



**For Immediate Release**

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***Variety's 'Show of Hearts Telethon' Raises \$5.5 Million***

**(Burnaby, BC)** – The people of British Columbia once again rose to the occasion. Variety – the Children’s Charity and Global BC are thrilled to announce that this year’s *Show of Hearts Telethon* raised a record-breaking \$5,499,269 to benefit children with special needs and their families.

Broadcast from the Molson Canadian Theatre at Hard Rock Casino Vancouver, the iconic fundraising event aired live on Global BC and via livestream at Globalnews.ca from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 11. The show featured an array of heart-warming stories and magic moments including a young girl receiving an adaptive tricycle through Variety’s “Bike Ability Program” and the unveiling of the 600<sup>th</sup> Sunshine Coach. Cally Wesson, Variety BC CEO presented the brand new coach to Michele Aderem, Executive Director of the PACE Program which offers intensive early intervention for young children with emotional and behavioural challenges.

“This really is the show of hearts ... a show like no other. From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank all of BC for opening their hearts this Family Day weekend and allowing us to help even more amazing children and their families in their respective communities,” said Wesson. “We’re just so sincerely appreciative for the enormous generosity of the entire province.”

“It’s incredible how the people of British Columbia come together and show their support for the kids across the province,” said Kenton Boston, Vice-President, News & Information, Corus Entertainment. “We’re so proud to be partners with Variety and grateful to our listeners and viewers for once again stepping up and making a difference. It truly is inspirational.”

In addition to seeing updates on the children and families introduced during Global BC’s Variety Week last fall, viewers were also treated to musical performances by The Matinée, Mathew V, Tyson Venegas, The James Barker Band and the cast of *Working My Way Back to You – A Jersey Boys Tribute*.

Those who missed this year’s *Show of Hearts* can still make a donation online at [variety.bc.ca](http://variety.bc.ca), by calling 310-KIDS or by texting “KIDS” to 45678 to make an automatic \$20 contribution.

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**About Variety – the Children’s Charity:**

Variety – the Children’s Charity steps in where health care ends, providing direct help to children with special needs in BC. For over 50 years, Variety has ensured children have the support to reach their potential. Together, we can be there when a family needs us the most. Since 2010, Variety has distributed more than \$25 million in funding to families and organizations in communities all across the province. With your help, we can raise even more. For more information on how you can support Variety – the Children’s Charity, visit [variety.bc.ca](http://variety.bc.ca) or call 604.320.0505.

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