



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Variety St. Louis Expands Program Expertise with New Staff**

*Variety welcomes two new staff members who will bring critical knowledge and experience to the team, allowing the organization to further expand and improve various service offerings.*

**ST. LOUIS, Feb. 23, 2022** – Variety the Children’s Charity of St. Louis recently added two talented staff members to their Programs Team. New Health Services Manager Julie Thompkins and Programs Team Specialist Britt Velasquez bring a breadth of experience to the organization and are jumping in with both feet to make an impact on Variety Kids and their families.

“We are excited to welcome Julie and Britt to the team,” says Executive Director Brian Roy. “They each have a unique skill set that will allow us to continue to enhance and expand our services, from new assistive technology to more opportunities for socialization, education, and enrichment.”

Health Services Manager Julie will primarily oversee our Durable Medical Equipment program and will also supervise the TherHappy Kids program, ensuring families receive the assistance they need. She will focus on expanding our assistive technology offerings, funding equipment that will further empower Variety Kids to engage with their world in new ways.

Julie’s professional experience includes working with local non-profit organizations to find resources for individuals with disabilities, and she has a degree in psychology. Julie is also a mom to a Variety Kid. She has appreciated the supportive process that Variety has put in place to assist families like her own and is eager to provide the same level of care to others.

“I am excited and thankful for the opportunity to help families like mine discover and access assistive technology and adaptive equipment for their children,” Julie says.

Programs Team Specialist Britt will assist with the planning, implementation, and execution of several Variety programs and services, including our Recreation programs like Adventure Camp.

Britt has a degree in kinesiology with an emphasis in adaptive physical and health education. She also has a wide range of professional experience leading camps as well as several recreational and residential programs, making her the perfect fit for this role.

“I am thrilled to be part of the awesome team that gets to change kiddos’ lives through having fun!” says Britt.

**About Variety St. Louis:** Variety envisions a world where abilities are redefined and opportunities are reimagined 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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