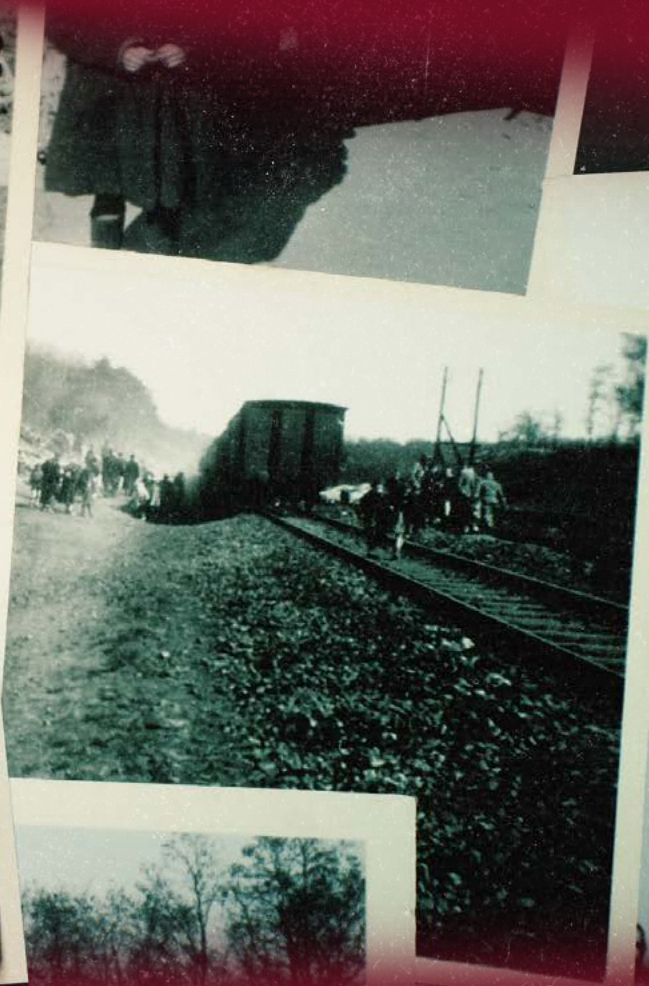




Augusta Chiwy
Foundation



A Train Near Magdeburg Global Campaign & Benefactor Overview

Bringing an Extraordinary Story of Courage, Compassion,
and Humanity to the World

\$15 Million Global Impact Campaign

“We will all have a Magdeburg Moment. A decision point. A time to stop. To choose what is right. To offer compassion and hope in the face of despair.”

Michael Edwards – Film Director

Executive Summary

The Augusta Chiwy Foundation seeks to raise \$15 million to release *A Train Near Magdeburg*, a feature film and streaming mini-series with companion education curricula and community involvement programs that tell one of the most extraordinary stories of courage, sacrifice, and compassion during World War II.

Today less than fifteen percent of high school students are proficient in world history. Based on the best-selling book by Matthew A. Rozell and directed by Emmy® Award winning filmmaker Michael Edwards, *A Train Near Magdeburg* will bring young people face to face with the powerful story of American soldiers from the 30th Infantry Division who liberated 2,500 Jewish prisoners from a Nazi death train near Magdeburg, Germany, on April 13, 1945.

The project has reached a critical point. The film is finished. The Campaign presented in this Proposal will bring the story to the world. It will fund the theatrical release, mini-series version, educational vignettes, education curriculum development and worldwide distribution. The film will launch in the United States, followed by expansion into key international markets. Millions of people will encounter and understand the significance of this compelling story through theatrical exhibitions, streaming platforms, education outreach and community engagement.

This Campaign presents a remarkable opportunity for individuals, foundations and corporations to support a powerful film and education project that combines education and community engagement with life-changing social impact.

Why This Story Matters

A Train Near Magdeburg is more than a film. It is an educational, cultural, and humanitarian project that preserves an inspiring historical narrative that will shape the moral imagination of future generations.

This project offers young and old an opportunity to engage with a true story of courage, resilience, and human dignity. Through cinematic storytelling, the film highlights individuals who choose compassion over indifference and action over fear.

The Augusta Chiwy Foundation

Formed in 2015, the Augusta Chiwy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity. Our Vision is to illuminate for audiences worldwide acts of extraordinary heroism and service, to inspire courage and humanity and to combat hate through storytelling and education.

