Voice of Variety

Want to submit a story to our newsletter? Contact Matt Gregory at matt.gregory@varietyphila.org
Last month I was excited to hear the kids enjoying their summer and this month it’s hard to believe the summer is already more than halfway over. We love having the kids on campus each and every day. As the summer slowly draws to a close we still have many events planned for the future.

First, we want to thank everyone who came out to our 3rd annual Summer Concert at DaVinci’s Pub in Collegeville. To see so many local community members come out to support our cause means a lot to us here at Variety.

We also want to remind you the 1st Annual Bill McDonald Charity Golf Classic is on Monday, August 14th at the Linfield National Golf Course. This event includes a golf tournament, dinner, a raffle, and a silent auction benefitting Variety. Sign-in and registration begins at noon with a shotgun start promptly at 1pm. We hope to see you there!

Another event we are looking forward to is the 18th Annual Sunshine Games taking place on Friday, August 4th. This year’s theme is “Amazing Race Around the World” where kids will “travel” from country to country participating in different events and games. At each event campers will get their “passports” stamped for every country they visit.

It’s hard to believe but our fall fundraisers will be here before you know it. This includes the Firkin 5k taking place on Saturday, October 14th. You can learn more about the Firkin 5k and how to sign up by visiting our website at varietyphila.org.

If you have any other questions, comments, or concerns about the rest of the summer 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. Let’s continue to make this the best summer yet!

**Variety VIP of the Month**

Maureen “Reenie” Stanko

This month’s Variety VIP is Maureen Stanko! Maureen, or “Reenie”, is a dedicated Variety parent who has supported our cause for years. She constantly volunteers her time and effort to help our children in any way she can. One way she contributes is by entertaining our children, and their families, at many of our events. Reenie is a part of the band You, Me, and Reenie that plays cover songs from the 60s all the way through modern times. In addition to performing at events such as our Spring Fling and Sunshine Games, Reenie holds an annual summer concert at DaVinci’s Pub in Collegeville with all proceeds benefitting Variety. We always love to see Reenie, with or without her guitar.
Do you like to golf? If so, then check out one or more of the upcoming golf outings to benefit Variety. You can walk the fairways and study the greens of some of the best courses in the area while supporting children with disabilities. Some of these events also include extra activities such as dinner or a silent auction.

**Bill McDonald Charity Golf Classic**
On Monday, August 14 come to Linfield National Golf Course in Limerick, PA to participate in this wonderful event. Sign in is at 12:00 and the shotgun start is at 1:00. Included in this event are the greens fees, cart, grab bag, beer/water/Gatorade on the course. In addition to golf, there will be dinner, raffle, and silent auction immediately after. If you or your company would like to sponsor a hole or if you’re interested in getting a foursome together (or a twosome or a onesome) contact Kevin McCloskey at (610) 329-0068 or email at kevmccloskey1@gmail.com.

**Philadelphia PGA Mariniello Tournament of Champions Pro-Am**
In memory of our friends Vince and Betty Mariniello and in recognition of their commitment to Variety - the Children's Charity and the Philadelphia PGA, we are proud to hold the annual Mariniello Tournament of Champions Pro-Am. Proceeds from this event will go to benefit Variety – the Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley to support children with disabilities. Please join us for an exciting day at the beautiful Laurel Creek Country Club on Mon., Sept. 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.

**Thomas J. Cassidy Memorial Golf Outing**
It’s that time of year again to register for the 13th Annual Thomas J. Cassidy Memorial Golf Outing! As in years past, the day will include a round of golf, a snack, and a cookout afterwards! Once again we are at Mainland Golf Course (www.mainlandgolf.com) on Friday, September 15th at 1 pm. The cost will be $125 per golfer and includes the greens fee, the cart, a snack and the barbecue! We will also be running various raffles and contests throughout the day to add to the fun! One of the fire pits at PJ Whelihan’s in Blue Bell has been reserved for after the event so if you can’t make the day please come to the after party.
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**Prom**

On Wednesday, August 9 we are having our annual Prom event sponsored by ACME. Over 20 ACME volunteers will come to give our kids the complete prom experience. Wave Reviews Salon in Lansdale will be doing the hair and make-up for our attendees.

