

PUBLIC COMMUNITY GRANT REQUEST

A NEEDY WILMINGTON 10 YEARS OF IMPACT (2016–2026)

A Public Invitation to Invest in Community

My name is **Tony A. Fernandez**, and I am a founder of **A Needy Wilmington**, a grassroots nonprofit serving Wilmington, California and surrounding communities.

For nearly ten years, our mission has been simple:

Neighbors helping neighbors not just during holidays, but every day of the year.

This organization was never created as a temporary solution or a seasonal charity. It was created from a real conversation about what our community lacked consistent, year-round support that meets people where they are.

Why We Exist

In Wilmington, support often comes in waves events, short programs, or temporary initiatives. But need does not follow a schedule.

Families still struggle after 5 p.m.

Students still need essentials on Monday mornings.

Seniors, veterans, and working families face everyday challenges that do not fit inside traditional systems.

We chose a name that many considered uncomfortable:

A Needy Wilmington

Because the reality is need exists here.

Not as a weakness, but as a call to action.

The name was intentionally meant to wake people up to remove the cosmetic covering and acknowledge that dignity begins when a community sees itself honestly.

What We Have Accomplished

Over the last decade, we have built a community-driven model powered by volunteers and everyday people.

Our programs and outreach have included:

- **HOPE Closet / Student Support Closet**
Providing hygiene items, snacks, clothing, and essential supplies for students experiencing hardship.
- **Food Assistance & Holiday Meal Programs**
Serving approximately **1,500–2,000 meals** during seasonal drives and supporting families who otherwise would go without.
- **Emergency Outreach**
Supporting individuals and families living in vehicles, RVs, and temporary situations with food, baby formula, hygiene supplies, hydration, and basic necessities especially during extreme weather and the COVID crisis.
- **Community Partnerships & Referrals**
Working alongside agencies when possible to connect individuals to bridge housing, services, and resources.
- **Youth & School Support**
Helping students and families with essentials, community drives, and programs that preserve dignity and confidence.

Through all of this, we operated professionally, responsibly, and transparently often with limited resources but unlimited commitment.

What Makes Us Different

We are not a large organization with layers of overhead.

We are not an organization that shows up only when cameras arrive.

We are local.

We are grassroots.

We are the people who stay when the headlines fade.

The majority of our support has come from **working-class individuals** people donating coins, small amounts, and supplies while larger funding sources often go to established organizations with greater visibility.

Yet we have continued to show results.

The Reality We Face

Despite years of proven work:

- We remain underfunded compared to larger organizations.
- Many partnerships become one-time collaborations instead of sustained investment.
- Volunteer burnout grows while community need increases.

We have demonstrated what is possible with almost nothing.

Now imagine what is possible with real support.

Our Public Grant Request

As we celebrate **10 years of service**, we are making this public request for funding support to help us move from *survival mode* into *sustainable community growth*.

Grant funding will allow us to:

- Sustain and expand year-round programs
 - Fully stock and maintain student resource closets
 - Increase emergency outreach capacity
 - Strengthen volunteer infrastructure
 - Provide consistent, predictable support instead of temporary relief
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Our Promise

Every dollar invested goes back into the community.

We are not building an empire.

We are building stability one family, one student, one neighbor at a time.

👏 An Invitation

If you are an individual, business, foundation, or organization looking to invest directly into measurable, local impact:

This is your invitation.

Help us continue proving that real change doesn't always come from large institutions sometimes it comes from people willing to care consistently.

Tony A. Fernandez

Founder & Community Advocate

A Needy Wilmington

Wilmington, California

www.aneedywilmington.com

SCAN ME

