Want to submit a story to our newsletter? Contact Matt Gregory at matt.gregory@varietyphila.org
The time of year has come where our kids are busy enjoying the hot summer days at Variety’s summer camp. From the time the kids leave at the end of the summer we patiently wait for them to arrive back on campus again. They are the reason our jobs become so much more enjoyable during the long summer months. With summer in full swing here is an update on things to look forward too.

First we would like to thank everyone who participated in Deloitte’s Impact Day. Cleaning cabins, planting trees and simply putting the final touches on the camp doesn’t go unnoticed. Without the help of all the volunteers it would be nearly impossible to have the camp ready for the children on time.

The First annual Bill McDonald Golf Charity Classic is just around the corner. We ask you to please come out and support this event taking place on Monday, August 14th. This event is benefiting Variety entirely so why not show some appreciation for our children. We hope to see you on the green.

Our next fundraiser will be our summer concert at “Da Vinci’s Pub”. It is being held on Sunday, July 23rd. Bring your family to hear the band “You, Me & Reenie,” while supporting The Variety Camp and Development Center.

In case you haven’t heard this year’s theme for The Sunshine Games is Amazing Race Around the World! Our children will be able to travel the world in just a few fun hours at camp. Check out the website to learn more about this exciting event.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the upcoming summer please feel free to reach me at angus.murray@varietyphila.org or call my phone (610-584-4366 x 203). Thank you to everyone who helps support the children at Variety. Let’s make this summer the best one yet!

**Variety VIP of the Month**

**Captain Doug Walters**

Imagine spending the day on a beautiful boat, bathing in the sunshine, and fishing for trout with your family. Thanks to Captain Doug of the Ocean City Yacht Club, and his friends at The Ocean City Marlin and Tuna Club, our families have the chance to participate in this experience. Captain Doug has helped organize this exclusive family day of fishing and luncheon for over 25 years.

The most gratifying aspect of this event for Captain Doug is the reaction of his participants. In almost every instance both the boat owner and families come back to the dock with beaming smiles. This event gives members of both clubs the opportunity to give back to those less fortunate. They want to make the lives of the families a little brighter by sharing some of their own good fortune. Members of both the Ocean City Yacht Club and Ocean City Marlin and Tuna Club are have built a terrific event over the years and Captain Doug is proud to be a part of it.
Summer is finally here! You know what that means: summer camp is starting. In a few days our campus will be packed with campers and counselors doing all the typical summer camp activities. Swimming in the pool, games by the tennis court, BBQ’s by the fire pit will all still be a big part of our summer, but our camp is going to look very different from past years. With new faces and new ideas we’re ready for a summer like we’ve never had before.

Heather Johnson, our new Director of Programs, has plans to greatly improve our Day and Overnight camp’s programmatic structure. Her plans are based on the idea that the kids we serve deserve choices that meet their social, cognitive, and sensory goals. For example, during our “painting” activity, kids can choose to paint with a brush, their fingers, or a sponge rather than be told to paint in a specific way. Offering choices in everything we do will help all of our children gain independence and confidence by deciding for themselves what they want to do.

We have also decided to place a larger focus on our vocational program in order to transition our children into young adulthood and employment. Our VarietyWorks program will teach kids to harvest zucchini, bake the fresh vegetables into zucchini bread, then sell the homemade product to the public. This farm-to-table production will give kids valuable experience and prepare them for jobs in the future.

While there will be a lot of changes to the way activity on our campus looks, there will be a lot of aspects that remain the same. We will still show the same dedication and level of support to the children we serve. We will still make sure every child leaves camp with more confidence and independence then when they arrived. We will still give our children the best experience possible. There will be a lot of changes this summer, but one thing that won’t change is our passion for helping our kids!
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**DaVinci’s Summer Concert with You, Me, & Reenie**

Come to DaVinci’s Pub on July 23rd for our 3rd annual Summer Concert with all proceeds benefitting Variety. From 3-8pm listen to You, Me, and Reenie perform popular cover songs from the ’60s through modern day. For more visit: http://varietyphila.org/davincis-pub

**Bill McDonald Golf Charity Classic**

Save the date! On August 14, the Bill McDonald Golf Charity 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.
Local woman and Variety supporter Sue Gardy is a superhero! Sue works at a Montgomery 911 call center, but also helped found Hogs and Honeys for Kids. All of her volunteerism for the community has not gone unnoticed. Sue recently won 6ABC’s “SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING SUPERHERO CONTEST” for the incredible work she does for the community. We were lucky enough to host the local superhero for an afternoon when she came to our greenhouse to spend time and plant vegetables with some of our campers. Sue will be treated to a red-carpet experience at a private screening of Spider-Man Homecoming with some of the campers she hung out with at our greenhouse.

You have the chance to meet this real life superhero at the Hogs and Honeys Christmas in July Toy Run and Picnic event. On Sunday, July 9th, bring an unwrapped toy and enjoy the lunch, coffee, and pastries that will be provided. Prices will be $25 for riders and $10 for passengers. Proceeds will go to Variety while the toys will be given to Silver Springs.