**Bill McDonald Charity Golf Classic**

Save the date! On August 14, the Bill McDonald Charity Golf Classic will take place at Linfield Golf Course to benefit Variety. There will also be dinner, a silent auction, and a raffle following the golf outing. Contact Kevin McCloskey at (610) 329-0068 or email at kevmccloskey1@gmail.com for more information.
SUNSHINE GAMES

It is almost time to travel around the world during the 18th Annual Sunshine Games. On Friday, August 4th Variety’s campers will enjoy a day of traveling around our 80-acre Camp and Developmental Center. Each “country” the kids stop at will include a game or an activity involving that particular country.

Camper’s “passports” will be stamped and they will continue on the journey around the world. We want to thank our corporate sponsors for being a part of this special day on our campus. We would love to see all our Variety faces participate in the Sunshine Games. If your child does not attend camp this week we still encourage you to sign them up to take part. Please call our office to make sure your child can participate in the Sunshine Games. Parents are welcome to come cheer the “travelers” on or follow them around the world!

Annie Madden is the reason we continue to have the Sunshine Games year after year. If you aren’t familiar with this name, Annie was a counselor at Variety. She was taken from us way too soon when she was struck and killed by a drunk driver. We hold this event to remember her positive presence and love for the kids at Variety. Annie helped make Variety a summer to remember. In her honor we ask everyone to join us at the 18th Annual Annie Madden Day. We promise that your summer travel plans will be fulfilled!

Zucchini Bread Sells Out

We have great news about one of our new programs! As a part of our new Variety Works initiative our kids have been selling zucchini bread at local pop-up shops. Kids grow the zucchini in our garden, harvest it, then bake it into delicious bread to take with them to sell at multiple locations. In only our second week, our students sold out of bread within an hour at Einstein Medical Center Montgomery. We are excited to see one of our new programs become so successful so quickly and even more excited to see our kids enjoy the farm-to-table process. They love to be involved in every facet of the production and we’re ecstatic to have customers enjoy their product so much. It’s been a great start to this program and hope to continue this success into the future!
Do you have any empty baby food jars? We’re looking for some to use for various arts and crafts activities we have planned this summer. Even if they’re not “baby food” jars, we’ll take any small, clear, plastic jars.

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.

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

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
Have you heard an inspiring story about a child with a disability lately? Do you want to share your own personal story?

We’re accepting any and all stories related to children with disabilities. We want to share these testimonials with our readers to raise awareness on a variety of disability issues. We hope to inspire action to assist in enriching the lives of children and young adults with disabilities through social, educational, and vocational programs that nurture independence and self-confidence, and prepare them for life. You never know how the story you share could affect someone else.

To share your story, please email Matt Gregory at matt.gregory@varietyphila.org. Please limit the story to a maximum of 500 words and we strongly encourage you to include any related pictures. Thank you!!

Preston has been attending our ESY and day camp programs for over 4 years. His favorite movie is Trolls and he likes to build things, but his real passion is art. Preston had the chance to paint a part of one of our collaborative art projects we will be selling at our First Friday Variety Night event on November 3rd at the Old City Collective Gallery. Preston loved the project so much we gave him a special art project he could take home with him. He had a great time working on both projects and we want to continue to give him opportunities to express his artistic side in a variety of ways. We’re glad we could offer Preston choices and he decided for himself what he wanted to do, and then excelled at that activity. Offering kids our choices is a huge part of our new programmatic focus and Preston’s story is a great example of how our approach benefits our kids.
We hate to see the summer end but in October the fun will continue. We invite you to take part in the Firkin 5K in Lansdale. The race will be held on Saturday, October 14th at 10 am. The race will begin at White’s Road Park and continue throughout the neighborhood. If you are not a runner there are plenty of things for you and your family to do. Maybe you would like to sign up for the 1-mile walk instead of the run. If you are one of the first 200 people to sign up, you will receive a swag bag and a free t-shirt. There will also be a number of vendors and attractions including food and drinks, beer (must be 21), music, and awards. Enjoy Oktoberfest in White’s Road Park following the Firkin 5K! For more information please visit our website or contact Mary Fuller at mary.fuller@varietyphila.org or (610-584-4366 x 130).

**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”