

From: [Karen Helms](#)
To: [cityclerk](#)
Subject: Request for funding for Kiddieland
Date: Monday, November 08, 2021 1:53:23 PM

Hi! My name is Karen Helms and I am a Board Member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Merced – also known as Kiddieland. We need your help.

As you are aware, COVID has had a great impact on our community, especially on organizations that rely heavily on admissions and donations. Kiddieland is no exception.

Kiddieland has been a part of the Merced community since 1956. It was a sad day when we realized we could not open our gates due to COVID and host the thousands of children who enjoy Kiddieland each year. We do realize this was necessary to protect our community. However, even when closed, we have ongoing costs and maintenance that must be kept up. During the two years we have been closed, a terrible wind storm ripped off the roof of our iconic train building. Our gate was damaged by vandals, and as with anything, time has faded the paint of the brilliantly colored rides. During this time, we also need to maintain insurance, landscaping and security just to name a few. So, while receiving no funds from admissions and very few from donations, our costs continue. Sadly, our expenses have far surpassed our income.

As an amusement park and a non-profit, we did not qualify for the many opportunities for assistance for small businesses. As an amusement park, non-profit and a community fixture, we are asking substantial funding from the City of the available ARPA funds for the continued operation of our beloved amusement park as it provides a wholesome, inexpensive activity for our youngsters. These funds will help us open in 2022 and continue the long-standing tradition of fun at Kiddieland.

Sincerely,

Karen Helms



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