The Foundation has carried stories of courage and compassion to every corner of the world. Our first project, *Searching for Augusta* won two Emmy® Awards and was distributed through American Public Television, Netflix and Amazon Prime. It reached audiences in more than 100 million U.S. households and 180 countries worldwide, sparking conversations about humanity, justice, and resilience that continue long after the credits roll.

In classrooms and communities around the world, our educational materials and live events have given students, educators, and families the tools to explore these stories together. Through every screening, panel, and lesson plan, we’ve helped ensure that the forgotten are no longer lost, and that every person has a voice in history.



Campaign Goal: \$15 Million

The project has already achieved significant success. To date we have engaged with more than 100 donors and benefactors worldwide, raising \$2.95 million to complete the theatrical version of the film. Having completed the creative work, it is now time for action... **to bring the film to the world.**

The Campaign will be accomplished in four Movements.

1. National Theatrical Release \$9,400,000

Funding will support a theatrical release in the top 100 U.S. markets reaching 500,000 theatergoers. The media campaign expects results totaling over 476 million exposures. Expenses include theater booking and exhibition costs, national marketing and advertising, public relations campaign, digital and social media promotion, broadcast and cable advertising, and recovering the bridge financing needed to complete the film.

2. Mini-Series Production \$600,000

These funds will cut the theatrical film into a two-part or four-part mini-series for broadcast and streaming. Episode transitions, recap beginning and ending narration and video segues will be produced. Voice-over, script and music modifications will be necessary to seamlessly introduce and end each broadcast element.

3. Education Outreach \$3,000,000

Six vignettes will be cut from the film, each with a different topic for in-depth student analysis and discussion. Age-appropriate curricula will accompany each vignette. All will be offered on the Foundation website.

Curriculum packages will be developed for the theatrical film and mini-series editions for use by middle school, high school and university educators and students. Curricula will reside on the Augusta Chiwy Foundation website with active links to other providers.

Key education institutions, community leaders and the public will be engaged in a Community Film Screening Series, Education Outreach, a Faces of the Train Digital Story Project, an Intergenerational Dialogue Program, a Day of Remembrance Program, and a Traveling Exhibit and Youth Impact Events.

4. Unrestricted Funds \$2,000,000

Funding activities that align with the Foundation's mission and vision include expanding our film and related curriculum library, identifying and researching candidate stories for development, leveraging existing films to other purposes or markets and creating digital relationships with other education providers.



Strategic Release and Educational Integration

The U.S. and worldwide theatrical release is led by veteran distributor Andy Peterson of Docs/ology Films/Collide Media Group and Fathom Events, with support from Trafalgar Releasing and Iconic Media Group for international expansion. The project is positioned for film festival success and Oscar, Emmy® and Academy Awards eligibility.

iHeart Media will be our primary marketing and media partner. We will take an aggressive approach to inform and include schools, universities and cultural organizations. Our goal is to engage with interest groups on a local, regional, national and international level to draw them into the curriculum and community engagement activities. iHeart will make the idea of a “Magdeburg Moment” real, active and important to be considered and discussed.

Broadcast and streaming marketing will be accomplished by ITV Studios, London. As one of the largest content providers in the world, their partners will ensure exposure, access and inclusion in key markets around the world.

Project Timeline:

August 2026 | Official U.S. and worldwide theatrical release project launch began: an aggressive sponsorship and partnership fundraising campaign, entry into key film festivals (including major international and documentary festivals), and pre-release marketing planning.

August 2026 - Spring 2027 | Continued film festival circuit participation to build critical acclaim and momentum.

Spring 2027 | U.S. theatrical release and education events supported by a major media campaign. This phase will include the U.S. Premiere.

Fall 2027 | Global streaming and television rollout, coordinated by ITV Studios, London, with a multi-part series on major platforms.

The theatrical release will be accompanied by a robust series of education events, including post-screening panels, school visits, community discussions, and Q&As featuring survivors, liberators’ families, historians, and filmmakers. These events will transform passive viewing into active learning experiences.

Theatrical Rollout:

The film will be released in selected U.S. markets, with the goal of reaching audiences with maximum impact. The vision extends well beyond the U.S., with plans to expand distribution into key international cinema markets.

Education Events:

Post-screening panels, school visits, and community discussions featuring Matthew A. Rozell, Michael Edwards, survivors, and descendants.

Curriculum Rollout:

Free curricula for nationwide adoption, focusing on Holocaust education, civics, and character development through partnerships with school districts, universities, and cultural organizations.

Marketing:

A nationwide campaign will amplify awareness through radio campaigns, podcasts, digital, and community activation.

