



For Immediate Release
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Variety BC's 'One Night in Havana' Gala Raises \$147,500

(Burnaby, BC) – It was a Gala to remember this past weekend when Variety - the Children's Charity held its "One Night in Havana" Gala at the Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront in downtown Vancouver on Saturday, April 14.

Presented by Uniserve Communications and produced by The Social Concierge, the Gala was chaired by radio host, author & business coach, Jill Sinclair and hosted by *Global News Morning's* Paul Haysom and Sonia Sunger. Following the red carpet reception and silent auction, the doors opened at 7:00 pm to a ballroom that truly captured the look of old world Cuba complete with rum carts, salsa dancers and live parrots.

During the multi-course dinner, attendees were treated to musical guest four-time Latin Grammy winner, three-time Grammy nominee and two-time Juno Award winner, Alex Cuba who along with his band performed an electrifying set.

The highlight of the evening was a powerfully emotional speech by Celina Hall whose daughters, Karissa and Kaelyn have both been supported by Variety for multiple health conditions. Additionally after Karissa began struggling with mental wellness including depression and social anxiety, Variety provided funding for the expensive professional counselling that Karissa needed.

"Variety has been there for our family and has helped in areas we could have never expected to need help in," said Celina. "With their help, both Karissa and Kaelyn have been given the opportunity to focus on their abilities rather than their disabilities."

The evening continued with BC Lions' former wide receiver, Marco Iannuzzi hosting the live auction and *Fund A Need* appeal. Together with the silent auction and a sold-out raffle, the Gala raised \$147,500.

"I am so pleased with the success of this year's event and would like to express my gratitude and sincere thanks to Uniserve and to all of our partners, donors, attendees and volunteers," said Cally Wesson, Variety BC CEO. "Thanks to all of you and your support, we'll be able to continue helping even more kids with special needs and their families across BC."

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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. 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 additional information on how you can support Variety - the Children's Charity, visit variety.bc.ca or call 604.320.0505.

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