

For Immediate Release

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'One Night in Monte Carlo' benefits kids with special needs

Spectacle and old world charm delights audience at Variety - the Children's Charity fundraiser

(Vancouver, BC) The latest production by The Social Concierge was a singular night to remember at the Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront, as entertainment and classic casino favourites amounted to more than just another casino night fundraiser.

Commencing with a red-carpet arrival, and featuring notable performances by the Manipulation Man, Enfuse dancers, and the always vivacious jazz vocalist, Amanda Wood, the evening felt truly glamorous and authentically meaningful. In the end, over \$200,000 was raised for Variety BC's Mobility Program, which covers a range of equipment from wheelchairs and custom orthotics, right up to fully adapted vans and coaches.

"Mobility has always been a core pillar of Variety's grant funding," noted Variety BC CEO, Kristy Gill. "I think the freedom of mobility is easy to take for granted, but for families that have children with special needs, this equipment can be absolutely life-changing. Our mobility program allows kids to stand, walk, and play – to be part of the community, or even just have that vital sense of independence."

A highlight of the evening – beyond the abundance of glitz and glamour – was an extremely touching appeal by Jamie Jongbloets, whose son Johannes lives with severe hemophilia, and has been a Variety grant recipient on numerous occasions.

"It's a very tough thing, emotionally, to see your child in pain, or having to struggle to enjoy a decent quality of life. It's a raw deal, and there are thousands of families across BC who have to live it every day," said Jongbloets. "But there is always hope, and that is a reason to be positive. That is what Variety - the Children's Charity provides to families like mine every day."

Throughout the evening attendees stepped up in a big way, contributing enthusiastically in the live and silent auctions, where the highest valued prize of the night was a package featuring a private dinner with Vancouver Canucks alumni Kirk Mclean and Jryki Lumme, BC Lions receiver Marco Iannuzzi, and 12 friends. An additional \$20,000 was raised during the always popular *Fund A Need* appeal, thanks to a generous matching donation by the Vancouver Foundation.

To learn more about the Variety Mobility Program, or to make a contribution, visit variety.bc.ca or call 1-800-381-2040.



variety.bc.ca

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 and the Yukon. 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 or call 604.320.0505.

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