Variety - the Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley

Since 1935, Variety – The Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley has continued its mission to enrich 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.
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A Letter from our CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters of Variety:

Variety – the Children’s Charity makes an impact on the lives of hundreds of kids with disabilities and their families every day. By providing vocational, social, and educational programs we are able to nurture self-confidence and independence in the children we serve. We are very proud to offer these types of opportunities to children with special needs.

Due to the generosity and continued support of our patrons, Variety is able to continue fulfilling its mission by serving over 7,000 children and youth with disabilities each year in the Delaware valley area. Please know that your generosity means a great deal to all of us here at Variety and is sincerely appreciated.

In this booklet, you can learn about our programs and all the necessary information such as a description, fees, components and more. In addition to a programmatic overview, you can find out more about how you can attend any of our family friendly events, or organize a corporate event of your own. Lastly, you can discover all the different ways you can get involved and our organization and the kids we serve. With your help, we can continue to give ordinary experiences to extraordinary kids.

Sincerely,
Angus Murray
CEO
Variety – the Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley
Who We Are

Since 1935, Variety – The Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley has continued its mission to enrich 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.

In 1949, Variety Club Camp and Developmental Center opened its doors for the first time. Originally serving boys who had survived polio through an Overnight Camp, our Camp and Developmental Center now serves children of all ability levels in a wide array of programs year round.

Variety serves children between birth and age 21 with temporary and/or permanent disabilities resulting from injury, illness, or congenital conditions.
Summer Programs

Vocational • Overnight • Day • ESY

All Variety Summer Programs:

- Support the development of life and social skills in a caring, nurturing environment
- Take place on our Worcester campus
- Utilize thoroughly trained, competent staff with all clearances
- Accept agency, school district, waiver, and private pay
- Offer scholarships and payment plans
Variety’s Vocational, Career Exploration, and Work Readiness Programs are designed to teach job readiness skills and socialization to children with developmental disabilities in the “transition ages” of 16 to 21 years old.

**Program Components**

**Career Exploration**  
Students 16-21 work in vocational areas - Kitchen, snack bar, crew cleaning, clerical/office skills, maintenance, woodworking, manufacturing/quality control and greenhouse/gardening.

**Work Readiness**  
As students progress, emphasis is placed on skill attainment & areas of job interest. Students pick two areas of interest or specialty.

**Culinary Skills Class**  
Emphasis is on increasing culinary skills, finding tasks suited to each individual and functioning in a work environment.

**Fees**

- Career Exploration and Work Readiness - $3,850  
- Culinary Skills Class - $3,850  
- Jobs at Camp - $1,800

**Contact**

Jean Merkl • jean.merkl@varietyphila.org • (610) 584 - 4366 x 201
Summer

Overnight Camp

Description
Variety’s Overnight Camp program is a fun-filled educational experience open to children and young adults ages 7-21 with a developmental and/or physical disability. Our Overnight Camp aims to create an atmosphere of warm acceptance and guidance, and encourage participation at whatever level the camper is able.

Program Components
- Campers are grouped in cabins by gender and age
- Teams and cabins are staffed at 1:2 - 1:3 ratio
- Focus on improving social skills in a natural play, inclusive and accepting environment
- Develop independence
- Improve self-confidence
- Enhance quality of life by engaging in adaptable, inclusive programming
- Activities at Overnight Camp include Free Swim, Arts and Crafts, Ceramics, Sports, Dance, Music Therapy, Computers, Sci - Tech, Nature and more!

Fees
The cost of most weeks of Overnight Camp is $1250, those who require a 1:1 incur an additional cost of $500. Scholarship and Financial Aid is available to those who apply and qualify. Variety will also accept payment plans and offers multi-week discounts.

Contact
Angela Hall • angela.hall@varietyphila.org • (610) 584 - 4366 x 220
**Day Camp**

**Description**

Variety’s Day Camp program is a fun-filled educational experience open to all children ages 5-21, but is specifically designed for children with a developmental and/or physical disability. Our Day Camp aims to create an atmosphere of warm acceptance and guidance, and encourage participation at whatever level the camper is able.

**Program Components**

- Teams are staffed at 1:2-1:3
- 1:1 support is available for those who require extra assistance for success
- Focus on improving social skills in a natural play, inclusive and accepting environment
- Develop independence
- Improve self-confidence
- Enhance quality of life by engaging in adaptable, inclusive programming
- Activities at Day Camp include Free Swim, Arts and Crafts, Ceramics, Sports, Dance, Music Therapy, Sci - Tech, Computers, Nature and more!

**Fees**

The cost of one week of day camp is $550, those who require a 1:1 incur an additional cost of $225. Scholarship and Financial Aid is available to those who apply and qualify. Variety will also accept payment plans and offers multi-week discounts.

**Contact**

Angela Hall • angela.hall@varietyphila.org • (610) 584 - 4366 x 220
Extended School Year

Description
Variety established the Extended School Year (ESY) Program to assist students, ages 5-21, with developmental disabilities to maintain and improve skills acquired during the school year throughout the summer months.

