

GIVING BACK

# the SHRINERS mission

**Soon after the** Civil War, a cheerful group of men began meeting for lunch in New York City's Knickerbocker Cottage. They all knew each other as Masons, but soon decided to create an offshoot fraternity dedicated more to fellowship and public service rather than ritual and secrecy.

One of the members had been to a party given by an Arabian diplomat, and impressed by the exotic sense of culture, suggested adopting it as a theme for the new organization.

They began the Shrine Circus in 1906 for fun and entertainment, but quickly realized that it was a great way to raise money for worthy causes. From that funding base, they established Shriners Hospitals for Children® throughout the U.S.

Families who couldn't afford treatment for their kids with congenital illnesses and deformities were given a ray of hope, as well as some of the best medical treatment available.

Shriners International grew at a steady pace during the first half of the 1900s. It truly blossomed when returning soldiers from WWII saw it as a way to continue the camaraderie they had experienced in the armed services.

The Shriners can still be found driving their comically-small cars at local parades and events. They still work to support the hospital foundation, which like most charities during lean economic times, has experienced a reduction in funding.

*EnviroSpec has been a financial supporter of Shriners Hospitals for Children for many years. In fact, all the profits the company earns from chemical sales go to charities such as the Shriners' Tampa hospital.*

*Consider helping kids who can't help themselves, by making your own donation at [ShrinersHospitalsForChildren.org](http://ShrinersHospitalsForChildren.org).*

