Voice of Variety

Want to submit a story to our newsletter? Contact Victoria Priest at victoria.priest@varietyphila.org
Next time you visit Worcester’s Bravo Pizza, look for another friendly face to greet you. Stephen Smith, a member of our Variety Works program, started working at Bravo Pizza this month after going through his assessment and job trials with Variety Works. For Stephen, working at Bravo Pizza is a dream come true because he thought he would never have a job.

Sal Sparacio, owner of Bravo Pizza, is enthusiastic about his new employee and is proud to have Stephen work in his restaurant. Bravo Pizza is family owned, and Stephen blended in as a part of the family on his first day. Stephen was eager to get to work as Sal showed him how to do a range of tasks in food preparation, restaurant management, and cleanup. Stephen became an “official pizza man” by the end of the day after folding a bundle of pizza boxes.

When it comes to hiring individuals with disabilities, Sal says “I don’t think we should say ‘people with special needs.’ I think we should be using the term ‘people with special skills’. Stephen can do things that I can’t do.” He believes other companies can benefit from hiring people with disabilities because of the happiness they bring to both the employees and customers. Hiring people with disabilities can be a way to lift the spirits of the employees which companies can adapt to.

To top off his special day, Stephen received his very first paycheck. Stephen is earning more than minimum wage for his hard work. Stephen and Sal already have a special bond and created a secret handshake.

We are proud of Stephen and his accomplishments and we are thankful for the support from our community partners such as Bravo Pizza for giving people like Stephen the opportunity to reach their potential.
**Variety Works Receives Grant**

The Genuardi Family Foundation, a longtime supporter of Variety, has awarded a new $50,000 grant to support “Variety Works,” an innovative career development program for children with intellectual disabilities, ages 16-24. It is a major boost for this training project. It will give participants a range of employment scenarios in which they will learn an array of marketable skills as well as make educated decisions about their career development.

From the Genuardi award letter: “On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Genuardi Family Foundation, we are proud to partner with your organization and support its important work.”

**Coffee Cart News**

The Variety Works Coffee Cart was hired by Ally Bank of Fort Washington to be a vendor for their employee appreciation event on July 11. Ally Bank gave Variety Works a generous donation which will be going back in to programs such as the Coffee Cart.

We are happy to announce that the Coffee Cart has now added lunch items to its lineup of tasty offerings! The Coffee Cart lunch items include salads (house, Cobb, and fruit) and sandwiches (marinated chicken on ciabatta or turkey on ciabatta). Lunch options will be available at selected events and may vary at each event.

**We Are Looking For Community Partners!**

We would like to thank our community partners such as Bravo Pizza for their help in growing the Variety Works program. We are constantly looking for businesses in any industry to partner with us in order to expand the new program. If you or someone you know may be interested in becoming a community partner, please contact Rebecca Marinucci at rebecca.marinucci@varietyphila.org or Mary Fuller at mary.fuller@varietyphila.org for more information.
## Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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|        |        |         | 1 Vince Console Fundraiser  
Sibling Support Group | 2 | 3 Sunshine Games | 4 |
| 5      | 6      | 7       | 8 Prom Sibling Support Group | 9 | 10      | 11       |
| Camp Week 7 Begins | | | | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |

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### Variety Music Fundraiser

**The Music of:**  
Vince Console

**Wednesday, August 1**  
5-8 PM (Happy Hour 5-7 PM)  
Osteria Restaurant  
3835 Germantown Pike

*Mark your calendar for a night of music, trivia, and games to benefit Variety.*
TEMPLE SATELLITE CAMP

This month, we kicked off our inaugural satellite day camp at Temple University. It was great to meet new campers and welcome them to the Variety family. Some of the highlights of the two weeks of camp included swimming in the Pearson Hall pool, playing whack-a-mole, performing science experiments, and holding a Carnival Day where we played games such as Fishbowl Bonanza. We would like to thank Temple for the use of their facilities this summer and we look forward to our continued collaborations. We will have more information in the spring regarding the 2019 season of satellite day camp.

VARIETY FEEL GOOD MOMENTS

On July 27, Firstrust Bank surprised Brandon Boaman with a bike and a scholarship to attend a week of Variety summer camp. Brandon is a 16 year old boy from Reading who experienced a lift event which impacted his ability to walk. Since the incident, Brandon has gone through years of occupational therapy and physical therapy in order to walk again, but has reached a plateau. The bike was given to Brandon as a way to improve his recovery process so he can reach the family’s ultimate goal of having Brandon walk with a cane. Gerald, Brandon’s father, was delighted to see his son ride around campus and said the bike will help boost the morale of the entire family. Variety provides durable medical equipment through the Rachael Rosenberg Direct Care Center. Gerald was thankful for the gift and we were honored to be a part of helping Boaman family continue their journey towards Brandon’s recovery.
COMMUNITY DAY

We held our annual Community Day on July 13. Policemen, firemen, and first responders from local communities came for a parade and barbecue. We enjoyed spending time with our heroes and learning about what they do and playing with the dogs from the K-9 Unit. Volunteers from Hogs and Honeys also came for the barbecue and brought some activities for us to do while we waited to see the police cars, firetruck, ambulance, and BearCat!

Thank you to the following municipalities for coming out!

Hatfield Township Police Dept
Lansdale Borough Police Dept
Montgomery Township Police Dept
Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office
Towamencin Township Police Dept
Upper Gwynedd Township Police
VMSC of Lansdale
Worcester Volunteer Fire Dept

SIBLING SUPPORT GROUP

JAFCO will facilitate sibling support groups on-site at Variety! These sessions, facilitated by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, provide typical siblings of children with developmental disabilities a safe space to talk about their feelings with other children who share their experience.

This service is being offered at NO CHARGE to the family!
Summer 2018 DATES: 7/25, 8/01, 8/08
TIME: 3:15-4:00 p.m. (ages 7-11)
4:15-5:15 p.m. (ages 12 and up)

To register your child or for more information, please contact:
Rachel Buxbaum, LCSW
610-525-1040 or Rachel@jafco.org
Our special guests make camp a home run. This month’s special guests included the Phillie Phanatic and volunteers from Univest Bank. The Phillie Phanatic was the pitcher for our baseball game. The Univest volunteers helped us with some tasks and then played a Team Univest vs. Team Variety kickball game. It was a great way to practice the skills we learned in our sports activities at camp.

Maureen Stanko, a parent of a Variety child, held her Annual Summer Concert to benefit Variety at DaVinci’s Pub in Collegeville on July 29. Maureen’s band, You, Me, and Reenie, headlined the concert and included performances by Party Hat, The Red Angel Band, and Sin Brothers. The Audubon/Oaks Lions Club also showed their support and gave us a donation at the concert. Thank you to everyone who came out for this wonderful night of music - the concert was a success!