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Variety's 2019 Man and Woman of the Year

St. Louis (Feb 1, 2019) – [Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis](#) today names top media executive, Spencer Koch, and civic leader, Carol Staenberg, as Variety's 2019 Man and Woman of the Year. Each year, Variety honors one man and one woman who play an active role in shaping the St. Louis community for the better. The [list of honorees](#) is a Who's Who of St. Louis.

This year's Woman of the Year is committed to the St. Louis community and the successful growth of its future. Carol Staenberg has been instrumental in supporting numerous organizations throughout St. Louis. She is the immediate past chair of College Bound Board, is currently a member of The Lift for Life Academy Foundation and sits on the executive council of the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center of St. Louis.



Previously, Carol served on the board of Jewish Family and Children's Services and volunteered for many years at the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry, heading the task force that helped the food pantry move into its new building and chairing their advisory committee. Carol is also a strong believer in promoting the arts, having supported the Center of Creative Arts (COCA). Carol's husband, Michael, serves on the Variety board and both care about Variety's mission. Because of this dedication to the community, it is no surprise that this is not Carol's first award – she has often been recognized for her contributions, including the Women of Achievement Award in 2012, among others.

Our 2019 Man of the Year, Spencer Koch, has been deeply involved in our community. For 23 years, Spencer served as general manager of KTVI/FOX 2 News and KPLR 11. In his tenure, he not only made FOX 2 the most-watched local news station in St. Louis, but also demonstrated a dedication to serving the region. Under his leadership, FOX 2 has raised millions of dollars for 45 local organizations, including Variety. The stations have served as a Media Partner with Variety for eight years, giving Variety Kids a voice by sharing their stories with the community. This dedication resulted in several awards and recognitions for both Spencer and his stations, including a Variety International Award in 2014, the Station Excellence Award by Mid America NATAS three times, and his most recent achievement of being inducted in the St. Louis Press Club Hall of Fame.



“Both Carol and Spencer have worked to make the St Louis community better for years,” says Brian Roy, executive director of Variety St. Louis. “Their unwavering commitment to our community holds the promise of investing in future generations.”

Variety’s 2019 Man and Woman of the Year will be celebrated at Dinner with the Stars, Variety St. Louis’ premier black-tie gala, on April 13. The inclusive Variety Children’s Chorus and a notable headliner – who will be announced shortly – will also perform at the event, held at the Stifel Theatre. For more information and tickets, visit VarietySTL.org/Dinner-with-the-Stars.

About Variety the Children’s Charity of St. Louis

Variety empowers children with physical and developmental disabilities, also referred to as children with special needs, and improves their quality of life. Our programs highlight ability rather than disability. This holistic approach gives access to critical medical equipment and therapies, along with innovative Camp and Performing Arts programs, which provide opportunities for recreation, socialization, and artistic expression. Children gain or maintain independence, boost socialization among their friends and family, demonstrate belief in themselves, and increase skills they need to engage their world as fully as possible. www.varietystl.org

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