

12 December 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Duane Nelson. I am the pastor of and a TNT Fireworks tent operator for the Madison Heights Church of the Nazarene. Due to late afternoon and evening responsibilities at our church, I am unable to be in Lansing and wish to extend my apologies.

Firstly, let me offer a little background about our church. We are part of the Church of the Nazarene denomination and would be considered a Protestant, evangelical church of a Wesleyan-Arminian tradition. Currently the average is about 50 on a Sunday morning worship and 25 with our mid-week children and teen activities. I've been the pastor of the church for almost 18 years.

Since the economic downfall of 2006 and 2008, we have struggled with our finances due to people leaving the area and inability to give consistently. According to our denomination, we are asked to rely strictly on the giving of the congregation for the operations of our local church. We are not allowed to fundraise for these operations like salaries, utilities, maintenance, etc. However we are given fundraising leeway when it comes to special projects for mission work, scholarships for camps and mission trips, etc. Basically anything that would not fit into the day-to-day running of our church.

This is where running a fundraiser through TNT Fireworks has come in. It has allowed us to run one fundraiser for the year for about ten days to add funds for special projects and trips. We have designated the monies for mission projects (trips and material costs), summer camp and trip scholarships for children and teens, and local benevolent giving (needy families).

We have been operating a tent in our local area (Sterling Heights) since 2014. This past summer we completed our fifth season with TNT Fireworks. We have raised and given monies to pay for 15-20 full camp scholarships, to assist three mission trips and projects in Rwanda (hospital/school; health insurance for locals; goats/cattle for locals) and Haiti (hurricane relief and rebuilding; start of a foster care facility for about a dozen orphans), and to assist five teens and one sponsor to go on a leadership and compassionate outreach in 2019. We have also been able to offer monies for rent/bills, food, and Christmas gifts to countless individuals and families within our local community.

For our small church, operating a fireworks tent through TNT Fireworks has truly been a blessing from God as it has allowed us extra monies to give to needs to help with the physical and spiritual well-being of those within, around, and beyond our communities. Without this fundraiser, we wouldn't have had

the privilege of being used by the Lord to give others a step-up in their current situation. This fundraiser has helped us in many ways to be the church that God wants us to be.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this letter and our request to allow us to continue to use this fundraiser as we have over the past five seasons in the Metro Detroit area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. Duane Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Rev.", "Duane", and "Nelson" being capitalized and prominent.

Rev. Duane Nelson

Cell: 248-525-3418 (voice/text)