



AMISH ACRES®
Historic Farm & Heritage Resort
THE ROUND BARN THEATRE®

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**AMISH ACRES SPONSORS FOOTLOOSE
DON'T DANCE 5K RUN
TO PROVIDE FREE TICKETS TO BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS**

Every kid should see *Footloose the Musical*. Now hundreds of them can for free! If enough runners cut loose and run in the **Footloose Don't Dance 5K Fun Run/Walk**, every Big Brothers Big Sisters member in Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties in Indiana and Berrien and Cass Counties in Michigan will get a free ticket to The Round Barn Theatre at Amish Acres in Nappanee's six week production of *Footloose the Musical*. The production is celebrating the 30th anniversary of Kevin Bacon's break out role in the classic Rock and Roll movie *Footloose*.

The 5K Fun Run/Walk will be held Saturday, June 7th, at 8:00 a.m. Each registered runner in the 5K Fun Run/Walk receives a free ticket for themselves and a second free ticket for Big Brothers Big Sisters. All Little Brothers and Sisters may run free. The event will also include a fun run for children starting at 9:00 AM. This run will consist of two laps around the pond (total distance of approximately 2/3's of a mile). The cost for this event is \$10. Each participant will receive a T-shirt and a special treat voucher at the finish line. Registration is available online at AmishAcres.com, Big Brothers Big Sisters offices or the theatre's box office. *Footloose the Musical* opens Tuesday, June 10th and runs six shows a week through July 20th.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties and Berrien and Cass Counties in Michigan provides children facing adversity, often those of single or low-income households or families where a parent is incarcerated or serving in the military, with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. This mission has been the cornerstone of the organization's 100-year history.

The Round Barn Theatre is northern Indiana's only regional resident professional repertory theatre. It has produced over one hundred Broadway musicals and has

produced *Plain and Fancy* for 27 years. The 400 seat theatre is created from a 1911 round barn that was dismantled and resurrected at the historic farmstead to become a professional theatre.

Jeremy Littlejohn, an Elkhart County native and the theatre's Artistic Director, benefited from Big Brothers Big Sisters. "As the child of a divorced family, Big Brothers Big Sisters played an important part of my pre-teen years. I had a "Big Brother" for over a year, and he really helped me feel like at least part of my childhood was just like everyone else's." Littlejohn added, "Our entire theatre company will be working front and center to assure this event makes it possible for as many kids to see *Footloose* as possible. Its redeeming message brightens all of our lives."

Over one hundred Broadway musicals have been produced over the last 16 years by the theatre. The professional acting company is assembled from auditions across the country and it resides on the farm in four residences. The Round Barn Theatre is a full performing arts venue with its own scene shop, costume shop and rehearsal space. It employs a full time technical staff including artistic director, stage manager, sound and wardrobe designers.

Twelve years ago, The Round Barn Theatre developed a program to bring the experience of live theatre to the children of surrounding communities through its Theatre for Young Audiences program. These productions often bring classic children's literature to life on the including *Miss Nelson is Missing* and *the Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. For many students, these condensed versions of musicals are their first encounter with live theatre. The Round Barn Theatre also offers summer theatre camps for children interested in the performing arts. During the week long day camp, children will have the opportunity to learn the many facets of musical theatre while preparing to perform a one hour production on The Round Barn Theatre stage.

As school systems face shrinking arts education budgets, Amish Acres continues to expand its community outreach by offering free season tickets to kids under 18 with the purchase of an adult season subscription. "We are committed to our youth in many ways and this partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters is a major step in reaching even more eager and impressionable young minds," said Richard Pletcher, Founder/CEO of Amish Acres and Producer of The Round Barn Theatre.

Deborah Burrow, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Joseph County added, "We are grateful for this opportunity for our Bigs and Littles to be able to see a first class musical production at the Round Barn Theatre. National research has shown that sharing these positive experiences fosters higher aspirations, greater confidence, and educational success."

EVENT AND REGISTRATION DETAILS

EVENTS

All activities start from Amish Acres and finish around the farm's pond. Generous free parking is available. The 5K runners will wind their way through the picturesque Amish countryside west of Nappanee with its young crops, calves and colts. 5K Run will take place on flat paved country roads. The Kids' Fun Run around the farm's pond will begin at 9:00 a.m. Mark Riege, is the Race Director.

REGISTRATION

The race starts and ends at historic *Amish Acres*. The race course is mostly flat, with a finish lap around the pond at *Amish Acres*. Water will be available along the course. The race cost is \$30 for entries received by May 28, 2014. The cost is \$35 for all entries made after May 28, including those made on race day. Race shirts are only guaranteed for those who pre-register. Also, this is considered a fun run—we will not be timing the event. However, the first 25 runners and the first 25 walkers will receive an Amish Acres mug. For additional information call Amish Acres at 1-800-800-4942 Ext. 240 or e-mail Mark at cavermark@hotmail.com.

All registered participants will receive a T-shirt, a free ticket to *Footloose the Musical*, a \$5 discount voucher for an additional ticket, and an Amish Acres lunch discount coupon. In addition, Amish Acres will donate an additional musical theatre ticket to Big Brothers Big Sisters for each registered runner/walker.

Registration is online at www.amishacres.com or complete the following entry form and mail it with a check for \$30 (if mailed by 5/28/14) made payable to Amish Acres. *Mail to: Amish Acres, 1600 West Market Street, Nappanee, IN 46550.*

Packet Pickup in The Round Barn Theatre Lobby between 7:00 a.m. and 7:45 p.m. day of the race.

NOTE: All Little Brothers and Little Sisters members, police, EMT's active military, and veterans can register for this event free.

In addition, Amish Acres is hosting a fun run for children starting at 9:00 AM. This run will consist of two laps around the pond (total distance of approximately 2/3's of a mile). The cost for this event is \$10. Each participant will receive a T-shirt and a special treat voucher at the finish line. Please register each person on a separate entry form.