Voice of Variety

Want to submit a story to our newsletter? Contact Matt Gregory at matt.gregory@varietyphila.org
The fall months continue to be a busy time of the year for Variety. We always like to organize a few events before the busy holiday season, and this year is no different. You can read about all our upcoming and recent events in this month's edition of Voice of Variety!

One upcoming event is Variety's First Friday, a gallery art show to support our creative and artistic programs. On Friday, November 3rd at Bridge on Race (205 Race Street, Philadelphia), come out to see beautiful artwork made by our kids while enjoying complimentary wine and beer! You'll have the chance to talk to Variety staff and alumni while children can participate in free art activities throughout the night.

On Saturday, October 21, the You Are Beautiful Project hosted a Fall Fest event for our kids on Variety’s campus! There were tons of fun activities that families were able to enjoy with each other such as face painting, cupcake decorating, karaoke, pumpkin painting and more! You can read more about Fall Fest and the great work our Variety VIPs do to make this event so special for our families below.

We would also like to thank everyone who came out to support Variety’s Firkin 5K and One Mile Walk. We appreciate all the runners who showed up to run that morning and a special thanks to the Ainsley’s Angels organization for showing so much spirit and enthusiasm in their participation.

You can also find out about upcoming events such as our Gift Wrapping at Liberty Place, our Let it Grow campaign, and our Art Show with Howard Watson. We always have so much happening here at Variety so continue reading to find out more.

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 VIPs of the Month**

**Valerie Ross & Katie Everett**

This month’s VIPs are Valerie Ross and Katie Everett for the incredible work they do to put on our Fall Fest! These awesome ladies have been organizing Fall Fest for three years now and every year they improve upon the event as they learn more and more about the unique needs of the campers and the families. Fall Fest is a jam-packed three hour event featuring hands-on activities like pumpkin painting, karaoke, cupcake decorating, face painting, a costume contest, and so much more to create a meaningful experience for anyone who attends. The best part of the event is easily the “safe” Trick-or-Treating they put together. They decorate many of the cabins and then the volunteers hand out candy at each cabin as the kids “practice” going door to door! Trick-or-Treating can be a stressful and overwhelming experience for some kids, and many families aren’t able to do it together so to be able to provide that is truly special.
Is there anything better than Friday plans with friends after a long week of work? Variety is giving you the chance to start your weekend off the right way at Variety’s First Friday event! On Friday, November 3 at Bridge on Race in Philadelphia, we are filling the enormous gallery space with handmade artwork from our kids. We’ve always provided our kids with the choice to do artistic activities because of the calming and therapeutic effects they can have on a child with a disability. Giving them the chance to showcase their work will encourage them to pursue their passion for art. There will be examples of their finger painting, glass art, bead art, and watercolor works all for sale with the proceeds going to support our creative and artistic programs.

In addition to the art, there will be complimentary wine and beer to enjoy while you admire the beautiful artwork. Variety staff and alumni will be in attendance to talk about the artists and/or our amazing programs. We will also provide free art activities for all children to make sure anyone who attends has fun, regardless of age. It will be a wonderful night to showcase our children’s talents and we hope it’s the first stop on your busy weekend!
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We are celebrating #GivingTuesday a week early because **Our Kids Can’t Wait!** 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).

For the month of November, the Lansdale Police Department will be growing their facial hair in support of children with disabilities. This campaign ends with a department-wide facial hair competition to judge the winner. The event includes food, drinks, and raffle prizes for those who attend. Come out to Stove & Tap in Lansdale from 6-9pm on November 29th to enjoy the evening!
**Howard Watson Art Show**

On Sunday, November 12, Variety will be hosting an art show with renowned artist Howard N. Watson at Ristorante Toscanos in Lansdale. Howard Watson is a nationally recognized watercolorist and illustrator and has commissioned pieces for some very famous people. He has painted for hall of fame coach Jack Ramsey, singer Perry Como, served as the Artist in Residence at the White House during the Jimmy Carter Administration, and even provided art for President Bill Clinton.

We are so lucky to have this talented and famous artist showcase his art for our benefit. You have the chance to purchase his original works from 1-4pm with part of the proceeds benefitting the children we serve. Howard has even agreed to commission a special “Variety” piece of art featuring a moment from our camp. Make sure to stop by on Sunday, November 12 to experience first-hand some truly beautiful art.

**Gift Wrapping**

Need help wrapping all your gifts for the holidays? Let Variety help you! For an entire month (11/24-12/24) Variety will be wrapping gifts 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 are looking for bolts of white sheer fabric to turn our pavilion into a beautiful tent. We are looking to use our campus as a wedding venue for couples who are looking for a rustic setting to say their vows. Contact Kristin Podwojski (Kristin.podwojski@varietyphila.org) for more information.

We want to have our kids work on collaborative art projects for upcoming events, but we need the material to paint on! If you or any of your artist friends have any blank canvases we could really use them!

We're still looking for some school supplies for our programming staff. If you have new or used 1 inch binders it would be a big help for our staff members to use for progress notes!

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

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“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 on Sunday, November 5 to support this cause and show their philanthropic spirit.

For more information contact Harry Giordano

harry.giordano@varietyphila.org

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