



# TOGETHER TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF BC'S KIDS ONE CHILD AT A TIME



Variety - the Children's Charity

## **DONOR IMPACT REPORT**

Fiscal Year 2022

## Jonathan's Journey



Variety has played an important role in Jonathan's life providing much-needed assistance along the way. Jonathan was born with Down Syndrome and a congenital heart defect. When he was just three months old, the Coquitlam family received expensive baby formula from Variety. "The specialized formula was one of the keys to Jonathan's survival after his surgery," Jonathan's mom, Darlene shared. "Variety was there for him as an infant after he left the hospital so we didn't have to worry when all we wanted to focus on was our baby's survival."

When Jonathan - now a seventh grader - began struggling in the classroom, Variety again stepped in and has been providing the 12-year-old student with ongoing tutoring assistance at the Down Syndrome Resource Foundation where he receives one-on-one help with math, reading & writing so that he'll be able to thrive both in school and in the community.

Most recently, Jonathan has been approved for a private psychoeducational assessment grant which will help him succeed in high school.

Darlene has the same hope every parent has for their child ...  
"I just want him to be as independent as possible and be happy."



Jonathan with Darlene (mom), Kylie (sister) & Roger (dad)

“ Most kids like Jonathan need extra help and Variety makes a difference. Funding from Variety has helped Jonathan so much. To be able to have the tutoring support he needs for additional skills is huge. He doesn't get all of that in his day to day. We're very fortunate to have the funding through Variety. ” - Darlene



## A message of thanks from our Board Chair

Reflecting on this past year, the word that pops into my head is "overwhelming". This year has been record breaking with an unprecedented number of families requesting funding for private autism assessments. And that's in addition to the granting requests we received for adaptive & mobility equipment, specialized therapies, mental wellness counselling, one-on-one tutoring and tuition bursaries.

With the rising costs of everyday items, it's really no surprise that we've seen such a dramatic increase. But what I'm truly overwhelmed by is the generosity of British Columbians who have risen to the challenge ... particularly at a time when everyone is feeling the pinch. From *Variety Week* and our *Variety Tree of Hearts* holiday campaign to our 56th Annual *Variety Show of Hearts Telethon* on Global BC, we have seen communities from all four corners of the province come together for BC's kids.

It's that incredible support from our donors and corporate partners that takes away the financial burden from families and ensures their children will have the equipment, therapies, professional counselling & educational support they'll need to grow and succeed.

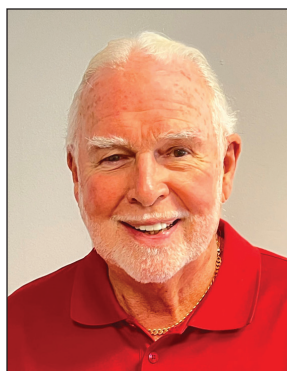
And because of your generosity, we've been able to expand our funding to include both private autism assessments and psychoeducational assessments allowing kids the opportunity for early intervention, support and understanding. A psychoeducational assessment and the learning strategies that are developed from it will impact the child not only today but for their entire life.

This fall, we were excited to launch our *Variety Schools Grant* program. This one-of-a-kind initiative has been designed to help ensure schools from across the province are accessible, inclusive and safe for everyone. Such projects will include closed-caption technologies, sensory paths & rooms and wheelchair-accessible playgrounds to name a few.

As we celebrate this year's success, I look forward to the year ahead ... a year that will bring new opportunities and a new vision for the organization. Thank you for your continued support and for helping to ensure that no child is left behind.



George Pitman  
Board Chair  
Variety BC



Sep



Harsimran

Jason

PRIVATE AUTISM & PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENTS ARE CURRENTLY OUR AREA OF GREATEST NEED. LAST YEAR, **667** PRIVATE ASSESSMENTS WERE GRANTED IMPACTING NOT ONLY THE LIVES OF THE KIDS BUT ALSO THEIR FAMILIES.

