Voice of Variety

Want to submit a story to our newsletter? Contact Matt Gregory at matt.gregory@varietyphila.org
It’s time to hit the books again! This summer flew by after tons of excitement here at Variety. From having our kids here with us attending the overnight and day camp, to going on different field trips during our Adventure Week, Variety made sure the children had plenty of opportunities to have the eventful and exciting summer that they deserved.

Now that summer is over we would like to remind you about some of our upcoming events. On Thursday, September 14, join us for the Tri-State Labor & Management event honoring Charles A. Ercole, Salvatore J. Patti, and Ted Kirsch. We will presenting the Golden Heart of Variety to Charles Ercole and Salvatore Patti and the Education Leadership Award to Ted Kirsch.

The 12th annual Thomas J. Cassidy Memorial Golf Outing is scheduled for Friday, September 15th at the Mainland Golf Course beginning at 1 pm. This event will start with a round of golf and end with the after party at PJ Whelihan’s Pub in Blue Bell, where there will be a fire pit reserved for our golfers. Take the weekend to rest and then join us for another golf outing on that Monday! The Philadelphia PGA Mariniello Tournament of Champions Pro-Am on September 18 is a great way to honor our friends Vince & Betty Mariniello for their commitment to Variety and the PGA Professionals.

The summer is over but that does not mean we’re slowing down. If you’d like more information or want to sign up for any or all of these events visit www.varietyphila.org. If you have any other questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to contact me at angus.murray@varietyphila.org or call my phone (610-584-4366 x 203). Thank you to everyone who continues to support our children at Variety.

-Angus Murray, CEO

**Variety VIP of the Month**

**Vince and Betty Mariniello**

This month's Variety VIPs are the late Vince and Betty Mariniello. Vince, with the support of his loving wife, was involved with the charity for over 40 years. He served on the board as a member, president, and chairman. In addition to being so involved with our board, Vince and his wife, Betty, have raised millions of dollars for this foundation. They were also instrumental in securing funding for the Widener building (gym) on our campus. Both were heavily involved in the planning, organizing, and execution of the Variety Telethon from the mid 1970s to its end in 1990. One short paragraph can't describe how much this inspiring couple has done for Variety over the years. Their contributions have been enormous in the past and future development of our organization. If you would like to support this month’s Variety VIP’s, sign up for the Philadelphia PGA Mariniello Tournament of Champions Pro-Am on September 18th. The Mainiello’s have been responsible for a lot of the positive changes Variety has experienced over the years, and we’d like to thank the whole family for everything they have done for us and the children we serve.
Every summer we are blessed with 8 weeks of children with disabilities on our campus. They spend their time playing, learning, dancing, singing, coloring, swimming, and much more while attending any of our programs. Day in and day out there are so many unique moments that act as reminders of why we try to enrich the lives of children with disabilities.

During the first week we introduced so many new elements to our campers and our staff. We made personalized t-shirts, built a music wall, and began our vocational program’s zucchini bread initiative. The next few weeks we had some fun with 4th of July and “Holiday in July” parties, but we also worked on our community outreach program by making “thank you” gifts for donors, volunteers, etc.

During week 4 we honored our local heroes with Community Day! Our kids spent time with all the officers, got to tour their vehicles, and watched with excitement as the Penn Star helicopter landed and took off. Once we were halfway through camp, we received a special visit and performance from Elsa. The Frozen princess sang her hit songs like “Let It Go” and then walked around campus and posed for pictures with the kids.

The highlight of our summer was definitely Adventure Week! We travelled to Dorney Park, the movies, a bowling alley, and the Franklin Institute, but we had the most fun right here at camp at our Annie Madden Sunshine Games! The kids loved our “amazing race around the world” theme and couldn’t stop smiling as they moved to each “country” for a new activity.

For 44 weeks out of the year our campus is relatively quiet. We spend our time with our school year programs, putting on events, but mostly we are looking forward to when camp starts again. Witnessing our kids grow at camp is the reason why we strive to provide them with the best programs and services we possibly can. Camp season may be over and the campers may be gone, but we already have one eye on next summer for when they return.
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**Thomas J. Cassidy Memorial Golf Outing**

Join us at Mainland Golf Course (https://www.mainlandgolf.com/) on Friday, September 15 to participate in the Thomas J. Cassidy Memorial Golf Outing. The day will include a round of golf, a snack, and finish with a delicious cookout! The cost will be $125 per golfer which includes the greens fee, the cart, a snack, and the barbecue. There will also be various raffles and contests going on throughout the day. If you can’t make the golf tournament portion, there is a fire pit reserved at PJ Whelihan’s in Blue Bell for an after party!

