday, April 16 Spring Break
Sunday, April 17 Spring Break
Monday, April 18 Spring Break
Tuesday, April 19 Spring Break
Wednesday, April 20 Spring Break
Thursday, April 21 Spring Break
...

Events shown in time zone: Eastern Time - New York

Who We Are



Mr. Gukwon An (Faculty)

"Each student can find, with his/her education, a role: to be purposeful by challenging academic interests, to be supported by seeking help from the faculty or diverse student body, and/or to be compassionate by serving others through his/her academic strengths."



Keita Yamada (Student)

"BIA is a very open and accepting family. It has vastly improved my capabilities to socialize, and learn new discoveries with peers from around the world."



Jeanne Bessell (Parent)

"I can not think of any better school where I would want my kids to be. Great environment, great teachers, great kids. I love BIA!"



Willow Marks (Alumni)

"If you're searching for going global citizenship look no further than BIA. During my time at BIA, I've created connections with people across the globe via learning the true meaning of camaraderie and the importance of celebrating what connects us all."

ABOUT

Bridgeport International Academy,
where students meet the world!

BIA is a learning community where students grow in heart and mind as they gain an excellent academic foundation for their college careers. [more](#)

CONTACT

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Bridgeport International Academy Benefit Night



Team fundraiser



Office BIA and 2 others are organizing this fundraiser to benefit Bridgeport International Academy. ✓

Bridgeport International Academy's Annual Telethon event is back and will be broadcasted live on our Facebook page on Friday April 8th at 7 PM EST! This is a student driven event where BIA students will showcase their unique and creative talents for our global audience. Our goal is to break our fundraising record and raise \$7000 dollars in scholarships for current and future students that come to BIA!

Bridgeport International Academy is a private college preparatory high school with a big mission! We create a harmonious, empowering and safe learning environment for our students. At BIA, our students excel academically, grow their heart/character, and develop their creative gifts that are unique to each individual student. We are an international school with students that come from all over the world!

We are inviting our entire BIA community to attend and support our Virtual Telethon! The telethon will showcase a variety of student performances. Our students have been practicing very hard as they have created fun and unique performances that everyone in our global community will enjoy! Your support makes the difference and if you feel inspired to contribute to our mission, we encourage you to make a donation on this GoFundMe page during the live telethon broadcast. If you would like to support, but can't watch the live broadcast, you can also make a donation anytime on our GoFundMe page as well.

BIA is a small school completely funded by private tuition payments. Despite the many challenges the school has faced in a post pandemic era, we have worked relentlessly to continue to create a safe, engaging and inspiring educational experience for our students. Your donation helps tremendously in helping current and future students have an opportunity to attend BIA!

Throughout our live broadcast, our student MC's will recognize every donor that contributes to our mission (unless they specify to remain anonymous.) Donors who make the following contributions will also be recognized on our dove wall.



Bronze Level: 50-99 dollars--You will receive a small dove which will be placed on our dove wall located on the front of the school with your name on it.

Silver Level: 100-499 dollars-- You will receive a large dove which will be

\$4,101 raised of \$7,000 goal

40 donations

Share

Donate now

Charles Breland \$100 · 4 d

Robert Sattinger \$120 · 5 d

Frank LaGrotteria \$500 · 5 d

Sueo To \$50 · 5 d

yumiko yamada \$50 · 5 d

See all

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placed on our dove wall located on the front of the school with your name on it.

Gold Level: 500 dollars and above-- You will receive a large dove with flowers which will be placed on our dove wall located on the front of the school with your name on it.

Platinum Level: 750 dollars and above - You will receive a large Gold colored dove which will be placed on our dove wall with your name on it.

Mark your calendars for April 8th at 7 pm. We look forward to seeing you at the BIA Telethon!

Donate

Share

Fundraising team (3)



Office BIA

Organizer
Raised \$325 from 4 donations
Bridgeport, CT



Bridgeport International Academy ✓

Registered nonprofit
Donations are typically 100% tax deductible in the US.
[Learn more](#)

Contact



Daniel Kingsley

Team member
Raised \$205 from 5 donations



Ryan Shin

Team member

This team raised \$3,571 from 31 other donations.

Words of support (2)



Iris Ruby Padilla-Roberts

\$100 • 5 d

Great job guys! Jaylin, Tití loves you!



Antonelle Chunka

\$30 • 10 d

Let your light shine!

Please donate to share words of encouragement.

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