## Fundraising & Events

### VARIETY SHOW OF HEARTS TELETHON

The iconic *Variety Show of Hearts* returned to Global BC as a three-day event. The event kicked off on Thursday, February 24 during *Global News Morning* where viewers were introduced to some of the many kids they've helped in 2021.

The stories continued on all of Global BC's newscasts throughout the day and on Friday, February 25 as well. The event wrapped up on Saturday, February 26 with the 56th Annual *Variety Show of Hearts Telethon* which featured musical guests David Foster, Katharine McPhee and Colin James.

This year's Telethon was hosted by Global BC's Chris Gailus, Sophie Lui, Kristi Gordon, Neetu Garcha, Paul Haysom & Jay Janower along with 980 CKNW's Jody Vance. Also featured were inspiring stories profiling Ace, Cassie, Jonathan, Tayla and brothers Grey & Liam plus Magic Moments with Jason from Langley and Lucy from Quesnel.

**British Columbians came together to raise \$6,936,621 for BC's kids.**



Lucy with Matt (dad), Jody (mom) & Lily (twin sister)

### The impact of your generosity



KIDS IN **89** BC COMMUNITIES  
RECEIVED GRANTS



**\$2,908** AVERAGE GRANT



**\$42,600** AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME

KIDS  
IMPACTED BY  
VARIETY BC\*

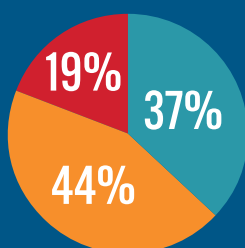
**4,814**



Cory



Stella



#### GRANTS BY AGE

- 5 & UNDER
- 6 TO 12
- 13 TO 19

\*4,814 reflects the number of children supported through individual & organizational grants and inclusive events.

## BOAT FOR HOPE

This year, *Boat for Hope* returned to the high seas for the first time since 2019. A total of **115 volunteers came together from 8 sponsoring companies as well as 27 additional community partners** to bring this fun-filled event to life. In addition to providing an exciting, pirate-themed day on the water for kids and their families, **the event raised \$115,000.**



Variety Families & Volunteers



Violet

## THE BIG 50/50

Back again for a second year, The BIG 50/50 benefitted Variety BC, the Cerebral Palsy Association of BC and the West Coast Kids Cancer Foundation. **The raffle reached a total of \$163,770.**

If you purchased a ticket for The BIG 50/50, thank you! Your support enables Variety to help even more kids across BC.

## VARIETY WEEK

Global BC presented our 7th Annual *Variety Week* from October 17 to 21. The week-long event gave viewers & supporters the opportunity to meet some of the remarkable kids whose lives they have impacted since our *Variety Show of Hearts Telethon*.

Also featured was the introduction of our groundbreaking *Variety Schools Program* with Global BC's Community Reporter Michael Newman on location at Harbour View Elementary School in Coquitlam.



Chris Gailus & Sophie Lui

**Thanks to the generosity of our donors & sponsors, we raised \$2,280,745 allowing us to help 912 kids.**

## INDIVIDUAL GRANTS



Over **23,144** donors - including our *Variety Cares Monthly Giving Community* - came together to support **4,814** kids across BC.



**Thank you to all our dedicated Variety Volunteers who donated countless hours of their time to support BC's kids with special needs!**

## Granting Highlights

**78**  
PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL  
ASSESSMENTS  
GRANTED

### HELPING KIDS IN A NEW WAY: PRIVATE PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

In 2022, Variety began funding another type of private assessment ... private psychoeducational assessments.

Autism, global development delay, dyslexia, ADHD, anxiety disorders and other factors can all cause a child to struggle in a classroom setting. A psychoeducational assessment is a tool used by a Registered Psychologist to help a child's support team - including educators - create a learning strategy that works best for the child.



There is an initial assessment followed by a second assessment a few years later. These private assessments can cost families on average \$3,000 and if a family can't afford to pay out of pocket, they may be waiting two or more years for a publicly-funded assessment.

The funding that Variety is now providing gives kids across BC who need a psychoeducational assessment the opportunity for an early assessment along with early intervention, support and understanding.

It is only once we understand the individual child's unique educational needs that these children can embark on their very own learning path that has been developed just for them.

