



## **Shriners Hospitals for Children patients to enjoy VIP circus performance**

*Shrine Circus presents "Better Than Ever" courtyard preview on May 3*

**SPRINGFIELD, Mass.** – When the circus comes to town, patients, families, staff and volunteers at the Shriners Hospitals for Children will be the first to know it. The talented acts of the 2017 Shrine Circus will treat the hospital community to an exclusive mini-performance in the hospital's courtyard at 516 Carew Street, Springfield, on **Wednesday, May 3, at 2 p.m.**

"In more than one sense, we think of this private preview as the perfect warmup," said Raymond A. Turrini, 2017 Potentate of the Melha Shriners. "Naturally it provides great practice for the public shows, but more importantly, it truly warms the hearts of everyone involved: the Shriners, the performers, the hospital staff and of course the children and their families. These young patients have been our inspiration from the start, and we love to see them laughing and smiling."

With a tagline of "Better Than Ever," the 2017 Shrine Circus will run from Thursday, May 4, to Sunday, May 7, at the Eastern States Coliseum in West Springfield. This year's circus will feature The Hamid Elephants, The Vincent Von Duke Tigers, Daredevil Johnny Rockett, Human Cannonball Shawn Marren, The Flying Angels trapeze artists, and Neecha Braun and her Amazing Dobermans. As always, all proceeds stay in the western Massachusetts area to assist the good work of the Shriners.

The box office, which is located at the Eastern States Coliseum, is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. On performance days the box office will remain open until 9:00 p.m. Prices are \$15 for general reserved seats and \$18 for box seats (no discounts apply to box seats). Children under age 3 seated on an adult's lap do not need a ticket.

### **Schedule of 2017 performances:**

- **Thursday, May 4:** 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday, May 5:** 7:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, May 6:** 10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, May 7:** 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Tickets ordered prior to Friday, April 21 will be mailed to the customer's billing address. Tickets ordered on or after April 21 will be available at the box office during regular business hours (24 hours after the order was placed online), or at the will-call booth on the day of performance. Purchaser must present a receipt or photo I.D. when picking up tickets.

### **Ways to purchase Shrine Circus tickets:**

- Online: [melhashrinecircus.com](http://melhashrinecircus.com) (available until 5 pm on May 3)

*Starting Friday, April 21*

- By phone: (413) 205.5087
- At the Eastern States Coliseum box office, 1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield: Daily from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- At all Western Massachusetts Big Y locations: Special promotion—buy three reserved seats/get one free!

*Note: When ordering tickets, please indicate if a ticketholder uses a wheelchair or requires special assistance; the Shriners will make every effort to accommodate attendees' needs. In such situations, there will be room for only **one other person** to sit with the ticketholder.*

The Shriners look forward to bringing you the region's favorite family spectacular once again this year.

***About the Melha Shriners***

Shriners International is a philanthropic fraternity based on fun, fellowship and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief and truth. With approximately 325,000 members in 194 temples (chapters) in the United States, Canada, Germany, Mexico, the Philippines, Puerto Rico and the Republic of Panama, our fraternity is open to men of integrity from all walks of life. More information about Shriners International can be found at [shrinershq.org](http://shrinershq.org). For more information about the local area Shriners call the Melha Shrine Center located at 133 Longhill Street in Springfield, at (413) 736-3647, or visit the web site at [melhashriners.com](http://melhashriners.com).

**###**