



For Immediate Release

February 9, 2020

'Variety Show of Hearts Telethon' Raises \$5,515,238

(Burnaby, BC) – Variety – the Children’s Charity and Global BC are thrilled to announce that this year’s *Variety Show of Hearts Telethon* raised \$5,515,238 to benefit children with special needs.

Broadcast from the Hard Rock Casino Vancouver’s Show Theatre, the iconic television event aired live on Global BC and via livestream at Globalnews.ca/BC on Sunday, February 9 from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. The show featured an array of life-changing stories, the always popular magic moments and the unveiling of the 608th Sunshine Coach to the Tong Louie Family YMCA.

“I’m overwhelmed by the incredible generosity of BC as the needs for kids in the various communities throughout our province has never been so great,” said Cally Wesson, Variety BC CEO. “This over-the-top total shows how British Columbians are committed to making a difference in the lives of BC’s kids with special needs. It really is remarkable and we’re just so truly appreciative.”

“We are extremely grateful to our listeners and viewers for opening their hearts this weekend,” said Kenton Boston, VP National & Network News, Global News, Variety Chief Barker/Chair of the Board & Telethon Co-Chair. “Thank you British Columbia for once again proving that we’re more than just a province. We’re a community. A community who continues to come together all with the same goal ... to ensure that families and their children with special needs are able to thrive and achieve their dreams.”

In addition to the family stories and updates, viewers were also treated to musical performances by Said the Whale, Shawn Austin, Wide Mouth Mason, Todd Richard and special guests, The Tenors. Also making their *Show of Hearts* debut this year was actor Paul Greene and inspirational speaker Cara E. Yar Khan.

Those who missed this year’s telecast can still make a donation online at variety.bc.ca or by texting “KIDS” to 45678 to make an automatic \$20 donation.

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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 \$33 million in funding to families and organizations in communities all across the province.

Variety’s core grant areas range from mobility programs and life-saving medical equipment to specialized therapies, mental wellness counselling and educational programs. 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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