Television and Streaming Release:

ITV Studios, London will coordinate global television and streaming rollout. As one of the world's leading independent producers and distributors with decades of experience in factual and documentary content, ITV Studios, London has exceptional reach and relationships with major broadcasters and platforms worldwide, ensuring broad international distribution and maximum audience impact.

Join with Those Who Support Our Effort

We respectfully ask that you will join with those who are Advocates, Supporters and Partners of the Augusta Chiwy Foundation as we complete this landmark project:

- Ambassadors of Harmony
- Joshua Bell, Two-Time Grammy Award Winning Violinist
- Dr. Michael Berenbaum
- Bergen-Belsen Memorial
- Columbus Association of Performing Arts
- Columbus Symphony Orchestra
- Michael DeWine, Governor of Ohio
- German Embassy, Washington, D.C.
- Dr. James Bulgin, The Imperial War Museum, London
- Stuart Eizenstat, Chair of the United States Memorial Council
- Eric Fingerhut, President & CEO Jewish Federations of North America
- Ellen Germain, US State Department Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues (Retired)
- Holocaust Education Trust
- Isaac Herzog, President of Israel
- Jewish Columbus
- Francis M. McGinn, Major General (Retired) President National Guard Association USA
- National Veterans Memorial and Museum
- Ohio Department of Development
- USC Shoah Foundation
- Violins of Hope
- Yad Vashem
- 30th Infantry Division Association

Together, we can bring this important story to the world and preserve its lessons for generations to come.



Pictured above: Train Survivors, Liberators, and Author of the Story.

Benefactor & Legacy Opportunities

An Invitation to Become Part of the Story

A Train Near Magdeburg presents a rare opportunity for individuals, families, foundations and corporations to do more than support the release of an important film. It is an opportunity to help bring an extraordinary story of courage, compassion and humanity to millions of people—and to ensure that its lessons continue to educate and inspire generations to come.

Our benefactors will be associated with a national theatrical release, worldwide television and streaming distribution, comprehensive educational curricula, community engagement and an international initiative designed to make the idea of a “**Magdeburg Moment**” part of an enduring conversation about the choices we make when confronted by hatred, injustice and human suffering.

For corporations and organizations, philanthropic support provides meaningful national and international recognition and visibility opportunities while aligning their name and reputation with values that transcend any traditional marketing campaign: **courage, humanity, selfless service, education and the determination to combat hate.**

For individuals and families, it offers something equally powerful—the opportunity to create a personal legacy by helping preserve a story that might otherwise have been lost and ensuring that its message reaches generations they may never meet.

These opportunities are more than financial contributions to a film. They are an invitation to become part of its story, its impact and its legacy.

PRESENTING & LEGACY BENEFACTOR

\$15 MILLION

An Exclusive Partnership With *A Train Near Magdeburg* and an Enduring Partnership With The Augusta Chiwy Foundation

The **Presenting & Legacy Benefactor** represents the highest and most distinguished level of philanthropic support available through this Campaign and will be reserved for **one transformational individual, family, foundation or corporation**.

As the exclusive Presenting Benefactor of the United States theatrical release of *A Train Near Magdeburg*, the benefactor will receive premier recognition associated with the film's national launch and appropriate theatrical, promotional, media, premiere, educational and community engagement activities. Audiences will understand that this extraordinary story has been brought to them through the vision and generosity of the Presenting & Legacy Benefactor.

Recognition associated with this level of philanthropic support may include a distinguished on-screen presentation such as **"This remarkable story is brought to you through the generous support of..."**, prominent name and logo recognition, and an exclusive two-minute benefactor presentation associated with the theatrical experience, together with premier recognition and visibility opportunities throughout appropriate Campaign communications and events.

But the significance of this extraordinary commitment extends far beyond the release of a single film.

The Presenting & Legacy Benefactor will also establish an **enduring relationship with The Augusta Chiwy Foundation**, becoming a premier benefactor in our continuing mission to illuminate for audiences worldwide acts of extraordinary heroism and service, inspire courage and humanity, and combat hate through storytelling and education.

As the Foundation identifies and researches new stories, develops future documentary films, expands its educational curriculum library and creates new opportunities to bring stories of courage and selfless service to audiences around the world, our Presenting & Legacy Benefactor will remain an important part of that continuing mission.

