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Variety BC's 'Boat for Hope' Returns to the Water

(Burnaby, BC) – Variety - the Children's Charity is excited to announce that this year's *Boat for Hope* will be back on the water returning to the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club on Saturday, June 11.

The 24th annual event will once again provide a one-of-a-kind boating experience for over 450 Variety kids and their families. The Captains and their first mates will welcome families aboard their vessels and will sail the inner harbour of False Creek for a pirate-themed adventure collecting loot at various "Treasure Stations" while meeting rambunctious pirates along the way. The day is then capped off at Hastings Mill Park where the families are treated to a hearty barbeque & refreshments along with face painting, games galore and live entertainment.

"We are so thrilled to be back on the water," said Rick Cassels, Boat for Hope Committee Chair. "Thanks to the incredibly generous support of local skippers, the business community and our heart-filled volunteers, we are not only providing a memorable day for families but we're also proud to share that since Boat for Hope's inception in 1999, we've raised over \$2.5 million dollars for BC's kids with special needs."

For additional event information including sponsorship & volunteer inquiries, contact Angela Smith, Variety Development Coordinator at 604.268.3889 or <u>angela.smith@variety.bc.ca</u> or visit boatforhope.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 and organizations in communities all across the province.

Variety's core grant areas range from mobility programs and lifesaving medical equipment to specialized therapies, mental wellness counselling and educational programs. To learn how you can support Variety - the Children's Charity, call 604.320.0505 or visit variety.bc.ca.

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