Program Components
- High staff/student classroom ratio
- Individualized instruction
- Group social skills/socialization activities
- Two daily reinforcement periods with activities of choice and swimming
- Daily use of the sensory room
- Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy
- Pre-vocational activities for 14-16 year old students.
- Socialization activities for all students
- Intensive supports program for students from 16-21 with high needs in behavior, communication, or personal care

Fees
7-week program – $4,420 (5 – 16 y/o) Fee includes IEP goals, and daily group socialization/skills activities.
Intensive Supports 7-week program – $7,350 (16-21 y/o) program fee (includes a 1:1). Individual sessions in Speech/Language, Occupational and Physical Therapy are available at the additional cost of $90/session.

Contact
Jean Merkl • jean.merkl@varietyphila.org • (610) 584 - 4366 x 201
School Year Programs

All Variety School Year Programs:

- Support the development of life and social skills in a caring, nurturing environment

- Utilize thoroughly trained, competent staff with all clearances

- Accepts agency, school district, waiver, and private pay

- Scholarships and payment plans available
Philly After School

Description
Variety offers several free After School Programs in locations throughout Philadelphia for children with disabilities. Our After School Programs operate from September to June, Monday through Friday from 3:00 – 6:00 pm. These programs feature:

- Peer Mentors who attend, and actively interact with youth and assist site staff with implementation
- PBL (Project Based Learning)
- Development of Life Skills
- Development of Social Skills
- Pre-vocational training STEM through iPad Technology Program
- Culinary lessons

Locations
Horace Howard
Furness High School
1900 South 3rd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148

Widener Memorial School
1450 West Olney Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19141

Fees
FREE

Contact
Heather Johnson • heather.johnson@varietyphila.org • (610) 584 - 4366 x 230
Socialization Club

Description
This program is designed to teach and build social skills in children ages 14 to 22. Using games, worksheets and readings, group activities and scenario role playing, students learn the appropriateness of which social skills to use in specific everyday situations.

Daily activities include conversation times, monthly topics, theme of the day/week and worksheets.

Schedule
Every Mon. & Wed.
3-6pm
Starts in September
Ends in June

Fees
-$30/day for the two-day socialization program. (Monday/Wednesday)
-$40/day for one day per week.

Fees must be paid in full once a month prior to starting the program regardless of attendance.

Contact
Jean Merkl • jean.merkl@varietyphila.org • (610) 584 - 4366 x 201
Description

This program is designed to teach and maintain job readiness skills with a focus on fun and social development for students ages 14 to 22 years old. Individuals in the Vocational Club strengthen these skills through participating in a “Treat of the Month” club. They essentially “run” a business run from start to finish with oversight of Variety staff. Each month students make, portion, package and fulfill Treat of the Month orders that have been placed! Students also have the opportunity to make and sell hand-crafted items to the public at Variety’s holiday and spring bazaars.

Daily activities include social games, chores, baking or craft activities, pre-vocational round-robin activities, and movement activities.

Schedule

Every Tues. & Thurs.
3-6pm

Starts in September
Ends in June

Fees

-$30/day for the two day Vocational program. (Tuesday/Thursday)
-$40/day for one day per week

Fees must be paid in full once a month prior to starting the program regardless of attendance

Contact

Jean Merkl • jean.merkl@varietyphila.org • (610) 584 - 4366 x 201
Weekend Retreats

Description
The retreat offers a wide variety of activities that help the child work on increasing his/her independence, find new interests and build new and maintain friendships in an inclusive environment. Our goal is to have each camper leave us one step closer to independence and with increased self-confidence.

Program Components
- Campers are grouped in cabins by gender and age
- Teams and Cabins are staffed at 1:2-1:3 ratio
- Focus on improving social skills in a natural, inclusive, and accepting environment
- Develop independence
- Improve self-confidence
- Enhance quality of life by engaging in adapted, inclusive programming
- Activities include Music Therapy, Arts and Crafts, Ceramics, Dance Instruction, Cooking, Gardening, Science and Nature, Adaptive Sports, Social Dances, Special Events, and much more!

Fees
Weekend Retreats begin Friday at 7pm and end Sunday at 12pm. The cost of one Weekend Retreat is $275; those who require a 1:1 incur an additional cost of $137.50. Variety can also arrange payment plans.

Contact
Angela Hall • angela.hall@varietyphila.org • (610) 584 - 4366 x 220
Saturday Socials

Description
This program is designed to teach social and life skills to students ages 14-22 while giving them an opportunity to practice real life situations in the community. All Saturday Socials include practicing social skills, money skills, body language, tone of voice, situational appropriateness. Both Fall and Spring sessions run from 9am-3pm.

Pre and Post Talks
Before leaving for the activity location, we will discuss the agenda and expectations of learning for the day. At the end of the activity, we will return to Variety and discuss what we learned, what kinds of jobs/social interactions were seen at each activity, what kind of skills each job required, and would it be something the students could see themselves doing and/or skills they have or would like to learn.

