



1001 W. 75th St #153 ~ Woodridge, IL 60517 www.varietyofillinois.org

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Angelique Barthel
Executive Director

January 16, 2018

City of Aurora
44 E. Downer Place
Aurora, IL 60505

Dear City of Aurora,

Variety the Children's Charity is again sponsoring Fantasy Amusement Company for a carnival at the Fox Valley Mall from April 26 – 29 and May 3-6, 2018. We have received permission from Centennial to use their property for this event.

The mission of Variety of Illinois is to improve the quality of life for children with disabilities by providing the equipment and experiences needed to reach their highest potential. This is accomplished through programs such as Kids on the Go that provides mobility equipment not covered by insurance for children with physical limitations, Live to Achieve that encourages excellence in adaptive sports and Variety at Play that provides inclusive activities and events for families who may not otherwise attempt outings that families with able bodied children take for granted.

We are grateful for our long standing relationship with Fantasy Amusement who understands that an event of this type during which rides are slowed to accommodate children who would otherwise be afraid to ride them and extra

time is allowed for loading and unloading of ride cars is necessary to provide families with the peace of mind they would not enjoy if they were to bring their family to a carnival or amusement park during regular business hours while open to the public. The added courtesy of providing concessions and prizes for games ensures families have a positive experience at no cost to them, another factor for many who simply do not have the luxury of disposable income due to extensive medical bills.

Variety envisions a state where all children can actively participate in their communities and experience the joys that come with being a kid. Through our decades-long partnership with Fantasy Amusement, this vision is realized twice a year when kids can just be kids despite their physical limitations. The dates for our private event will be Saturday, April 28 and May 5, 2018 from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. We have again extended an invitation to Fox Valley Special Recreation Association and the Western DuPage Special Recreation Association for their members and families to join us as well.

Variety estimates that the value of the two events donated by Fantasy Amusements for the families of Variety the Children's Charity of Illinois and our partners to be approximately \$25,000, an event our three organizations would not be able to afford to throw for families with disabled children in the Western Suburbs.

Fantasy Amusements has agreed to also pay for all event expenses so that Variety does not assume any financial risk for the event. This is important to us as if we suffered a loss due to poor weather or other reasons, we would have to come out of pocket of needed valuable funds for our members. Fantasy makes an annual donation in the amount of \$750 to Variety the Children's Charity of Illinois. Please contact me at angelique@varietyofillinois.org or 630-596-3939 with any questions.

Thank you,



Angelique Barthel
Executive Director

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