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For Immediate Release

## **Midnight Circus in the Parks receives \$25K grant from Chicago Community Trust**

*Grant empowers community building around the circus ring in new park on Chicago's west side*

**CHICAGO (March 20, 2018)** – Midnight Circus in the Parks, has received a \$25,000 grant from The Chicago Community Trust. The grant will help make the circus accessible to a new west side park for the 2018 season. Midnight Circus in the Parks is able to make the arts accessible to communities by literally bringing it to their back yards. When the Midnight Circus in the Parks tent goes up, it is much more than an opportunity to see a show. It is an invitation for people of all ages and all walks of life to be inspired by world-class performance and empowered to create a true sense of community in their neighborhood. Midnight Circus in the Parks truly believes that circus has the unique ability to reach people, and to move people to action where other art.

"The Trust plays such an important role in Chicago's arts and culture community," Executive Director and Ringmaster Jeff Jenkins said, "to have their support is a milestone and an honor for our organization. Not only does it bolster our work artistically, more importantly it gives us the resources to make Midnight Circus in the Parks accessible to more families in more communities in 2018, particularly on the west side of Chicago. We are just thrilled!"

Midnight Circus in the Parks mission is the build community one circus at a time. Community is built by gathering people around the ring, neighbor next to neighbor and by providing a platform for community groups to volunteer and fund raise while empowering them to become active arts participants.

In 2018, Midnight Circus in the Parks plans to continue to offer citywide community building and local fundraising through an 9-week tour of parks in all three regions of the Chicago Park District starting at the end of the summer. With the support of Chicago Community Trust, Midnight Circus will be able to bring this unique Chicago tradition to a new neighborhood on Chicago's west side.

### **About Midnight Circus in the Parks**

Midnight Circus in the Parks is once again proud to be part of the "Night Out in the Parks" initiative from Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Chicago Park District. Planning has begun for a

nine-week run through various parks around Chicago kicking off August 25, 2018. The 12<sup>th</sup> season of the traveling show will feature a wide-ranging ensemble of acrobats, aerialists, eccentrics, rescued Pit Bulls and even a couple amazingly talented kids who don't have to run away to join the circus (because their parents own it). Each two-hour performance will take place under an intimate, little big top tent where there is no such thing as a bad seat and kids can get within an arm's length of the action. The Midnight Circus has become a Chicago family tradition, one which has raised nearly one million dollars to date to for local parks. Midnight Circus in the Parks, creating community...one circus at a time.