The holiday season is here and Variety is busier than ever! Our programs continue to run throughout most of the month and we have plenty of events scheduled. We want all the children we serve to have the best experience possible during these festive times. In this edition of *Voice of Variety*, you can find out how we prepared for this busy season, and how we’ll be celebrating!

The most exciting events during December are our annual holiday parties. We have one in our very own gymnasium complete with decorations, activities, and some special visitors! We also have our Downtown Holiday Party which will be held at the Society Hill Sheraton in Philadelphia. We make sure there is plenty of food, dancing, and another visit from our special guests.

We know that wrapping gifts can be hard work, so we want to do it for you. Come to the Shops at Liberty Place and we’ll wrap your gifts for you! You can find out more about how to get your gifts wrapped or how to get involved on page 5 of this newsletter. You can also read about some of our past events such as our First Friday and our Paintings for Charity.

If you have any other questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to contact me at angus.murray@varietyphila.org or call 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**

**Howard Watson**

Howard Watson is a world renowned watercolor artist who has painted for presidents, singers, and many other famous clients. So when Howard contacted us about a possible showcase event to benefit Variety, we immediately seized the opportunity. Our Paintings for Charity event at Ristorante Toscano in Lansdale was a great chance to show why Howard is so well-respected as an artist, and as a person. While we did sell a few of his paintings, you can visit Ristorante Toscano through December where some additional paintings are still available. Howard Watson should be admired for his wonderful talent as a painter, but he should also be admired for his support of Variety’s mission to enrich the lives of children with disabilities.
HOLIDAY PARTIES

Camp Holiday Party

Variety Campus
December 9
12pm - 3pm

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST RSVP BY DEC. 1 IN ORDER TO ATTEND!

We want to invite YOU to our annual Camp Holiday Party! Any child with a disability is invited to an afternoon of holiday-themed celebration complete with arts & crafts, music & dancing, lunch/cookies, and special guests. In keeping with the spirit of the holidays, Variety - the Children’s Charity, would love to give each VARIETY CHILD who attends this party a special gift. Please RSVP with the names of the children attending, parents, and/or guardians by December 1st.

So that your VARIETY CHILD receives an age/ability appropriate gift, please include your child’s age as well as three (3) modest gift suggestions ($15 range) with the RSVP to:
Mary.Fuller@varietyphila.org; 610-584-4366 ext. 130 Please note: Each VARIETY CHILD will receive one gift

Downtown Holiday Party

Society Hill Sheraton
December 17
11am - 2pm
RSVP CLOSED

Children with disabilities are invited to an afternoon of holiday fun including lunch, music & dancing, and special visitors. Variety - the Children’s Charity loves to give each child who attends a special gift! Unfortunately due to space limitations, we are already at capacity for this event. However, you can add your name to a wait list by emailing Mary Fuller at mary.fuller@varietyphila.org
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**Giving Tuesday**

We are still celebrating #GivingTuesday in order to reach our goals! A portion of the proceeds we raise from this campaign will provide adapted, age and ability specific toys for our children to help them develop functional and social skills in a fun, festive and genuine way. Look for an email or you can donate directly at [https://support.varietyphila.org/Donate](https://support.varietyphila.org/Donate)

**Christmas Week**

There will be no programming from 12/25-12/29. We hope you all enjoy the holiday and get to spend some quality time with your family!
**Giving Tuesday**

The holiday shopping rush is upon us, so please consider giving a donation to Variety - the Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley!

**Firsttrust Bank will match all giving Tuesday gifts up to $10,000!**

Variety – the Children’s Charity, which serves any child with physical or developmental disabilities, humbly asks that when you are considering a cause worthy of your donations, you consider the many children we strive to serve via our “variety” of programs: Day & Overnight Camp, Extended School Year, Saturday Arts, Vocational Program, After School, the list goes on. And while this list covers a lot, it is after all, just a “list”. Perhaps the following story about Eric will help you understand how your contribution makes a difference in the lives of children with special needs:

Eric is a delightful young man who takes part in many of the wonderful programs offered by Variety – the Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley. He and his family are grateful to you for your financial gift that builds independence and self-confidence through these programs. Eric has been diagnosed with Autism, so it can sometimes be challenging for him to participate in other programs for young adults his age. Therefore, he and his family rely on you and all of us here at Variety to provide him programs and service he needs to flourish.

Through these programs, Eric gains valuable life skills that translate to home and work. Additionally, he feels safe and comfortable at Variety, and free to be himself. Because of Variety, Eric has built a strong support network, has access to numerous resources, has made lasting friendships, and truly feels like part of a community.

**Gift Wrapping**

Need help wrapping all your gifts for the holidays? Let Variety do the work! For an entire month (11/24-12/24) Variety will be wrapping gifts at the Shops at Liberty Place in Philadelphia. Whether it’s a sweater for your brother or a brand new doll, we’d love to help!

Please contact Harry Giordano at harry.giordano@varietyphila.org if you’d like to volunteer to help with the wrapping, or if you have any extra gift wrap you’d like to donate.
We're looking for any old toys that we can give back to the children we serve! We want our kids to have the best holiday possible so anything would help!

We are wrapping gifts at the Shops at Liberty Place from 11/24-12/24. That's a lot of gifts! We could use any old or extra wrapping paper, bows, ribbons, or anything else you may have laying around.

We have a lot of holiday crafts planned and we need your help! Any size, any color construction paper you could send us would be greatly appreciated!
Event Wrap Up

First Friday
Variety’s First Friday event on November 3 was the perfect way to start off any weekend. From 5:30-8pm anyone could come to Bridge on Race St. in Philadelphia to enjoy complimentary wine and beer while checking out artwork and ornaments made by our children. A suggested donation of $5 dollars got you a ticket for the 50/50 raffle for the chance to win amazing prizes. Not only could you purchase the art, but anyone who attended had the chance to meet the artists! A few of our alumni and campers came to talk to our guests, or do arts and crafts at the sensory table we set up. Whether you were a guest or one of our current or past campers, we’re sure you had a wonderful time!

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”