



**For Immediate Release**

February 18, 2022

***Coquitlam Family to Appear on 'Variety Show of Hearts Telethon'***

**(Burnaby, BC)** – Variety - the Children's Charity is pleased to announce that the *Variety Show of Hearts* is returning to Global BC as a 3-day event. The iconic fundraiser will kick off on *Global News Morning* on Thursday, February 24. Throughout the three days, viewers will see their donor dollars in action when they'll be introduced to children who have been helped by Variety including 11-year-old Jonathan from Coquitlam.

Jonathan was born with both Down syndrome and a congenital heart defect. He presents with global developmental delay, speech, vision and gross and fine motor issues. Jonathan's parents want to ensure that their son has every support system in place so that he can keep up with his peers and grow up to be an independent young man. To assist with Jonathan's learning challenges, Variety has stepped in and provided his family with a bursary for tutoring at the Down Syndrome Resource Foundation where he receives one-on-one help with math, reading and writing ... essentials so that he will be able to thrive both in school and in society.

"Variety has played an important role in Jonathan's life providing much-needed assistance along the way," said his mother, Darlene Haddad. "When Jonathan was a baby, he needed a very expensive baby formula for a month after one of his surgeries which Variety provided to help us through an extremely difficult time."

"The support of Variety has made such a tremendous difference in Jonathan's life and helps so many other families like ours across the province," added Darlene. "Words cannot express how grateful we are to Variety and their generous donors. It takes a village to raise a child and working together, we can all make a huge difference in the lives of BC's children with special needs just like Jonathan."

Telethon viewers will get to meet Jonathan and his family when his story is featured on this year's *Variety Show of Hearts Telethon* airing from 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm on Global BC on Saturday, February 26. Last year's *Show of Hearts* raised \$6,681,873 to benefit children with special needs province-wide. Donations can be made by calling toll-free at 310-KIDS as well as online at [variety.bc.ca](http://variety.bc.ca).

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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 55 years, Variety has ensured children have the support to reach their potential. Since 2010, Variety has distributed more than \$35 million in funding to families all across the province.

Variety's core grant areas range from mobility equipment and lifesaving medical supplies to specialized therapies, mental wellness counselling, educational programs and private autism assessments. 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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