



Variety - the Children's Charity

DONOR REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2018



"With Kindergarten around the corner, my hope was for Ainsley to walk independently. With Variety's help, she attended physio twice a week and was able to walk across the stage at her preschool graduation!"

*-Mary, Ainsley's Mom
(pictured on front cover)*



2,945*
CHILDREN
HELPED

\$2.8M
DISBURSED

59
COMMUNITIES
& CITIES
REACHED

*2,945 reflects the number of children supported through individual grants and the Variety Cares & Sunshine Coach Programs. 635 children were helped directly through individual grants.

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP KIDS THRIVE!

As the new CEO of Variety - the Children's Charity, I could not be more proud to work with such an amazing team of donors and volunteers who are truly changing the lives of children with special needs and their families.

Because of your support, Variety is able to provide mobility equipment, medical supplies, specialized therapy, education bursaries for children with learning disabilities and support for children with mental health challenges. Every time I meet a child that Variety has supported I see the impact that your donations have had on the child, their family and their community. It is truly inspiring.

This year we celebrated mobility and community engagement by presenting the 600th Sunshine Coach to The PACE Program. We also recognized the power of volunteerism and how it transform lives by awarding Bob & Barbara Stewart with the Gold Heart Award.

I always say that I have best job in the world because everyday Variety helps a child and their family.

I am truly proud to collaborate with Variety's donors and volunteers to give children with special needs the opportunity to rise to their fullest potential.

Thank you.

Cally Wesson

Cally Wesson
CEO - Variety BC

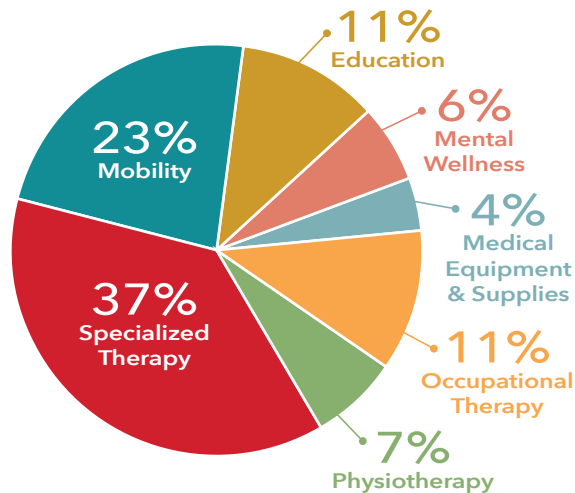


"By donating, it really gives us families a chance to do other things with our lives that aren't medical. It gives our kids a chance to be kids and overcome what they need to overcome instead of just focusing on it. Variety has just been absolutely amazing to us."

*- Celina, Karissa's Mom
Terrace, BC*

Karissa is able to attend counselling sessions thanks to funding from Variety's donors.

THE 5 PILLARS OF SUPPORT



In 2018, close to \$2.74 million was disbursed to help children with special needs throughout the province.

- **Mobility** - helping more children move with freedom
 - » Power & manual wheelchairs, adaptive trikes, standing walkers, custom orthotics, Sunshine Family Vans & Sunshine Coaches
- **Mental Wellness** - helping more children achieve mental wellness
 - » Counseling and therapies related to mental wellness
- **Specialized Therapy** - helping kids reach out, communicate and connect with others
 - » Speech and language therapy, music therapy, occupational therapy & physical therapy
- **Education** - allowing kids to learn in ways that work for them
 - » Bursaries, tutoring and education support
- **Medical Equipment & Supplies** - providing kids with life-saving equipment and services
 - » Hearing aids, diabetic supplies, feeding supplies for newborns & medical equipment for home support

BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY

57
KIDS LEARNED
TO WALK
WITH THEIR
ORTHOTICS

8,000
hours*
SPEECH &
LANGUAGE
THERAPY

2,471
hours*
TUTORING

\$172,000
BURSARY TUITION
(63 GRANTS)

20 KIDS CAN HEAR WITH THE HELP OF HEARING DEVICES

*Speech and language therapy hours are approximately calculated by dividing the total disbursement by the average cost of 1-hour therapy of \$120. Tutoring hours are approximately calculated by dividing the total disbursement for tutoring services by the average cost of 1-hour tutoring session of \$50.

VARIETY CARES PROGRAM

The Variety Cares program provides short-term support to families from all across the province who are away from their home community seeking urgent or unexpected medical attention for their child. This program disbursed \$155,000 to a total of ten hospital foundations across the province.

