



## SPECIALIZED THERAPIES

Provides: speech therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, music therapy & equine therapy

From improving communication skills to rebuilding crucial muscles, therapies address broad deficits in childhood development. Carter, who was born with Down Syndrome, has been provided with ongoing speech therapy to help with his severe expressive speech delay while Graziella, who was also born with Down Syndrome, has received occupational therapy to help with her fine & gross motor skills. Cole was provided with physiotherapy so he could learn to walk again after having surgery to remove a cancerous tumour from his spine which left him paralyzed from the waist down.



Carter, 7

THERE ARE OVER **23,000** KIDS ACROSS BC WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

Variety knows there isn't one magic solution that works for every child. Sometimes kids need an "outside the box" type of treatment or therapy. That's why Variety has opened up a new series of therapy initiatives to help kids who need support in non-traditional ways. For many children, animals can have a therapeutic effect ... especially horses. That's why Variety has now begun funding equine therapy ... therapy facilitated through horses. Equine therapy can be extremely effective in allowing children to open up to practitioners outside of a clinical setting.

Music therapy can also be transformational for kids with nonverbal autism and other conditions such as global developmental delay & speech sound disorders. Not only does music therapy help kids improve their communication skills but it also helps with their cognitive, motor & social skills.



## TUITION & TUTORING

Provides: educational support for kids with learning challenges

To ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed in the classroom, Variety helps kids with a wide range of learning challenges by funding tuition bursaries to specialized schools ... kids like Madison who have had tremendous struggles in public schools. At the end of Grade 2, she still could not read or write. That's when Variety stepped in to provide her with a tuition bursary to Kenneth Gordon Maplewood School which is modeled for success ... especially in COVID times.

The private school located in North Vancouver has small class sizes, high teacher-to-student ratios and a focus on mental wellness that helps kids to feel safe at school. Since attending the school, Madison can now read and write. She can count now and do math which has also helped to improve not only her grades but her confidence.



Madison, 10

SINCE 2000, THE GRADUATION RATE FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS HAS DOUBLED

Variety also funds tutoring sessions for kids struggling in school ... kids like Jonathan who was born with Down Syndrome and a congenital heart defect. He presents with global developmental delay along with speech, vision and gross & fine motor skills issues. Variety has been providing Jonathan with tutoring sessions at the Down Syndrome Resource Foundation in Burnaby where he receives one-on-one help with math, reading and writing ... essentials so that will be able to thrive both in school and in his community.

## THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY



KIDS IN **80** BC COMMUNITIES RECEIVED GRANTS

KIDS IMPACTED BY VARIETY BC\*

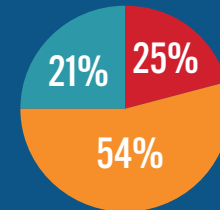
**4,625\***



**\$2,526** AVERAGE GRANT



**38%** KIDS RECEIVED MULTIPLE GRANTS\*\*



### GRANTS BY AGE

5 & UNDER  
6 TO 12  
13 TO 19

### CHILD GRANTS



\*4,625 reflects the number of children supported through individual & organizational grants and inclusive events.

\*\*Includes different types of grants and over multiple years (2016-2021).



Violet, 5

### Variety - the Children's Charity

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email: [info@variety.bc.ca](mailto:info@variety.bc.ca)  
Registered Charity #108168709

[variety.bc.ca](http://variety.bc.ca)

TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF BC'S KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS ONE CHILD AT A TIME



# TOGETHER WE CAN HELP KIDS THRIVE!



For over 55 years, Variety – the Children's Charity of BC has been supporting kids & families with equipment, therapies and assessments not covered by public or private health plans.

Thanks to the incredible support from individuals, corporations & foundations, Variety BC has been fortunate to be in a position to help even more families who have reached out for help over the years as the demand and the need continue to grow. More and more families are struggling under the financial burden of raising a child with special needs and kids are falling through the cracks.



Zahid, 10



OVER **13%** OF STUDENTS ACROSS BC  
HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS

Early intervention is key to ensuring that kids achieve the best of their abilities. By supporting Variety BC, not only will you be providing direct support to the kids and their families but you will also be helping to create stronger communities province wide. We hope you will join us as we work together to create a future where all kids across BC are receiving the support they need.

## FIVE AREAS WHERE VARIETY STEPS IN



### ADAPTIVE & MOBILITY EQUIPMENT

Provides: hearing aids, Type 1 Diabetes support, activity chairs, adaptive trikes, custom orthotics, manual & power wheelchairs, standing walkers & van lifts

Variety is committed to enabling access for children and their families ... kids like Cassie. As a newborn, Cassie was diagnosed with permanent hearing loss in both ears and relies on hearing aids to hear and enjoy the sounds of the world. Through the support of Variety, Cassie and her family received a grant to cover the cost of her hearing aids for the next five years.

Variety also wants to ensure kids with mobility challenges can get out, be independent and participate actively with their family, friends & classmates ... kids like Kaitlyn who was diagnosed with Quadriplegia – a condition characterized by weakness in all four limbs – and who has limited mobility. Over the past ten years, Variety has provided Kaitlyn with an activity chair, van lift and wheelchair.



Kaitlyn, 15

“KAITLYN IS THE HAPPIEST I’VE EVER SEEN HER AND IT’S ALL THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF VARIETY’S DONORS.”

- JIMMY, KAITLYN’S DAD



### MENTAL WELLNESS

Provides: counselling & therapies related to mental health

Variety wants to ensure that every child who needs mental wellness counselling has access to it regardless of their family's financial position. Making things better for their child is what every parent strives for but that can be frightening when your child's mental health is at risk and you don't know where to turn.



Emma, 19

AN ESTIMATED **84,000** CHILDREN & YOUTH  
ACROSS BC HAVE A DIAGNOSED MENTAL DISORDER YET  
LESS THAN **1/3** OF THOSE CHILDREN WHO SEEK HELP  
ARE RECEIVING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

When Emma entered high school, she found the 1200-student school daunting and immediately began withdrawing into herself. Suddenly as a teenager, she saw her world getting bigger and she didn't know her place in it. To help her cope with the anxiety and the dramatic changes in her life, her mom Laurie sought out counselling but with sessions costing \$175/hour, those life-changing services seemed out of reach ... that is until Variety came to the rescue. Emma's anxiety soon decreased while her self-esteem significantly improved. She began making new friends and has a whole new outlook on life.



### PRIVATE ASSESSMENTS

Provides: autism assessments & psychoeducational assessments

Children across BC needing an assessment for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are currently waiting 2 years for a government funded assessment. A private assessment on the other hand can be completed in months but the average cost of \$4,000 is out of reach for many families. We know that early intervention is crucial for kids with Autism which is why a diagnosis is needed as soon as possible.

With a diagnosis comes government funding up to \$22,000 annually until the child enters school at which point, funding drops significantly to \$6,000. Since Variety started funding private autism assessments in June of 2021, over 500 kids have been diagnosed and have begun therapies.



Sep, 3

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD) OCCURS IN  
**1** IN EVERY **68** BIRTHS AND IS THE MOST COMMON  
NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER IN CHILDREN

Kids with learning challenges are facing a similar struggle. If a parent or an educator requests a psychoeducational assessment for a child, many are waiting over 2 years in the public system unable to afford the \$3,000 needed for a private test. These assessments provide a comprehensive evaluation of a child's intellectual and academic abilities and once assessed, educators can create an individualized lesson plan for that student ... one that fosters not only academic success, but overall confidence, self-esteem and mental well being. Variety BC is helping to ensure kids aren't losing out on years of educational support.