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## Variety Names 2020 Man and Woman of the Year

**St. Louis** (Jan. 21) – Variety the Children’s Charity of St. Louis today named its 2020 Man and Woman of the Year — U.S. Bank St. Louis Market President, Lawrence K. Otto, and Spire’s President and Chief Executive Officer, Suzanne Sitherwood. Each year, Variety honors one man and one woman who play an active role in shaping the St. Louis community. The [list of honorees](#) is a Who’s Who of the St. Louis community and philanthropic leadership.

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

This year’s Woman of the Year is committed to the St. Louis community and its continued growth. Suzanne Sitherwood is instrumental in supporting numerous organizations throughout St. Louis. She is the chair of the Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis, a chair of Alliance STL, a previous chair of Civic Progress, and a member of the executive committees of the St. Louis Regional Chamber and the United Way of Greater St Louis.



With more than 39 years of experience in the natural gas industry, Suzanne is a national leader with a strong track record of strategic vision and business acumen. She was appointed President of Spire's predecessor, Laclede Gas in 2011 and Chief Executive Officer in 2012. Under her leadership, Spire has quadrupled its market and enterprise value.

"It is an honor to be recognized by such a great organization that enables children and their families to thrive," Suzanne said. "Spire supports Variety's efforts to advance our communities by investing in the greatest energy source in the world—people."

Variety's 2020 Man of the Year, Lawrence K. Otto, has been deeply involved in the St. Louis community. He is a St. Louis native who has held leadership positions in both Commercial Banking and Wealth Management businesses during his extensive career. He is a former board chairman of Variety, the Children's Charity and a board member of Civic Progress.



Lawrence also serves on board of the Boy Scouts of America Greater St Louis Area Council, United Way of Greater St Louis, St. Louis Public Library Foundation, Concordance Academy of Leadership, the St. Louis Regional Chamber and the Salvation Army's Honorary Chair of the Tree of Lights Campaign.

"Congratulations to Suzanne on her selection as the 2020 Woman of the Year," said Lawrence. "I am honored to be recognized, as well. The work that Variety does to enhance the lives of the children and families it serves is life altering. Watching these children joyfully living their best lives has given me such gratification over the years. Their smiles and positive attitudes are great examples for us all. With Variety's help, their light will continue to shine into the future. Thank you, Variety, for your commitment to our community and to our children."

Variety's 2020 Man and Woman of the Year will be celebrated on April 25 at Variety's Dinner with the Stars, St. Louis' premier black-tie gala at the Stifel Theatre. The dinner and concert for the eighth time, will be underwritten by The Steward Family Foundation, Centene Charitable Foundation, and World Wide Technology so that all funds raised will go directly to local Variety

Kids. The inclusive Variety Children's Chorus and a notable headliner – who will be announced soon – will perform at the event. For more information and tickets, visit [VarietySTL.org/Dinner-with-the-Stars](http://VarietySTL.org/Dinner-with-the-Stars).

### **About Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis**

Variety envisions a world where abilities are redefined and opportunities are reimaged for kids with special needs. To make this a reality, Variety empowers children with physical and developmental disabilities by giving 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](http://www.varietystl.org)

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