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**CELEBRATE 'WHAT A RIDE' THE BLUE RIBBON FOUNDATION HAS BEEN ON AT THE 2017 CORNDOG KICKOFF**

**Des Moines, IA** - The internationally-acclaimed Iowa State Fair attracts more than a million people from around the world each year. While everyone has their own favorite area of the Fairgrounds, there is no denying that the Iowa State Fair really comes to life with the energy on the Midway. The spectacular Thrill Parks on the Fairgrounds have received an upgrade, featuring something for everyone to enjoy. Fasten your seat belts and enjoy "What A Ride" it has been for the Blue Ribbon Foundation at the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Corndog Kickoff.

Join the Blue Ribbon Foundation at the **Corndog Kickoff Benefit Auction and Fair Food Grazing Party**, Saturday, July 8 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Doors to the William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building will open at 6:30 p.m. for a night filled with top-notch auction packages, entertainment and all of your favorite Fair foods. If you are a thrill-seeker or an adrenaline junkie, you'll love this adventure raising funds to revive and refurbish the historic Fairgrounds!

Since its inception in 1997, the Kickoff has raised more than \$4.4 million for Fairground renovations. Last year's event drew a crowd of 2,000 people, raising a record high \$684,600! All proceeds go toward the renovation and restoration of the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Highlights from this year's live and silent auction packages include:

- **Tell Me Something Good**- Enjoy Little Big Town at the Iowa State Fair Grandstand. This package includes four front row tickets, four backstage passes, four gate admission tickets and a parking pass.
- **What's New at the Fair**- Now is your chance to be a judge in the Iowa State Fair New Foods Contest. Earn a spot among celebrity judges to get the very first bite of 2017's new foods during the first ever LIVE new food judging.
- **Your Name Here**- Put your name on a pathway at the Iowa State Fair. Name the beautiful winding path that connects Grand Avenue to the Expo Hill plaza area.
- **We've Got You Covered**- If you're looking for a new hardwood floor; we've got you covered with this maple hardwood flooring. 1,342 square feet of prefinished flooring is ready to brighten your living space.

All-inclusive Corndog Kickoff tickets are \$100 or \$125 after June 30. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Blue Ribbon Foundation at (800) 450-3732, online at [www.BlueRibbonFoundation.org](http://www.BlueRibbonFoundation.org) or at the door the night of the event.

The Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Since its inception in 1993, the Foundation has generated more than \$135 million for renovations to the Iowa State Fairgrounds. For more information on the Corndog Kickoff, please contact the Foundation at (800) 450-3732 or [Info@BlueRibbonFoundation.org](mailto:Info@BlueRibbonFoundation.org).

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