



For Immediate Release

**SHOWPEOPLE'S WINTER QUARTERS RECEIVES
RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY® CIRCUS TRAIN CAR DONATION**

Donated *Ringling Bros.*® Circus Train Car to Serve as Community Center

SEFFNER, Fla., (August 10, 2017) — The Showpeople's Winter Quarters (SWQ) of Seffner, Florida today announced the donation of retired circus train car RBX #57 by Feld Entertainment, Inc., parent company of *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey*®. The donated train car will be used as the SWQ's new community center.

"The donation of an actual car from the legendary *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey* circus train is a wonderful gift from Feld Entertainment, Inc. to former showpeople," said Father Jerry Hogan, Circus Priest and Chairman of the Circus and Traveling Shows Retirement Project, overseer of the SWQ. "We will give RBX Car #57 a 'forever home' at our retirement village, and use it as our new community center," he added.

"The *Ringling Bros.* Circus train was one-of-a-kind, something people came out to see and celebrated every time it rolled through cities across the U.S. The circus train was home to performers and their families for over 146 years," said Kenneth Feld, Chairman and CEO of Feld Entertainment. "With the closing of the circus, it was important to our family that the donated *Ringling Bros.* train cars served a special purpose in local communities and functioned as a place to gather and make memories."

RBX #57 was built in 1953 by American Car and Foundry Company of St. Charles, Missouri as Union Pacific passenger car 5453. It was acquired by *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey* in 1972 and refurbished as the trainmaster's car. Constructed of aluminum, the body of RBX #57 will remain practically maintenance-free for many years to come. Once installed at the SWQ, RBX #57 will be remodeled as a community center, complete with an activity space, kitchen, bathroom and laundry facilities. The railroad bed has already been laid to receive RBX Car #57 at the SWQ, thanks to the generous support by the Florida Railroad Museum in Parrish, Florida. The car will be transported from its Palmetto, Florida location to the SWQ by Johnson Housemoving of Parrish, Florida.

The SWQ also publicly announced the launch of a \$60,000 fundraising campaign on **GoFundMe.org** to help finance the moving, installation and remodeling of RBX #57; and to support the upgrading of SWQ's infrastructure systems, primarily water, electrical and septic hookups.

SWQ Receives Ringling Train Car RBX #57

Page 2

“The SWQ charges nominal rent to its residents, and is supported primarily by private and public donations,” Father Hogan explained. “*The Greatest Show On Earth*® provided wonderfully wholesome family entertainment to countless millions of circusgoers over the years. We are now asking the public to help support some of those hard-working showpeople during their retirement years.”

The SWQ is located on a beautiful, heavily-shaded three-acre site along U.S. Route 92 in Seffner, Florida. It can house up to 10 residences on permanent sites with water, electrical and septic hookups, as well as equipment storage and temporary RV parking. SWQ was converted into a retirement park in 2015 with financing from the Florida Community Loan Fund, FCLF, a financing entity with a 20+ year history of providing flexible capital and staff expertise across Florida, supporting affordable housing, community facilities that offer social services, and economic development projects.

For information on installation of RBX #57, contact John Wohlwend at jwohlw@aol.com, or by phone at (309) 826-6763.

To apply for residency, contact Lynne Florian of Carrington Real Estate Services (US), LLC at Lynne.Florian@carringtonres.com, or by phone at (813) 421-1236.

To make a donation, visit [GoFundMe.org](https://www.gofundme.com/showpeoples-community-center) at <https://www.gofundme.com/showpeoples-community-center>.



To learn more about Florida Community Loan Fund, visit www.FCLF.org.