- BC Children's Hospital Foundation
- BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre Foundation
- Fraser Valley Health Care Foundation
- Kelowna General Hospital Foundation
- Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation
- Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation
- Royal Inland Hospital Foundation
- Spirit of the North Healthcare Foundation
- Surrey Memorial Hospital Foundation
- Victoria Hospitals Foundation

**In 2018,
over \$150,000
was allocated
to hospitals
province-wide
to help families
seeking out-of-
town medical
care for their
child.**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2018 EVENTS

Variety Week & Variety Show of Hearts Telethon

Stories featuring children and families helped by Variety aired on every Global BC newscast including *Global News Morning* and *Global News Hour at 6* during our 2nd Annual *Variety Week* (October 30 - November 3, 2017). The week-long campaign raised over \$835,000 helping over 300 kids and their families across BC.

Variety's iconic fundraising event, *Variety Show of Hearts Telethon* returned to Global BC on February 11, 2018. The 8-hour show aired live from 9:30am to 5:30pm and featured an array of heart-warming stories and magic moments along with updates on families introduced during *Variety Week*. Viewers were also treated to musical performances by The Matinée, Mathew V, Tyson Venegas, The James Barker Band and the cast of *Working My Way Back to You - A Jersey Boys Tribute*. It was cause for celebration when Global BC's Chris Gailus announced the Telethon's final total of \$5,499,269.



One Night In Havana



Our *One Night in Havana* Gala was a Cuban soiree presented by Uniserve Communications at the Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront in downtown Vancouver on April 14. This year's focus was on mental wellness and how Variety, with donor support, funds counselling for kids who need it most. Highlighting the festivities were the musical talents of two-time JUNO Award-winner and four-time Latin Grammy winner, Alex Cuba and his band.

Radiothon

We partnered with four radio stations to host our *Variety Radiothon* throughout BC. Prince George's Radiothon aired on 94.3 The Goat, Country 97 FM and Valley Country on June 20 & 21 while Kelowna's

Radiothon aired on Okanagan Oldies 103.9 on June 27. Both events raised a cumulative \$116,126.

Boat for Hope

Pirates, scallywags and salty seadogs took to the high seas in June for Variety's annual *Boat for Hope* events. Harbours in Victoria, Vancouver and Kelowna were transformed into pirate paradises where inclusive escapades on the water shared the boating experience with families of kids with special needs.



Events for Variety

We are so grateful to leaders in the community that run third-party events for Variety throughout the year. One event put on by our incredible longtime partners Buy-Low Foods raised a record-breaking \$100,000 at their annual *Buy-Low Foods Golf Tournament* on July 18.

Accent Inns hosted an *Invasion of the Shameless Do-Gooders* event for Variety families at WildPlay Element Parks in Maple Ridge on September 8. The family-fun event raised \$10,000 and wowed guests with a giant inflatable version of their signature rubber duck.



Gold Heart Gala



Two longtime Variety members were honoured with Variety's Gold Heart Award at this year's *Gold Heart Gala* presented by Cactus Club Cafe. Bob & Barbara Stewart and their legacy of passion and dedication to Variety filled the night with splendid enthusiasm and inspired philanthropy in everyone in attendance. The event was held at the Fairmont Pacific Rim on September 27 and was chaired once again by television personality & producer, Mary Zilba and hosted by Global BC's Sophie Lui.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2018 MOBILITY PROGRAMS

2 SUNSHINE FAMILY VANS

The Sunshine Family Van Program grants fully accessible vehicles to families faced with mobility changes allowing families to travel together in safety and comfort to school, doctor's appointments and outings.

"There's no words to express how grateful I am to Variety. They donated a beautiful new converted dodge caravan to us just yesterday! It was the most amazing gift we have ever received! It will allow us to travel anywhere with our daughter and she can be much more comfortable and happy. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!"

- Amanda, Sydney's Mom



"Variety came through with a life-changing gift that will never be forgotten. At a time where I was at my wits end, Variety offered Landon one of their Sunshine Family Vans. Up until this point, Landon had received a power chair for mobility, but I had no way to transport him and the chair around. Being able to bring the power chair everywhere significantly reduces the risk of harm or injury to Landon. In addition to all this, the van has given Landon the freedom and confidence to do many things most of us take for granted."

- Lorrie, Landon's Mom

4 SUNSHINE COACHES

The Sunshine Coach Program provides transportation to organizations that provide education, recreation & therapy to children with special needs.

NEW SUNSHINE COACHES

- The PACE Program
- Fort St. John Friendship Society
- Boys & Girls Club of Kamloops
- Richmond Society for Community Living

MEET OUR 600th SUNSHINE COACH - VAL!



