

Variety Cares Community Alert

An exclusive update for you & other committed individuals who provide kids with the long-lasting support they need every single day!



variety
the children's charity

SHOW OF HEARTS TELETHON

Global BC

Thank You BC!
Because of your generosity,
we raised
\$6,936,621
for BC's kids

Lucy, 5

Dear Members,

With our 56th Annual *Variety Show of Hearts Telethon* now in the books, we have a lot to celebrate and be thankful for ... especially to everyone in our Variety Cares Community. During the month of February, this community really stepped up and showed their hearts!

**Welcome to all of our new 176
Variety Cares Community members
and thank you to each and every one
of you for helping make a child's life
brighter and a whole lot easier every
single day.**



**Members increased
monthly commitment**



**Members made
an extra donation**



**New Members
welcomed**

As you know, during our *Show of Hearts* we had an ambitious goal of signing up 200 new Variety Cares Community members to help 40 more kids and we are now so close to reaching that mark. We only need 24 more monthly donors and it's not too late. If you know of a friend, colleague or family member ... why not pick up the phone or send them an email and share with them why you choose to help BC's kids!

Your Robert Bateman poster - Ocean Rhapsody - is on the way!



Poster dimensions: 23' x 18'
or 29.5' x 20.75' framed

As a token of our appreciation, all Variety Cares Community members who either refer a friend or currently give at least \$35/month are eligible to receive this year's stunning "Ocean Rhapsody" poster by Robert Bateman. It will be arriving at your doorstep very soon. If you prefer not to receive the poster, please let us know as soon as possible.

Donors will also have the opportunity to have their poster framed by GS & Company for an additional \$189 + taxes with a portion of proceeds donated to Variety!

If you'd like your poster framed, please complete the framing order form: <https://www.variety.bc.ca/gsc-order-form>.

World Autism Awareness Day

Saturday, April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day and we would like to take this opportunity to share Variety BC's new initiative ... funding private Autism Assessments.

Quick Facts About Autism

- 1 in 36 boys in BC are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Wait lists through the public system are currently between 2-3 years
- The average cost of a private Autism Assessment is \$3,000
- Government funding drops from \$22,000 to \$6,000 after a child enters school

We know that early intervention is so crucial for kids with Autism so the sooner they can receive a diagnosis, the sooner they can access annual government funding to provide them with support and therapies to help them achieve the best outcomes. To learn more about how Variety is supporting families with Autism Assessments, please visit <https://www.variety.bc.ca/autism-assessments>.

371

kids have received a Variety funded Autism Assessment

7 in 10

assessments are for kids under the age of 6



Tayla, 13

Tayla had been previously diagnosed with ADHD but was presenting with many of the signs of Autism. She had a difficult time reading and understanding social cues and at times, she appeared to lack empathy. Her grandmother, Georgina then turned to Variety BC and thanks to our donors, Tayla was able to access a private assessment.



To see Tayla's story, go to this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-r90J625gY> or scan the QR code.

"I don't feel so alone anymore. I feel like Tayla is getting help and I think she's going to be okay ... and end up going forward with her future."

**- Georgina
Tayla's Grandmother**

"It's all about the kids!"

**- Barbara Joly
(VCC Member since 2017)**

How can you help more kids without changing your gift amount?

Simply switch your payments to automatic bank withdrawal.

1. Easy one-time set up
2. Never worry about your credit card expiring or being compromised
3. Cost effective - a larger portion of your donation goes to help a child

Simply send a blank cheque marked "VOID" to Kitty by mail or email and we'll have you set up right away!

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your partnering with us as we work towards a future where every child is receiving the support they need.

We're looking forward to connecting with you in our next issue!



Jennifer Shang, Director, Donor Relations
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Kitty Au, Donor Relations Officer
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Messages from the Heart

Over the holiday season, Variety BC collected hundreds of ornaments for our *Variety Tree of Hearts* campaign and raised over \$460,000. Thank you for your heartfelt messages and all your words of kindness which inspired not only our Variety families but our donors, supporters and staff as well.

This column offers our Variety Cares Community members an opportunity to share inspiring messages and stories with one another.

If you have a message or story you'd like to share, please email them to kitty.au@variety.bc.ca.

"I'm now so thankful to be in a position to join the Variety Cares Community so I can give back with a monthly contribution. I want to take this opportunity to show my personal gratitude to those who have helped me and so many other kids in BC. Thank you for all you do!"

**- Edward Lee
(VCC Member since 2016)**