Fees
$375 per session
(4 Saturdays)

Fee includes: Staffing, lunch, activity fees and admissions, transportation to program activities from Variety, and all costs associated with scheduled program activities.

Contact
Jean Merkl • jean.merkl@varietyphila.org • (610) 584 - 4366 x 220
Saturday Arts

Description

The Saturday Arts Program is an educational and recreational program with a concentration in art, music, dance, drama, socialization and social skills.

For children and youth, ages 5 to 21, with physical and/or developmental disabilities, the program offers a wide variety of activities that help to increase independence, find new interests, solidify established friendships and build new ones. We follow an “Arts Around the World” theme that is infused throughout activities in music, dance, visual arts, drama and storytelling. We also alternate afternoon sessions with music therapy and therapeutic exercise dance. After ten weeks, we have a performance and art show for families and friends.

Fees

The cost for the 10-week Saturday Arts Program is $630. Students must be able to participate in program activities at the 1:3 staffing ratio. If the student needs 1:1 staffing, families may send a TSS worker or make arrangements for an aide at an additional cost.

Contact

Jean Merkl • jean.merkl@varietyphila.org • (610) 584 - 4366 x 220
Variety hosts a number of special fundraising and friendraising events throughout the year. To learn how you can get involved contact Mary Fuller at mary.fuller@varietyphila.org or (610) 584-4366 x 130

- Holiday Parties
- Fall Fest
- Let Them Eat Cake
- Vegas at Variety
- Oktoberfest Firkin 5k
- Spring Fling & Trail Run
- Black Hat Bash
- Sunshine Games
- Tri - State
Events

Vegas at Variety

Sunshine Games
Corporate Partners

Variety owes much of our success to the dedication of individual and corporate partners in the community who share our goal of improving the quality of life for children with disabilities. The following lists some of those who have contributed significantly to the tremendous success we’ve had, and we wholeheartedly thank them for their support.

In addition to the financial support we receive, our corporate partners participate in events to benefit our cause. We’ve listed some of the volunteer events below. If you’d like to find out how you or your organization can set up a day of service contact Angus Murray at angus.murray@varietyphila.org or 610 - 584 - 4366

Deloitte Day of Impact
Comcast Cares Day
Regal Pick & Cook
Corporate Partners

Deloitte Day

Comcast Cares
Leasing

Whether you’re looking to host a single event, weekend or week-long retreat, weekly practices/meetings, monthly meetings or multi-month leagues using our gym, auditorium or athletic fields, we can tailor a package to meet your needs!

Volunteer

Whether you are a skilled tradesperson, an employer looking for a team building experience or someone who has time to share for a good cause, Variety is the right place for you to dedicate your time and talents.

With over 39 buildings we are always looking for electricians, plumbers, carpenters, etc. to help us with the maintenance and upkeep of our facility.

Several local businesses send teams to our facility to help us spruce up and get ready for our programs. We can accommodate teams as big as 500 or as little as 1.

Each special event provides its own unique opportunity for anyone to lend a hand. Volunteer hours can be used in the planning, set-up or on location stages for each activity. Helping out at these special events is also a great way for students to earn service hours!

Contact Kristin Podwojski at kristin.podwojski@varietyphila.org or (610)584-4366 x 240 for more information on leasing or volunteering.
Alumni Association

Description

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.

Alumni Responsibilities

- Further the mission and vision of Variety – the Children’s Charity through testimony, promotion, volunteerism and financial support
- Gain access to recreational and social events available exclusively to Variety Alumni Association members
- Maintain and develop relationships created at Variety programs through new experiences
- Enjoy reduced rates at Variety events
- Attend networking and volunteerism opportunities

Alumni 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
- Access to the latest updates regarding changes in disability service provision, such as Medicaid, federal/state/county regulations, etc.
- Reduced rates at Variety events
- The opportunity to attend the six night, seven day Reunion Week at Variety in July

Contact

Heather Johnson • heather.johnson@varietyphila.org • (610) 584 - 4366 x 230
Donate

Variety is only able to support thousands of children with disabilities every year because of the generosity of individuals and corporations. Please visit: https://support.varietyphila.org/Donate to learn all the great ways you can help us help the communities we all live, work and play in.

In-Kind Donations

Running an 80-acre property takes a lot of work and we could always use additional resources. Below are some items that would go a long way in helping us in our mission to build independence and self-confidence in youth with disabilities. Any contribution is appreciated and this list will be updated as necessary.

If you are interested in donating an in-kind gift, you can contact Matt Gregory by phone at 610-584-4366 x 120 or email at matt.gregory@varietyphila.org.

Planned Giving

The Gift of a Lifetime, Variety’s planned giving program is available for individuals who wish to make a charitable contribution to benefit children with disabilities. This may be done through a charitable “bequest” from your will, or through a life insurance policy naming Variety – The Children’s Charity as a beneficiary. Together we can provide help for generations to come.