Dear Friend of Variety,

The summer months bring a host of activities to the forefront at Variety. The creative ways we engage our Variety Kids, the meaningful interactions between campers and camp counselors, and the smiles and laughter that happen every day (and an occasional tear) affirms our mission to provide children with special needs the activities for making life extraordinary.

We cannot accomplish this without you. No matter how you interact with us, your support of Variety allows Variety Kids to experience simple moments – and profound moments as well. Just a few months ago, as we celebrated Variety Week and our annual Dinner with the Stars (our 51st, by the way) we saw James Taylor harmonizing with our Variety Kids Chorus to the tune of Shower the People you Love with Love and it brought the house down. And at our Runway Lights Fashion Show, Variety Kid McKenzie and her mom showed us grit and determination that inspired us all.

This happens every day at Variety – our Variety Families, needing help, inspire us to be and do more. We accomplish this with you. I hope you know how much we need you and appreciate your generosity.

This fall will bring our Variety Children’s Theater production of Wizard of Oz to the Touhill, Bikes for Kids, and our ongoing programs of TherHappy and providing Equipment to make our Kids lives better. Every day, Variety answers the call of making lives stronger. Thank you for all you are and all you do for Variety.

Sincerely,

Brian Roy
Executive Director
THANK YOU

Making Milestone Moments Happen
Claire’s Story

Claire is Claire and clear is clear, and until very recently the twain had rarely met.

You see, 7-year-old Claire, who has severe hearing loss, has hearing aids that, like a lot of hearing aids, don’t do a very good job of isolating particular voices in noisy settings. Claire had to expend so much energy trying to focus on her teacher’s voice at school, trying to separate it from all the extraneous noise a classroom contains, that she’d come home physically exhausted.

On the soccer field, she couldn’t distinguish her coach’s voice from all the other noise, and often ended up standing, frustrated and crying, on her own little patch of grass. But now, thanks to the generosity of Variety supporters, Claire has what’s called an FM system, which allows a teacher, coach, or anybody, to wear a “microphone” that wirelessly broadcasts straight to Claire’s hearing aids. And so now, Claire hears clearly.

She’s also speaking clearer now. And her personality is really starting to bloom. So it should come as no surprise that Claire now gets up eager and excited each morning, knowing that, thanks to the FM system, her hearing aids are really, truly aids to hearing.

Nor should it come as a surprise that Claire’s mom, Heather, says every day is like “waking up on Christmas morning.”
Catching up at Camp

Adventure Camp is happening now! We could tell you why this matters to our kids...or we could just show you. Send us a note if you would like to visit: Linda@varietystl.org

Check out our Week 1 video at bit.ly/advtcmp17
The 51st Dinner with the Stars celebration was memorable indeed.

Ameren CEO Warner Baxter and Community Volunteer, Carol Voss were honored as Variety’s 2017 Man and Woman of the Year, a fitting tribute to the contributions, that each has made to Variety’s mission of helping kids with special needs.

The Man and Woman of the Year were recognized in front of a sell-out crowd: the result of the tremendous appeal of headliner James Taylor, who thrilled a packed Peabody Opera House with a performance of his biggest hits. Once again, Marilyn Fox chaired this event for an unprecedented 21st time.

The milestone moment for our Variety Children’s Chorus was rehearsing and then performing with James Taylor. Together they sang “Shower the People” at the end of his performance bringing the crowd to their feet with applause.

The event raised $2,400,000 to provide very deserving children with medical equipment plus educational and recreational programs.

Co-anchors Ryan and Madi said it best when asked for their special milestone moment during the show... "Being here with you is the best moment.”

Generously Underwritten by Centene Corporation, World Wide Technology & Steward Family Foundation
Runway Lights Fashion Show provided an elegant kick-off to Variety Week as well as vital funding for the TherHappy program that helps kids receive all-important physical, speech, and occupational therapy.

This year’s show featured the pre-fall collection of St. John. In addition to these glamorous outfits, Union Station was transformed into an blooming floral garden.

The heartwarming story from Variety kid Mackenzie, and her mom, with the powerful encouragement of Variety Woman Laura Ellenhorn brought the crowd to their feet with applause and tears. The special appeal to fund Variety’s TherHappy program was an unqualified success, thanks to the generous donations of those in attendance raising $106,000. For Mackenzie and her mom, being center stage, telling her story and thanking the crowd was a milestone moment to cherish.

A big thank you goes out to all who helped make this “couture for a cause” such a wonderful event, including Honorary Chair Thelma Steward and Runway Event Co-Chairs Kimberly and Mary Steward, along with Sales Chair Kelly Gross.
Variety kid Hannah took to the field at Busch Stadium on a picture-perfect mid-April day and became the latest Variety kid to throw out a ceremonial first pitch. We thank our partner, Bank of America for this amazing opportunity.

After tossing a strike to Cardinals reliever Miguel Socolovich, and getting the kind of congratulations one can only get from Fredbird, Hannah, her mom and dad, and over seventy other Variety kids and their families watched the game from luxury suites provided by Bank of America, Ameren, and Worldwide Technology.

Hannah attributed her successful milestone moment to throwing practice on the previous day, tossing a My Little Pony back and forth with dad.
Nearly 350 of our Variety families gathered at Chesterfield Athletic Complex for the first ever Family Celebration Day. The event featured hands-on activities, arts and crafts, police dog demonstrations, photo booth, superheroes and the bubble bus!