DELOITTE IMPACT DAY

Our 80-acre campus requires a lot of upkeep to make sure it is in the best condition for the children we serve. From cleaning cabins to weeding the garden our checklist of chores always seems never-ending. On June 9, over 100 Deloitte employees were kind enough to volunteer their time and effort to help us prepare for the upcoming camp season.

All of the Deloitte volunteers were separated into teams and assigned to different tasks all over camp. One team planted new trees in the orchard. Another team was responsible for cleaning the pool area. However, the largest team was in charge of assembling our brand new greenhouse. While it may be smaller than our large 40x40 greenhouse, our new “mini-greenhouse” allows us to expand the scope of our vocational program. With another greenhouse we can now grow more produce and sell more zucchini bread as a part of our VarietyWorks initiative to give our campers valuable farm-to-table work experience.

We rely on support from individual volunteers and organizations to serve our children. Without it, we would be unable to give our children the best experience possible. We appreciate all the Deloitte employees who chose to spend the day with us as a part of their company-wide Impact Day campaign which aims to give back to the community. We can’t thank them enough and we look forward to their help next year!

Sue Gardy the Superhero

Local woman and Variety supporter Sue Gardy is a superhero! Sue works at a Montgomery 911 call center, but also helped found Hogs and Honeys for Kids. All of her volunteerism for the community has not gone unnoticed. Sue recently won 6ABC’s “SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING SUPERHERO CONTEST” for the incredible work she does for the community. We were lucky enough to host the local superhero for an afternoon when she came to our greenhouse to spend time and plant vegetables with some of our campers. Sue will be treated to a red-carpet experience at a private screening of Spider-Man Homecoming with some of the campers she hung out with at our greenhouse.

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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.

We are looking to make some awesome wall art so our parents can display their kids' work. Any old windows with the frames still intact would be a huge help.

We have planned a sensory friendly group art project where our students will shellac various things about camp to picture frames. Any old frame will do and we don't need them to match.

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 allows 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 on the ways you can help us help the communities we all live, work and play in.

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

Wish List

Here's 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

Baby Food Jars

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.

Old Windows

We are looking to make some awesome wall art so our parents can display their kids’ work. Any old windows with the frames still intact would be a huge help.

Picture Frames

We have planned a sensory friendly group art project where our students will shellac various things about camp to picture frames. Any old frame will do and we don’t need them to match.
Variety Stories

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!!

Sam Tabak

Sam Tabak was 15 when he first came to Variety. Before he arrived on campus, he was used to being told no. For example, while at one of his jobs in school, he asked if he could learn to use the drying machine. He was told no for “safety reasons”. This was understandably discouraging for someone who was eager to learn.

Three summers of the vocational program in addition to an assortment of school year programs at Variety changed Sam’s outlook. At Variety, Sam was taught the responsibility of being on time, how to communicate with coworkers, and was exposed to many different types of jobs. When he asked to learn how to use the kitchen fryer he wasn’t denied the opportunity. Instead, a program coordinator took the time to show him how it works. He was able to learn new things and his new skills led to Sam becoming much more confident.

Now Sam is 22 and works at The Mill, a rustic restaurant that serves simple sandwiches, wood-fired pizza, and comfort food. His responsibilities include food prep, cleaning, taking out the trash, along with solving any other problem that may arise. Sam’s positive experience at Variety led to his new position as a dependable “Swiss-army knife” of The Mill. Sam felt Variety was a place he belonged and was afforded more opportunities while meeting close friends along the way. Sam’s story teaches us that kids only need the chance to shine to show what they are capable of. Way to go Sam! Keep up the great work!

“Thank you for letting me come here”
-Sam (talking to his sister when getting dropped off at camp one morning)
On Friday, August 4, 2017 Variety Club Camp will be hosting the 18th Annual Sunshine Games. This event pairs children with our generous corporate sponsors. Even if the child is not enrolled in camp for this week we encourage families to call our office to make arrangements for them to partake in the activities. These teams then participate in a series of fun-filled events throughout our 80-acre Camp & Development Center.

We are excited to announce that this year’s theme will be Amazing Race Around the World! Each station will have a country-specific theme and each activity will be culturally relevant to that country. For example, The Italy station will have Bocce Ball. The Mexico station will have sombrero races and ball-in-the-cup relay races. The China station will have chopstick relays and so on. As the kids travel from station to station, they will have a “passport” they will get stamped with each country they visit.

The Annie Madden Sunshine Games is always a special event on the Variety calendar. 18 years ago Annie Madden, a counselor at Variety, passed away after being struck by a drunk driver. Annie’s care for the kids and constant positive attitude embodied what an ideal counselor should be. Holding this event to honor her memory is the least we can do. This year’s new theme and nuances are sure to boost the level of excitement surrounding the event. Join us Friday, August 4 to travel around the world on Annie Madden Day!

Alumni Association

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”