For a corporation or organization, this transformational commitment provides something traditional advertising cannot: the opportunity to associate its name and reputation with an enduring body of work built upon courage, compassion, humanity and service to others. It provides significant recognition and visibility opportunities while demonstrating corporate citizenship and creating meaningful opportunities to engage employees, customers, stakeholders and communities around a mission of lasting social importance.

For an individual or family, the Presenting & Legacy Benefactor designation provides an extraordinary opportunity to establish a lasting philanthropic legacy—one that helps preserve important history, educate future generations and advance stories that demonstrate humanity at its very best.

The Presenting & Legacy Benefactor will not simply help bring *A Train Near Magdeburg* to the world. This extraordinary benefactor will stand with The Augusta Chiwy Foundation for years to come as we discover, preserve and share stories the world needs to hear.

EXECUTIVE BENEFACTORS

\$5 MILLION EACH

Leadership That Helps Carry the Story to the World

Our Executive Benefactors will represent a select group of major individuals, families, foundations and corporations whose extraordinary philanthropic commitments will help make possible the national and international reach of *A Train Near Magdeburg*.

Executive Benefactors will receive highly prominent recognition associated with the theatrical release and appropriate premiere, promotional, educational and community engagement activities. Recognition associated with this level of philanthropic support may include an individualized narrated introduction identifying the benefactor and acknowledging the leadership role their generosity played in bringing the film and its message to audiences.

For corporations and organizations, this level creates significant recognition and visibility opportunities while aligning their names with an initiative centered upon courage, compassion, education, human dignity and opposition to hatred and antisemitism. It provides a compelling story that can also be shared with employees, customers, stakeholders and communities as an expression of the organization's values and commitment to positive social impact.

For individuals and families, becoming an Executive Benefactor provides an opportunity to establish a highly visible personal or family legacy associated with preserving history, honoring extraordinary courage and educating future generations.

Executive Benefactors become part of the philanthropic leadership that transforms *A Train Near Magdeburg* from a completed film into a worldwide movement of remembrance, education and inspiration.

LEADERSHIP BENEFACTORS

\$1 MILLION EACH

Making Extraordinary Impact Possible

Our Leadership Benefactors will be individuals, families, foundations and corporations whose exceptional generosity provides critical support for the theatrical release, worldwide distribution, educational outreach and community impact of *A Train Near Magdeburg*.

Leadership Benefactors will receive distinguished recognition associated with the film, including appropriate acknowledgment through an on-screen presentation and selected Campaign, Foundation, premiere, educational and communications materials. Recognition associated with this level of philanthropic support will reflect the significant role these benefactors have played in making the broader impact of this project possible.

For corporations and organizations, Leadership Benefactor recognition provides meaningful visibility while demonstrating a commitment to education, human dignity, courage and selfless service. For individuals and families, this level also provides an opportunity to associate their name or family with a story of exceptional personal courage, heroic action and humanity.

Recognition may also provide individuals and families an opportunity to honor or memorialize someone whose life exemplifies the values at the heart of this project.

Leadership Benefactors will help ensure that this extraordinary story moves beyond the screen and into classrooms, communities and conversations where its lessons can continue to educate, inspire and change lives.

PATRONS

\$200,000 TO \$999,999

Preserving History. Educating Generations. Inspiring Humanity.

Our Patrons will form a distinguished circle of major donors whose generosity helps provide the resources necessary to take *A Train Near Magdeburg* from completed film to national and international impact.

Patrons will receive prominent recognition through an on-screen donor card designed for meaningful visibility, together with appropriate acknowledgment in selected Campaign, Foundation, premiere, screening, educational and communications materials.

Recognition associated with this level of philanthropic support will honor the important role these individuals, families, foundations and corporations have played in helping bring the story to audiences and educational communities throughout the United States and around the world.

Patrons become an important part of the community committed to ensuring that the experiences of the 2,500 Jewish prisoners aboard the train, the actions of their American liberators and the enduring lessons of that remarkable moment in history are never forgotten.

Their generosity helps turn a remarkable historical story into a living educational legacy.

FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

GIFTS UP TO \$199,999

Every Gift Becomes Part of the Mission

The impact of *A Train Near Magdeburg* will ultimately be measured not simply by the number of theaters in which it appears or the number of people who watch it, but by the conversations it begins, the students it reaches, the attitudes it challenges and the individual “Magdeburg Moments” it inspires.

Our Friends of the Foundation are individuals, families, foundations, corporations and organizations who believe in that mission and want to stand with The Augusta Chiwy Foundation as we bring this extraordinary story to the world.

