

**PRESS RELEASE
REQUEST FOR COVERAGE**

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SHRINE CIRCUS PRESENTS COMMUNITY SERVICE PERFORMANCE

Each year Melha Shriners dedicate a special performance to less fortunate members of the community

SPRINGFIELD, MA - The Melha Shriners are proud to announce the annual Community Service Performance, Friday May 3, 2013. Showtime is 4 p.m. at the Eastern States Coliseum in West Springfield, MA. While this particular performance is not open to the general public, it is worthy of notice as a gift to the community at large.

Each year, since the infancy of the circus 59 years ago, the Shriners have dedicated a very special performance to less fortunate members of our community. Called the "**Community Service Performance**", it has a special significance for the community as well as the Shriners, who see this as a way of giving something back to the community for the support they receive for their circus efforts and other endeavors in the community.

For this special performance, no tickets are sold to the public. Every single ticket – **all 4800** of them – are given away **free of charge** to a host of human services agencies throughout the Greater Springfield and Western Massachusetts area. The Shriners receive almost 10,000 requests for these tickets each year and they do their best to try to accommodate as many different organizations as possible.

This year's circus theme "Thrills and Chills" will highlight the *Best in the West*, honoring some of the civic groups and occupations that help make Western Massachusetts such a wonderful place to work and live.

Not only are the tickets free of charge, but the prices for most of the food and novelties are also reduced for this show. The Shriners view this as providing an opportunity for many people to see the circus who might not otherwise have been able to experience all of the joy that the circus brings. For further information about the 2013 Melha Shrine Circus, visit www.melhashrinecircus.com.

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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 www.shrinershq.org. For more information about the local area Shriners call the Melha Shrine Center located at 133 Longhill Street in Springfield, MA, at (413) 736-3647, or visit the web site at www.melhashriners.com.

