

# Office of the Governor

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Governor Welcomes "Greatest Show on Earth" to Garden State**

Gov. Christie Whitman today welcomed the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus to the Garden State and led a menagerie of animals on the traditional Animal Walk to the Continental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford.

The Governor applauded Ringling Bros. for donating to her 1,000 circus tickets which are being distributed to children and families throughout New Jersey. "Today I offer a hearty Garden State welcome to Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus," said Gov. Whitman. "It's events like this that make New Jersey the premier entertainment and tourist destination in the tri-state area." "I'd also like to ask Ringling Bros. to take a bow for their gracious donation of 1,000 circus tickets. With those tickets, we are making sure that New Jersey families and children in need have an opportunity to enjoy the magic of the circus," said the Governor.

The Governor accompanied a convoy of elephants, horses, clowns and circus performers to the Continental Airlines Arena. Because of their enormous size, the elephants could not be transported from the train to the arena and had to walk the route.

The tickets donated by Ringling Bros. have been given to the following New Jersey organizations for distribution to children and families in need:

Youth Consultation Services of Newark (a non-profit social services agency for troubled youth)

Christian Homes for Children of Hackensack

Family Preservation Services of Union City ( a counseling service to keep families intact during financial difficulties)

The New Jersey Foster Parents Association of Monmouth Junction

The Battered Women's program at the YWCA of Jersey City

Spring House of Eatontown (a transitional housing program for women and children in need)

YMCA of Essex County and West Hudson County

The Bridge of Caldwell

The Volunteer Center of Bergen County School-Based Youth Services

Plainfield Board of Education

