



## SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN PATIENTS GET ACCESS TO VIP PERFORMANCE

*Early Courtyard Performance of "Circus with a Purpose" Acts for Kids:  
Wednesday, April 27*

**SPRINGFIELD, Mass.** – Patients, families, staff and volunteers at the Shriners Hospitals for Children will have front row seats for a special mini-performance from the talented acts of the 2016 Melha Shrine Circus. The show will take place on **Wednesday, April 27 at 2 p.m.** in the hospital's courtyard at 516 Carew Street in Springfield.

"This exclusive performance embodies the entire purpose of what we do each year through the efforts of the Shrine Circus," said Brian Connor, 2016 Potentate of the Melha Shriners. "For 62 years, the Shriners have supported the inspiring patients of the Shriners Hospitals for Children. The circus is our biggest event of all so it means the world to us to have the support of the community."

This year's circus theme, "Circus with a Purpose", focuses on how all proceeds from the circus stay in the western Massachusetts area to assist the good work of the Melha Shriners. The circus will run from Thursday, April 28, to Sunday, May 1, at the Eastern States Coliseum in West Springfield.

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 2016 Performances:**

- **Thursday, April 28:** 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday, April 29:** 7:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, April 30:** 10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, May 1:** 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The Shriners will host a special **community service performance** Friday, April 29 at 3:30 p.m., sponsored by the International House of Pancakes of West Springfield. The community service performance was first held when the circus began and has become a Shriners tradition of presenting a show for children and adults in the community who face challenges in their lives. The Shriners see this special performance as a way of giving something back to their community for the support they receive on behalf of their circus efforts and other endeavors throughout the year. **No tickets are sold to the public** for the community service performance – nearly 5,000 tickets are given away free of charge to a host of human services agencies throughout the Greater Springfield and western Massachusetts region. The Shriners receive well over 10,000 requests for

these tickets and do their best to try and accommodate as many different human services agencies as possible.

The Melha Shriners are proud to announce that the 2016 sponsors include: Big Y World Class Markets; the Hampden County Bar Association; and the International House of Pancakes (IHOP) of West Springfield.

The Shriners thank you for your support and are excited to celebrate the “Circus with a Purpose” with you and your family 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).