Voice of Variety

Want to submit a story to our newsletter? Contact Matt Gregory at matt.gregory@varietyphila.org
How to Find the Perfect Gift!

Make sure your gifts are wrapped because the holiday season is here! This time of year is an opportunity to show how much you care about the people closest to you. The wintery days of late December can sometimes be a panicked last minute rush to find the perfect gift for that special someone. The feeling of joy to give someone a thoughtful gift is so much greater than giving someone a gift card. That’s why we want to help those last minute shoppers with some awesome gift suggestions!

**Playon Crayons**

Our kids love arts and crafts time. However, some children lack the gross motor skills to grasp a thin crayon or colored pencil. Playon Crayons’ large bulbous shape solves this problem and allows any child to use his or her imagination while creating masterpieces.

**VTech Tote and Go Laptop**

The Tote and Go is a teaching tool that lets kids learn while having fun. This laptop prompts interaction from the child by encouraging a verbal response with each activity. With so many games to choose from this would be a great gift under the tree in any household.

**Tent and Tunnel**

Sometimes kids just need a quiet space. The tent and tunnel combo can be an escape to a safe space for kids who can be overstimulated easily.

Every child is unique and has different needs and preferences. This can make shopping for the gift that he or she will cherish a difficult task. All you need to do is really consider what that child likes, and what that child might need and that should help you find that special gift on the shelf. We hope our suggestions helped point you in the right direction! Happy Holidays!
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/

**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

**Tempera Paints**

All throughout the year and especially the summer our kids love to paint. Help the children we serve make masterpieces with any extra tempera paints you may have.

**NYE Celebration Material**

We’re having a New Year’s Eve Party and we need your help. We’re looking for streamers, ribbons, noisemakers, or anything to make our party spectacular!

**Serving Utensils**

We’re looking for serving spoons, big dishes, tongs, or any other kind of serving utensils for our kitchen. These extra utensils would be a big help for all our kids who are training for jobs in a commercial kitchen!
Event Wrap Up

Holiday Parties

We serve children all over the Delaware Valley and the only way to make sure every child has a great holiday with Variety, is to throw not one but TWO holiday parties. For the past 10 years we've hosted kids at our Camp Holiday Party right here in our very own gymnasium. We decorate the gym, invite special visitors, and make sure Variety kids who attend leave with a gift and a smile. However, we know it might be difficult for our children we serve in Philadelphia to come all the way to camp for a few hours on an afternoon. That’s why we host another holiday party in the city to make sure as many kids as possible can enjoy their holiday! This year’s Downtown Holiday Party took place at the Society Hill Sheraton Hotel and was as spectacular as we could have imagined. We’re so happy to be able to give this experience to so many of the children we serve and we can’t wait to provide this joyous occasion next year.

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”