Thank you to RBC ... our 2022 Corporate Hero. RBC has been instrumental in supporting the mental well-being of kids in throughout the province. They step up year after year as the Corporate Sponsor of our Mental Wellness pillar on our annual Variety Show of Hearts Telethon.



Additionally RBC supports Variety Week as a Corporate Sponsor during Global News Hour at 6. RBC employees can also be found giving generously of their time by volunteering at such Variety events as Boat for Hope.

A huge thank you to RBC for their ongoing support of Variety kids & families!

### VARIETY SUNSHINE COACHES

This year, we presented a new Variety Sunshine Coach to the Gitwangak Education Society in Kitwanga.

The 24-passenger coach will be an important asset to the Community of Gitwangak as they strive to provide both academics and cultural activities on the land which will help their children grow into healthy Gitksan People. Sunshine Coach #616 will provide safe and inclusive transportation to cultural field trips, land activities, swimming trips & much more.

Thank you to our donors for enriching the lives of these amazing kids!





# Variety's Pillars of Support



## MOBILITY: The gift of freedom



**24**  
WHEELCHAIRS &  
ACCESSORIES

**11**  
ADAPTIVE  
TRICYCLES

**39**  
CUSTOM  
ORTHOTICS

## SPECIALIZED THERAPIES: Building strength & confidence



**121**  
KIDS RECEIVED  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
& PHYSIOTHERAPY

**KIDS IN 31**  
COMMUNITIES  
RECEIVED SPECIALIZED  
THERAPY GRANTS

**3,588**  
HOURS SPEECH  
& LANGUAGE  
THERAPY

## MENTAL WELLNESS: Critical support for invisible challenges



**50**  
KIDS & FAMILIES  
SUPPORTED

**638**  
HOURS OF  
COUNSELLING

**8**  
AVERAGE  
AGE

## EDUCATION: Learning to thrive



**34**  
KIDS ATTENDED  
SPECIALIZED SCHOOLS

**2255**  
HOURS OF TUTORING  
FOR 91 KIDS

**126**  
GRANTS  
TOTAL

## MEDICAL SUPPLIES: Covering costs to change lives



**31**  
GRANTS TOTAL

**10**  
CGMs

**16**  
HEARING AIDS

## PRIVATE ASSESSMENTS: Helping kids succeed



**589**  
AUTISM ASSESSMENTS

**78**  
PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

## VARIETY CARES FUND

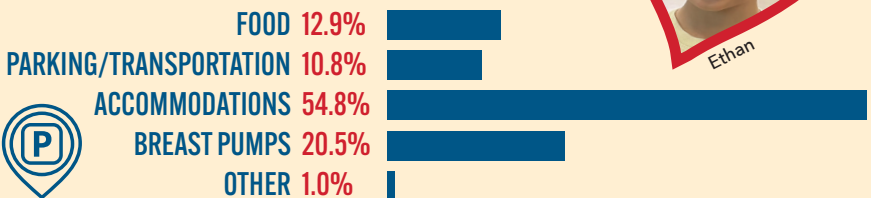
Partnering once again with 10 hospitals, Variety was able to give hospital administrators & social workers the flexibility and freedom to meet the urgent needs of families in their communities & for those who have to travel for emergency care.

The program was expanded this year in order to provide families who needed longer term support the ability to focus on the health and the well-being of their child.

**\$260,000**  
FUNDED THROUGH  
PARTNERSHIPS WITH  
**10**  
BC HOSPITALS



## TOTAL FUNDED BY CATEGORY



## About Variety

Variety - the Children's Charity steps in where health care ends providing direct help to children with special needs across BC. For over 55 years, Variety has ensured children have the support to reach their potential.

Since 2010, Variety has distributed more than \$49.2 million in funding to families and organizations in communities all across the province.

Variety's core grant areas range from adaptive & mobility equipment to specialized therapies, educational support and mental wellness counselling in addition to private autism assessments and private psychoeducational assessments.



Your generosity funds life-changing support for kids across BC



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Front Cover Photo by Tina-Louise Harris