

## WHAT PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE?

Variety—the Children’s Charity provides children with disabilities unique programs, experiences, and equipment, so they may live life to the fullest and not be left out, left behind, or excluded.

### **Variety offers three adaptive equipment programs for eligible children:**

- 1) **Variety’s “My Bike” Program**, which currently provides Rifton adaptive bikes (with Rifton accessories) to children with disabilities, so they can experience the joy, freedom, and belonging that’s created through riding a bike.
- 2) **Variety’s “My Stroller” Program**, which currently provides a Kid Kart® Mighty Lite adaptive stroller to eligible kids with disabilities for mobility and/or safety in the community.

Typically, a family must choose between having a wheelchair or adaptive stroller. So, as a wheelchair is more necessary, an adaptive stroller allows for easier “on-the-go” mobility and participation in daily activities and throughout the community. With an adaptive stroller, kids are no longer isolated and it has an immediate impact on their lives. For others (not necessarily with mobility challenges), a child might need an adaptive stroller to stay safe while out in the community.

- 3) **Variety’s “My Voice” Program** provides a communication device (currently a restricted iPad with a prescribed communication app) to eligible children with a communication disorder to give them a voice at all times – enabling kids to express their thoughts, feelings, wants, and needs.

This device is designed specifically for communication, so many features are disabled / restricted to fully focus it on a child’s communication and their prescribed communication app —making it their voice.

Families should use this application to apply for any and all of Variety’s programs, and give our office a call if any assistance is needed (724-933-0460). **You can also complete the application online at [www.varietypittsburgh.org/applynow](http://www.varietypittsburgh.org/applynow)**

## SOME THINGS TO KNOW:

- You are welcome to apply for more than one of Variety’s programs. At Variety, we feel that if your child is eligible and can benefit from one, two, or all three programs, then we want you to apply.
- Variety has a three-year policy for mobility equipment, in which eligible children can reapply for a new adaptive bike or adaptive stroller after three years of receiving the original equipment.
- If any adaptive equipment that Variety provided is no longer being used, or if your child has outgrown the equipment, then it can be returned to Variety by calling our office (724-933-0460).
- As part of the program, Variety requires the applicant and his/her parent or legal guardian to attend a scheduled regional presentation to receive the equipment in order to properly review all safety and equipment specifics before it is taken home. Please be aware that the scheduling of these presentations can take some time, so your patience is greatly appreciated.
- Equipment must be presented within one year of application approval or a new application must be completed.

# WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

1. Reside in one of the 56 counties that Variety currently serves, including:

**44 counties in Pennsylvania:** Adams, Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Crawford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Potter, Somerset, Snyder, Union, Venango, Warren, Washington, Westmoreland, and York.

**12 counties in West Virginia:** Barbour, Brooke, Doddridge, Hancock, Harrison, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Preston, Taylor, and Wetzel.

**Note:** Currently, Variety is only able to provide equipment to a child living in a household with his/her parent or legal guardian (e.g. equipment cannot be provided to a child living in a group home).

2. Have a diagnosed physical, mental, and/or sensory disability documented by your child's current licensed Physical / Occupational Therapist, or a Personal Care Physician (**see page 10**), or (*if applying for a communication device*), a documented communication disorder by your child's licensed Speech Language Pathologist with ASHA Certification (**see page 11**).
3. Be 3 through 21 years of age. An application may be submitted up to 60 days prior to a child's 3rd birthday.
4. Applicant's household income must meet Variety's income guidelines. Income verification is required and further information can be found on **pages 6-7**.

| # Of Household Members | 2        | 3         | 4         | 5         | 6         | 7         | 8         |
|------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Household Salary       | \$84,550 | \$106,650 | \$128,750 | \$150,850 | \$172,950 | \$195,050 | \$217,150 |

**—For each additional household member, please add \$22,100.**

# HOW TO APPLY:

1. Read the application carefully and complete all information. **PLEASE PRINT IN INK.**
2. If you need help completing any part of this application, please contact the Variety office at **724-933-0460**.
3. Include copies of proof of income (gross income before taxes and deductions) for your household (**see pages 6-7 for specifics**). You might be asked to provide further verification.
4. Obtain a letter of medical justification from a licensed medical professional for each program(s) that you're applying to (**see pages 10-11 for specifics**).
5. When you have completed the application and gathered copies of all necessary supporting documentation, please sign and date the application (**on page 12**) and return it to Variety.

**The application can also be completed online at [www.varietypittsburgh.org/applynow](http://www.varietypittsburgh.org/applynow)**