**Philadelphia PGA Mariniello Tournament of Champions**

This tournament is a fantastic way to celebrate Vince & Betty Mariniello and all they have done as advocates for Variety and PGA Professionals. Please join us for an exciting day at the beautiful Laurel Creek Country Club on Monday, September 18th. We will start with lunch followed by golf and round out the day with cocktails, dinner, and a silent auction with terrific prizes such as dinner for 10 at Del Frisco’s and jewelry from Tiffany Co.
Firkin 5K

Get your Oktoberfest on with Variety at the Firkin 5K on Saturday, October 14!

The chip-timed 5K will start at White’s Road Park and winds through park as well as the neighborhood streets of Lansdale. The first 200 runners who register will receive a tech shirt while every runner will receive a swag bag filled with various goodies. Registration starts at 8:45am and the race starts at 10am.

Following the run, the Firkin Oktoberfest begins at 11am! There will be a number of vendors, attractions, and ways to celebrate Oktoberfest in style. Each runner over the age of 21 will receive one beer token to use for the event. Make sure to meet us on Saturday, October 14 to enjoy the race and raise a beer stein to Variety (21+ years of age to drink.)

Visit http://varietyphila.org/firkin-5k to register or for more information.

Angel Flight East

Angel East Flights is an organization that coordinates FREE flights to patients. Volunteer pilots use their planes to fly patients to their destinations and cover all costs associated with the flight. This wonderful organization provides services for patients all along the east coast from Maine down to Virginia and as far west as Ohio. A good example of this service at work is a patient who needs to fly from Virginia to New York for specialty treatment every month. AFE can provide this monthly transportation for FREE. To learn more about AFE and the work they do visit http://angelflighteast.org/.
As a part of our revamping of the After School Program in Philadelphia, we are trying to organize “lunch packets” for our students. With your help, we’d like to make sure each student gets a snack as a part of their lunch, but we want it to be healthy. Apples, carrots, bananas, or anything else you can think of would be much appreciated!

It’s a scary thought but summer will eventually end and the kids will have to go back to school. When that happens we want to make sure they are prepared. We could use notebooks, pencils, binders, or any other kind of school supplies. Anything would be a huge help.

Once the kids get their supplies they’re going to need a way to carry them all from class to class. We want to have volunteers put the supplies into backpacks for a pre-made-school-ready package the kids can grab and go on their first day.

The help we offer children and families is only possible because of the help we receive from donors. The generous contributions from individuals and corporations allow us to continue the work we’ve been doing for over 50 years. Anything you can contribute will directly benefit at least one child in some way. Visit our website to learn even more about the ways you can help us help the communities we all live, work and play in.

To donate visit: http://varietyphila.org/

Donate

Wish List

Here are a few items we could really use. If you have any interest in donating one of the items below contact Heather Johnson at heather.johnson@varietyphila.org

Healthy Snacks
As a part of our revamping of the After School Program in Philadelphia, we are trying to organize “lunch packets” for our students. With your help, we’d like to make sure each student gets a snack as a part of their lunch, but we want it to be healthy. Apples, carrots, bananas, or anything else you can think of would be much appreciated!

School Supplies
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Backpacks
Once the kids get their supplies they’re going to need a way to carry them all from class to class. We want to have volunteers put the supplies into backpacks for a pre-made-school-ready package the kids can grab and go on their first day.

Visit our website to learn even more about the ways you can help us help the communities we all live, work and play in.

To donate visit: http://varietyphila.org/
“Cut” a Kid a Break is the beauty industry’s way of raising funds and building awareness to better serve the special needs community. Salon employees donate their time and the money collected from the services they provide to benefit Variety – the Children’s Charity. Salons open on a day they are usually closed to support this cause and show their philanthropic spirit.

For more information contact
Harry Giordano
harry.giordano@varietyphila.org
(215) 385 - 0900

The Alumni Association is an offshoot organization offered to people who have enjoyed Variety programming as youth. This group seeks to empower alumni to maintain friendships, develop networks, and support the mission and vision of Variety - the Children’s Charity.

Benefits:
- Monthly social opportunities, on campus and in the community
- Education and resources of supports for adults in the disability system, such as social security, waiver funding, OVR, providers etc.
- Legislation and outreach information regarding disability law
- And more!

For more information, or to join the Association, please contact the Director of Programs Heather Johnson at 610-584-4366 x 230 or heather.johnson@varietyphila.org
Facebook Group: “Variety-the Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley Alumni Association”