

MONTHLY DONOR GRATITUDE REPORT 2021 - 2022



184
KIDS' LIVES WERE
TRANSFORMED



SEP'S STORY

My son Sep is now three years old and thanks to you and Variety he is now receiving the help he needs because he has finally been officially diagnosed as being on the Autism Spectrum. Thank you for supporting Variety. Because of your caring and generosity, our lives have been changed forever.

When Sep was almost one, I noticed his development was delayed. Our doctor agreed and suggested I register Sep for a publicly funded autism assessment. I applied right away but was told that the wait list was up to two years.

We didn't have the money to pay for a private assessment so we had no choice but to wait but as the days, months and years dragged on, my concern and my fear became unbearable. Sep wasn't communicating, he didn't respond to his name and he wasn't making eye contact with anyone ... not even me. His body was always very rigid and even playing was something he struggled with. **My heart was breaking.**

We patiently waited two years with still no word of an appointment. **We were becoming desperate and my entire family became extremely concerned that Sep wasn't getting the help he needed to develop.**

We were about to lose hope when a community service worker told us that Variety had begun funding private autism assessments and suggested we contact them. I quickly reached out to Variety and was relieved and ecstatic when Variety approved our application. A mere three months later, Sep received his private assessment!

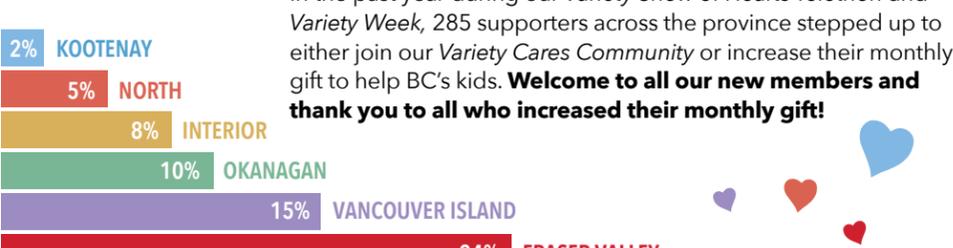
With the diagnosis, we were able to access \$22,000 per year in government funding and Sep has now been receiving therapy once a week for 4½ months. The change in our sweet boy has been remarkable. He can now communicate his wants and needs by saying "yes" or "no" and he has learned a total of ten words including "no more" and "cookie". He now makes eye contact more frequently and he responds either verbally or physically when spoken to.

Variety changes lives for the kids and the entire family profoundly. We are incredibly grateful to you for taking the time to read our story and for supporting Variety so that other kids just like Sep can receive the same opportunities that our little boy now has to grow and to thrive. **Thank you so much!**

- Zeddy, Sep's Mom, Prince Rupert



VARIETY CARES COMMUNITY BY REGION



In the past year during our *Variety Show of Hearts Telethon* and *Variety Week*, 285 supporters across the province stepped up to either join our *Variety Cares Community* or increase their monthly gift to help BC's kids. **Welcome to all our new members and thank you to all who increased their monthly gift!**

VARIETY CARES GRANTS BY FUNDING AREA

Variety was able to grant almost \$482,000 between April 2021 and March 2022 to support Variety kids and their families across BC.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES	13%	\$61,979	
	Coraline, 12, Vancouver Island Region		
	Coraline, who was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at the age of 5, has seen her life changed significantly since her family received funding assistance for a Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM) which keeps her safe 24/7.		
SPECIALIZED THERAPY	13%	\$62,537	
	Nate, 18, Interior Region		
	Nate receives speech therapy sessions which have greatly improved his communication delay.		
MENTAL WELLNESS	14%	\$65,508	
	Vi, 17, North Region		
	Vi is receiving mental wellness counselling therapy that is making a big difference in her life.		
EDUCATION	14%	\$67,812	
	Cris-Darby, 13, Lower Mainland Region		
	The tutoring sessions Cris-Darby receives have helped him be more engaged in school.		
MOBILITY	21%	\$99,434	
	Ace, 5, Fraser Valley Region		
	Ace received an adaptive stroller which gives him the opportunity to be included in activities with his friends and family.		
AUTISM ASSESSMENT & PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT	26%	\$124,989	
	Indra, 4, Kootenay Region		
	After receiving an Autism diagnosis from a Variety private assessment grant, Indra's family is now able to access significant government funding to provide her with therapies and support to achieve her potential.		

HELPING KIDS TODAY AND INTO THE FUTURE

"I will continue to support Variety because they do a wonderful job helping children with special needs. I only wish I had that advantage while Karen, my daughter was young."

- Terri Russell, Fraser Valley Region
VCC Member since 2021



Karen was born in the 1970's with a global development delay and hydrocephalus which is a build-up of fluid in the ventricles deep within the brain. There is no cure for hydrocephalus and in Karen's situation, she was not a candidate to have the blockages surgically removed.

When Karen was growing up, she couldn't apply for public assistance until she turned 16 years of age. Terri had never heard of Variety and knew nothing of the help they could have offered her daughter. Unfortunately, the social workers and professionals in the education system who could have offered Terri advice on where to find help didn't. In fact, Karen's school counsellor once commented that "kids like Karen will never be able to improve their lives."

But Karen and Terri didn't give up and when Karen was 18, she joined the Special Olympics Women's Hockey Team. On the team, Karen worked very hard to gain ownership of her life.

Sadly Karen passed away at age 46. Terri shared that "had Karen received the therapies she needed when she was growing up, she would have likely reached her full potential and lived a longer and more fulfilling life. I am grateful now to be able to make a difference by joining both the Variety Cares Community and the Legacy Circle. Every donation I make is in memory of Karen and it makes me feel good to know that I am able to contribute to help special needs children any way I can. Karen would be very happy to know she is helping as well."

Thank you so much Terri for your incredible commitment and your compassion for BC's kids. The legacy that both you and Karen are leaving with this "ultimate gift" will help to ensure that kids will receive early intervention and get the help that they need to thrive!



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