



**For Immediate Release**

February 22, 2021

***'Variety Show of Hearts' Raises \$6,681,873***

**(Burnaby, BC)** – Variety - the Children's Charity and Global BC are thrilled to announce that this year's *Variety Show of Hearts* raised \$6,681,873 to benefit children with special needs.

Due to the increased need for help, this year's event was expanded to three days and was presented in an all-new format with inspiring Variety family stories airing on Global BC's newscasts followed by Saturday's broadcast of the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual *Variety Show of Hearts Telethon* which aired on Global BC and via livestream at [GlobalNews.ca/BC](http://GlobalNews.ca/BC) from 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

"This truly was the Show of Hearts with British Columbians once again opening their hearts to help make a difference in the lives of BC's kids with special needs," said Cally Wesson, Variety BC CEO. "And it's because of their incredible generosity that we'll be able to help even more kids. We're just so extremely appreciative that we can now say 'yes' to every child needing our help and that no child will be turned away. Thank you BC."

Global BC's Chris Gailus, Sophie Lui, Kristi Gordon, Neetu Garcha, Paul Haysom and Kaitlyn Herbst returned as Telethon hosts along with 980 CKNW's Jody Vance who was joined by *Show of Hearts* favourites Howard Blank, Alvin Law & Marco Pasqua and Variety Youth Ambassadors Esabella Strickland, Mihai Covaser and Janelle Milne. Making his Variety debut was Mo Amir, host of the popular podcast, *This is VANCOLOUR*.

Throughout the three days, viewers got to see their donor dollars hard at work with updates on kids who they met during Global BC's *Variety Week* as well as stories profiling new kids who were also helped in 2020. In addition to the unveiling of the 610<sup>th</sup> Sunshine Coach to the Clements Centre Society in Duncan, Saturday's telecast also featured performances by legendary songwriter and music producer, David Foster, singer and *American Idol* alum, Pia Toscano and Canadian rockers, Loverboy.

Those who missed this year's *Variety Show of Hearts* can still donate online at [variety.bc.ca](http://variety.bc.ca) 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 55 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. For additional 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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