Want to submit a story to our newsletter? Contact Mary Fuller at mary.fuller@varietyphila.org
May is Mobility Month

May is National Mobility Awareness Month in the US and Canada. This month is dedicated to encouraging people with disabilities to embody the spirit of Life Moving Forward by raising awareness of the mobility solutions available in various communities. Many US Variety tents have been sharing their stories and you may have seen several posted on our Facebook page over the past week or so. Variety – the Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley, Tent 13, also has a story of new mobility to share.

Recently, Fayth Tigeleiro, a 5 year-old from South Jersey, was presented with an adapted bike at the Variety Club Camp and Developmental Center in Worcester PA. This donation was made possible through the newly rejuvenated Direct Care Program in partnership with Cooper University Hospital and funding from Philadelphia attorney Malcolm Rosenberg. “Variety has been trying to restart the Direct Care program for over a decade at this point and Malcolm’s gift is going to help us do that and help us get the attention we need to kick start a much needed program in the community,” said Angus Murray, CEO of Variety-the Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley.

Moving forward, as the program grows through more funding and donations, the hope is to provide necessary durable medical equipment to more of our local children out of the Worchester-based Rachael Rosenberg Direct Care Center, so named in honor of Malcolm’s daughter, a former Variety camper.

In the meantime, Kathy Tigeleiro, a woman who has opened her home and heart by adopting five children with disabilities, is so happy for the gift that has been given to her daughter Fayth and the smile the modified bike has put on her child’s face. Heather Johnson, Variety’s Director of Programs, explains the beauty of this program beyond the obvious delight it gives to the child receiving the bike, “A lot of this equipment that many typically-functioning children have access to require adaptations which are very expensive. For example, learning to ride a bike is a staple of childhood. For kids in wheelchairs, however, bikes have to be carefully adapted to ensure their safety.” She further explains, “Every adaptation require a professional evaluation, special equipment, and medical consultation, in addition to the cost of the equipment itself. Therefore, frequently the kids we support miss out of both the ‘childhood’ experience, as well as the health benefits of learning this skill.”

Families can apply for funding for needed equipment via the Direct Care program. “Variety will use donations and our medical partners at Cooper Hospital to provide individualized equipment, professionally adapted. We will then give the family the equipment, completely free of charge. The only three requirements are that the family has documentation supporting a therapeutic need for the equipment, proof of financial hardship and a denial letter from the insurance company. Malcolm created this fund in remembrance of his daughter Rachael, who enjoyed many of Variety’s programs over the years,” Johnson said. “We are grateful for his support and look forward to helping out many more families through this wonderful program.”
## Date Change: Spring Fling now Fall Fest!

Mother Nature surely did not cooperate with Variety on our scheduled date for our annual Trail Run & Spring Fling Party. We'll show her though! We'll still have the 4-mile Trail Run & Walk but we'll be teaming it up with a Fall Fest celebration! Be ready to have fun pumpkin decorating, moon bouncing, safe trick-or-treating, plus more! Yes, we will still have a dunk tank.

**When:** Saturday, October 13  
**Where:** Variety Club Camp & Developmental Center, Worcester  
**Race Starts:** 10am  
**Fall Fest:** 11am - 3pm
SATELLITE CAMP SET FOR SUMMER

Variety’s Program Staff is excited to be partnering with Temple University to open up a satellite campus to bring the same high quality programming we are able offer at our Worcester facility to those campers who live in the city.

Summer camp at Temple is scheduled for July 16-27 (Mon-Fri, 9am to 3 pm) and will feature activities in science & technology, cooking, sports, sensory arts & crafts, among others. Campers will also get to take pictures with iPads and prepare slideshows for Variety’s website!

While there are still some openings for this pilot program, we expect the limited spots to go quickly! If you are interested, contact Angela Hall at angela.hall@varietyphila.org, 610-584-4366 ext. 220.

VARIETY NOW PROVIDES ASSESSMENTS

Variety has some exciting news to share regarding our career training program! We have officially launched our Community-Based Work Assessments. Individuals participating in this program are assessed in six separate areas which include a job skills baseline, social skills baseline, functional behavior assessment, preference assessment, sensory profile, and social supports web.

Unlike some providers which have assessments which can take months to complete, Variety’s Community-Based Work Assessment occurs in just one week. The report is submitted within 10 business days. Individuals have the ability to choose locations in the community, which include restaurants, offices, gardens, retirement homes, stores, and farms. Assessments are OVR and ODP waiver eligible. Variety is accepting individuals and developing community partnerships to help expand the program.

Variety would like to thank our existing community partners for their positive experiences with our new program and for giving the individuals Variety supports the ability to learn and grow in the community.

For more information on assessments or the Variety Works program, contact Heather Johnson at heather.johnson@varietyphila.org.

VARIETY WORKS/COFFEE CART DONATIONS NEEDED

We are in need of a hot dog roller and/or a pastry display case for use at our Coffee Cart. If you can help, please contact Heather Johnson at heather.johnson@varietyphila.org or 610-584-4366 ext 230