There were countless milestone moments at this celebration, with the entire families that got their faces made up and then photographed, to drawing comics with Lion Forge, and petting a working police dog. The bubble bus got everyone in the dancing mode. Laughter could be heard throughout the complex. A big thanks goes to our sponsors, Edward Jones, Alliance Rehab and Lion Forge for their support.
Variety in the Morning

For the first time, from 7-noon, FOX2 in the Morning became Variety in the Morning, with Variety kids on set, in the field, and on air, bringing their one of a kind take on the morning news, weather and traffic. Each of these children had their own center-stage milestone moment, when the cameras pointed at them, and they nailed their lines in one take!

Holly and Nick took the anchor chairs while Lana did the helicopter traffic report, and Dominic predicted the weather. Drew helped with the traffic updates while Keira did breaking news. Kaci did “You Paid For it” and Josie reviewed the movie “Beauty and the Beast”. Lindsey introduced the Kim Hudson show while Andrew did an interview with Imo Pizza’s spokesperson, Kelly Imo.

The news crew was impressed with their ease and comfort with cameras and microphones. FOX 2/KPLR 11 General Manager, Spencer Koch stopped by to watch and stated that they were natural news personalities. It was an amazing news day!
**Imo’s for Kids Day**

 Appearing on TV to eat pizza for breakfast was certainly a dream come true for Variety kids Gabe and Ellie during Imo’s for Kids Day.

 Imo’s president, Carl Imo and his wife Kelly, hosted Variety kids, and FOX2’s Katie Kormann, at the new Imo’s headquarters downtown on April 26. Our favorite milestone moment was Ellie making her pizza all by herself which resembled a volcanic mountain top of spaghetti sauce and provol cheese and a smile that went from ear to ear with glee at doing it herself.

 But the biggest gift from Imo’s was a donation of 10% of the proceeds from that day’s sales. Imo’s is continuing that support with a new promotion starting in July called Variety Box Combo. When you order this box that includes pizza, Coke and more, a portion will benefit Variety. Proving once again they really are the “Care beyond Compare.”
Young Variety

Comprised of young professionals between the ages of 21 and 40, Young Variety is the future of our organization, ensuring that the thousands of St. Louis children served by Variety will continue to receive help in the years to come.

In addition to regular social events, Young Variety hosts its own events throughout the year to raise funds for Variety children. Young Variety members are also active volunteers, joining together to support Variety’s inclusive programs and work directly with children who have physical or developmental disabilities.

More information contact: Lauren@varietystl.org

Variety Women

A powerful, passionate network of women who, through investment of their time, talent, and resources support children in our community living with special needs.

Variety Women use their professional expertise and community connections to raise funds and awareness so children with special needs can reach their full potential.

They also serve as Ambassadors for Variety by providing, and identifying, resources that can be put to work supporting Variety’s mission. Variety women encourage other women to discover the joy of making a difference in the lives of Variety children.

For more information, contact Linda Sanders, Variety Director of Development at 314-720-7712 or linda@varietystl.org.
HONORARIUMS

In Honor of Dianne Berns
Patty Haefner
Karen Haglin

In Honor of Sarah Betz
Gabrielle Eyler

In Honor of the Cast and Crew of
To Kill a Mockingbird’ at the Rep
R.G. Acting Co.

In Honor of Marilyn Fox
Stephen and Camilla Brauer
Jean Hobler
Kara and Timothy O’Leary

In Honor of Gracie Gibson
Greg and Kim Stone

In Honor of Charlotte
Jonathan and Jessica McIntosh

In Honor of Jacob Menner
LuAnn and Tom Noelke

In Honor of Barbara Nielsen’s Birthday
Patrick and Jennifer Eynon

In Honor of Ellorah
Lynn Stahlheber
Melanie Stahlheber

In Honor of Dave and Thelma
Steward & Family
Alfred Brown

In Honor of Dave and Thelma Steward
Deborah Ward
Dorothy L. Willis

In Honor of Kimberly Steward’s Birthday
Dorothy L. Willis

In Honor of Erica Traylor
Betty Kraus

In Honor of Carol Voss
Kimberly and Timothy J. Eberlein
Kara and Timothy O’Leary

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Chad Eatherly
LuAnn and Tom Noelke

In Memory of Dolores Jube
Debra Mehlman

In Memory of Ellorah
Lynn Stahlheber
Melanie Stahlheber

In Memory of Dave and Thelma
Steward & Family
Alfred Brown

In Memory of Dave and Thelma Steward
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Dorothy L. Willis

In Memory of Erica Traylor
Betty Kraus

In Memory of Carol Voss
Kimberly and Timothy J. Eberlein
Kara and Timothy O’Leary

TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS (February 1 – May 31)

October 19th | 7:00pm
October 20th | 10am & 7:00pm
October 21st | 1:30pm & 7:00pm
October 22nd | 1:30pm

Touhill Performing Arts Center
Tickets on sale August 1st
www.touhill.org
www.varietychildrenstheatre.org

WITH SUPPORT FROM
Cheri & Ron
Nancy & Ken
Noémi & Michael
Sally & Terry
Thelma & David
Fromm
Kranzberg
Neidorff
Schnuck
Steward
Do you have or know of a child with a disability? Variety can help! Call 314-720-7700.

Variety serves children with physical or developmental disabilities from infancy to age 21, who live within our thirty county service area and whose parents or guardians complete a simple application process.

Variety helps children with special needs say “I CAN” by providing special medical equipment, therapy, a resource center, summer camp, and other accessible educational and recreational activities.