This year was a monumental year for our Sunshine Coach Program as we granted our 600th Sunshine Coach. It was back in 1993 when The PACE Program first received a Sunshine Coach to use for their Family Program which offers intensive early intervention

for young children with emotional and behavioural challenges and their families. The trusted coach was fondly named "Val" after it was received on Valentine's Day. Twenty-five years later, The PACE Program was in need for a new Sunshine Coach so Variety ensured that their dream for a new "Val" was fulfilled. The unveiling of the 600th Sunshine Coach took place live on the *Variety Show of Hearts Telethon* with our CEO, Cally Wesson presenting to a very excited Michèle Aderem, The PACE Program's Executive Director.

"Thanks to your generosity, the Sunshine Coach has been an essential and integral part of our program for close to 25 years. Your support has allowed hundreds of young children and their families to access our services. Thank you for providing us with Val, a much-loved and reliable member of The PACE team. As Val leaves for a well-deserved retirement, we look forward to many years of safe and enjoyable driving with our new Val! Thanks to your caring, children for many years to come will be able to join in the Family Program."

- Michèle Aderem - Executive Director, The PACE Program

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Heston's Story

When you meet Heston, you'll quickly learn that he is the sweetest, most gentle soul. He has a smile that can brighten up any room and is famous for his spectacular and contagious giggles. Heston lives in Victoria with his parents and four brothers and loves music, colourful shows and watching his peers play.

Heston is diagnosed with Sanfilippo syndrome, a condition caused by an enzyme deficiency. Sadly, Heston's disease is terminal and regressive. His family's goals are for Heston to have the happiest, most pain-free life possible. Their community is an incredibly supportive one with school, church, friends and family providing a network of help and encouragement.

In 2014, his family applied to Variety for a van conversion. Heston uses a wheelchair for mobility which could only be transported safely in a vehicle with tie-downs. With funding from our donors, Variety was able to contribute to this vehicle. Since then, Variety has provided



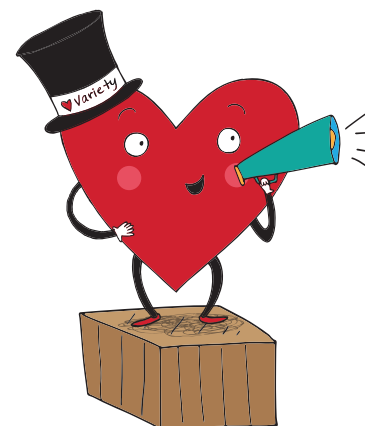
grants for other necessary equipment for Heston. In 2016, he was approved for an adaptive stroller for mobility at school and in the community. The stroller gives Heston's family flexibility with his transportation needs and helps him access school, the bus and the community.

Most recently, Heston has been approved for a ceiling track that provides a safe and straightforward way for his

caregivers to transfer him between points in his home and different activities. He was also approved for a pressure-relieving mattress which helps with his skin pressure sensitivity.

Thanks to our donors, Variety was able to contribute to Heston's happiness and welfare while creating lasting memories for his family.

**THANK YOU FOR
HELPING KIDS,
LIKE HESTON!**



"The equipment Variety has funded for Heston has allowed our family to go on outings and carry on as normal a life as possible for Heston. It has decreased some of the limitations we faced with Heston's declining abilities and allowed us to continue to make memories together as a family. Thank you for doing what you are doing - making a difference in the lives of children and their families. Children with challenges face so much, and expenses can be staggering. Please continue to work to aid them and their families along their journey."

- Kerena, Heston's Mom

**IN 2018,
\$230,000
WAS RAISED
THROUGH
COMMUNITY
EVENTS &
CAMPAIGNS!**

Variety was pleased to award their longtime members and supporters, Bob & Barbara Stewart with the Gold Heart Award... Variety BC's most prestigious mark of distinction honouring individuals who have done transformational work in the community to raise funds and improve the lives of BC's kids with special needs. Close to 300 guests joined Bob & Barbara for the celebration. Many of those who were unable to make it sent their well-wishes to the deserving couple including two friends of Variety ... both of whom grew up in Burnaby and have appeared on our *Variety Show of Hearts Telethon*!



Barbara & Bob,

Congratulations on this richly deserved honour. When I think of my formative years in Burnaby, I always come back to a civic spirit of concern for others and a willingness to step up and make a difference. The two of you embody that willingness. Your groundbreaking contributions to the heroic efforts of the Variety Club prove that you are the champions of children everywhere and worthy recipients of the Gold Heart Award.

*With much admiration,
Michael J. Fox*

Bob & Barbara,

Congratulations on receiving the Variety Club's Gold Heart Prestigious Award. Your many years of hard work is much appreciated. May God bless and many more years to come.

*Yours,
Michael Bublé*

"Congratulations Bob & Barbara for this well-deserved honour. We are so grateful for all that you do!"

**- Shirley Stocker
President & Board Chair**