Every contribution helps extend the reach of the film, expand educational opportunities, engage communities and preserve a story whose lessons remain profoundly relevant today.

Friends of the Foundation become part of a worldwide community of people who believe that stories of extraordinary courage and selfless service have the power to inspire humanity and combat hate.

Every donor becomes part of the effort. Every gift helps tell the story. Every person can help inspire a Magdeburg Moment.

MORE THAN A BENEFACTOR... A LEGACY.

Traditional recognition has a beginning and an end.

Legacy does not.

Philanthropic support of *A Train Near Magdeburg* offers something greater than conventional recognition. It provides individuals, families, foundations and corporations with an opportunity to associate their names with a true story of extraordinary courage and compassion—and with an educational mission designed to carry its lessons throughout the world.

Together, we can bring audiences into theaters.

We can bring history into classrooms.

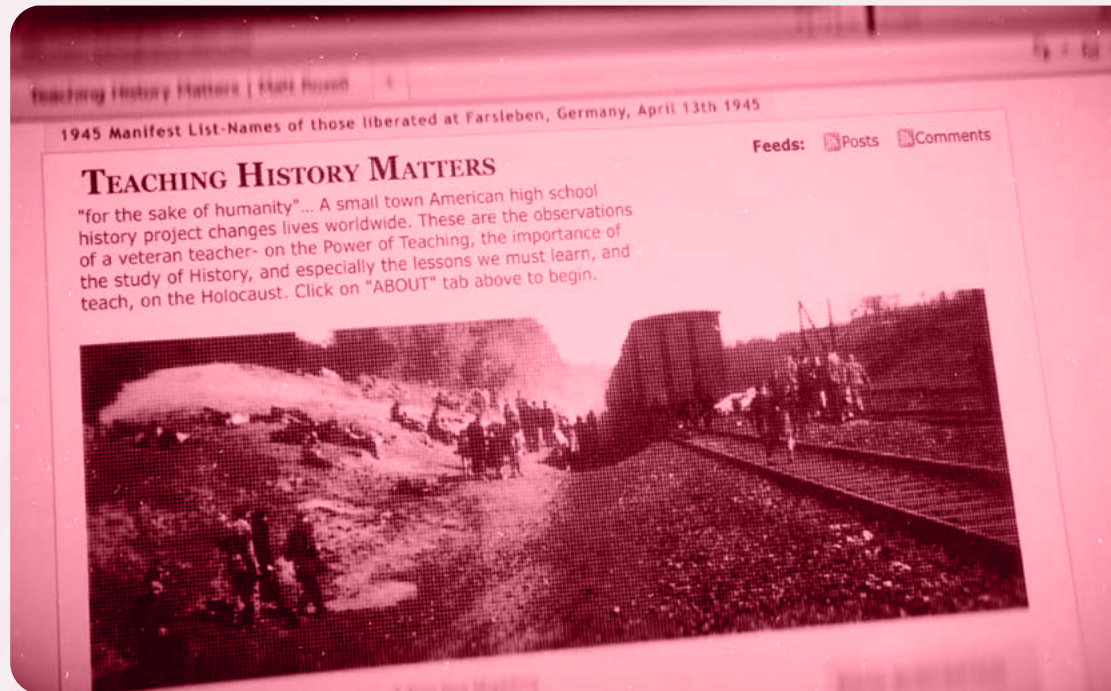
We can create conversations in communities.

We can honor survivors and liberators.

We can challenge hatred and indifference.

And we can inspire young people to understand that when their own **Magdeburg Moment** comes, they too have the power to choose courage, compassion and humanity.

For our **Presenting & Legacy Benefactor**, that opportunity extends even further—into an enduring relationship with **The Augusta Chiwy Foundation** and its continuing mission to discover and illuminate stories of extraordinary heroism and service for years and projects yet to come.



This is more than an investment in a film.

It is an investment in education.

An investment in courage.

An investment in humanity.

And an investment in a legacy that can endure for generations.

Together, we can bring this important story to the world—and ensure that its lessons are never forgotten.



[Click to Watch](#)

Documentary Trailer

AugustaChiwiy.org/DocumentaryTrailer



[Click to Watch](#)

Educational Trailer

AugustaChiwiy.org/EducationalTrailer

“Acts of kindness never die. They linger in the memory, giving life to other acts in return.”

Jonathan Sacks – *From Optimism to Hope*



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AugustaChiwy.org



After reading this, you may want to learn more about *A Train Near Magdeburg*, the education mission, and the Augusta Chiwy Foundation.

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