



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOWER MAINLAND BOATING COMMUNITY HELPS CHILDREN

Vancouver, BC (June 15) – On Saturday, June 12, children who have special needs benefited from the generosity of the Lower Mainland boating community and the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club as over 25 local skippers took to the waters of False Creek during the 12th *Annual Variety Boat for Hope*.

For the 12th consecutive year, over 450 Lower Mainland children who have special needs and their siblings dressed in their best pirate gear and set sail around False Creek for a fun-filled day of boating. Over 25 boats and crews battled it out on the high seas as children were treated to a pirate fantasy they will not soon forget. Over 100 volunteers, skippers and sponsors gave their time and energy to put smiles on the children's faces.

“Boat for Hope is about providing children who have special needs a fun-filled day on the water with their families. It is an opportunity for them to get out and do something together that they may not otherwise have the opportunity to do,” says Barbie Hislop, executive director of Variety - The Children's Charity. *“The boating community has been so great and their support speaks volumes about how much this community cares about the children.”*

After a day on the water, the children were whisked back to *Treasure Island* - Royal Vancouver Yacht Club where they enjoyed a BBQ feast, set in a carnival-like atmosphere. As they showed off their costumes and their loot, the children enjoyed a memorable day under the big-top. Face painters, entertainers, clowns and petting zoos were some of the features of the fun-filled land event.

Donations can be made to Variety until June 25 at any Pharmasave location in the province. The money raised will help children who have special needs far beyond this day of fun.

Variety Boat for Hope is supported by boaters from across the Lower Mainland as well as several local sponsors including Pharmasave, Buy Low Foods, the Vancouver Firefighters and others

Variety – The Children's Charity raises funds and distributes grants to inspire hope, enrich lives, and build a better future for children in British Columbia who have special needs. Since 1965, Variety has raised over \$155 million for children and families in the province.

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In partnership with

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