



## Overview of “My Bike”, “My Stroller”, & “My Voice” Programs:

### What is Variety – the Children’s Charity?

- 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.

### What programs are offered through Variety?

- **Variety’s “My Bike” Program** currently provides eligible children with disabilities with a Rifton adaptive bicycle (with Rifton accessories) that is individually customized, so they may have the freedom of a bike and the joy of riding alongside friends and family.
- **Variety’s “My Stroller” Program** 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, a child might need an adaptive stroller to stay safe and secure while out in the community (rather than for just for mobility use).
- **Variety’s “My Voice” Program** provides a communication device (i.e. currently a restricted iPad with a prescribed communication app) to eligible children with a communication disorder to give them a voice at all times – and enabling kids to express their thoughts, feelings, wants, and needs.

### When did it begin?

- Variety’s “My Bike” Program kicked off in Western Pennsylvania on November 5, 2012, and the success of “My Bike” led to the creation of “My Stroller” and “My Voice” on November 14, 2014. More than 2,500 adaptive bikes, adaptive strollers, and communication devices have been sponsored for kids since November 5, 2012 (that’s more than \$4.3 million worth of equipment).

### Who is eligible for Variety’s programs?

- Variety’s adaptive equipment programs serve children and youth who have a documented mental, physical, or sensory disability; reside in Variety’s 56-county service area; are 3 through 21 years of age; meet the income guidelines; as well as the other eligibility requirements outlined in the application.
- **Income Guidelines:** An applicant’s household income must meet the program’s income guidelines that include: 2 household members (below \$84,550); 3 household members (below \$106,650); 4 household members (below \$128,750); 5 household members (below \$150,850); 6 household members (below \$172,950); 7 household members (below \$195,050); 8 household members (below \$217,150). *As information, families who have a child with disabilities typically experience greater expenses due to medical costs, therapy appointments, adaptive equipment, medications, and a variety of other needs or circumstances.*
- **Service Area:** Variety serves **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, Snyder, Somerset, Union, Venango, Warren, Washington, and Westmoreland, and York; and **12 counties in West Virginia:** Barbour, Brooke, Doddridge, Hancock, Harrison, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Preston, Taylor, and Wetzel.

### How does someone apply to Variety programs?

- An application can be completed online or downloaded through Variety’s website at [www.varietypittsburgh.org/applynow](http://www.varietypittsburgh.org/applynow), or one can be mailed to you directly by calling the Variety office at 724-933-0460. Please note that eligible children can apply to more than one program if it is beneficial to their needs.

### How much does it cost to sponsor equipment & how can someone donate?

- The cost to sponsor one adaptive bike is \$1,800, one adaptive stroller is \$1,500, and one communication device is \$1,200. **Donations for Variety’s programs can also be designated to a specific county to impact children in your own community.** Donations can be given online, or through U.S. Mail with a check being made out to “Variety” (please note any program or county designation on your donation, if applicable).

# VARIETY IS SEEKING TO IDENTIFY ELIGIBLE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES FOR ITS PROGRAMS.



**“He’s been wishing for this bike for a lot of years. He has three younger brothers and they’re really active, and he lives by a park. He would love to go to the park and ride his bike with his grandma and brothers.”**  
-Kristen, RJ’s physical therapist (above)

**“This stroller will impact our family by helping us not fear outings and adventures. We currently struggle with day to day tasks because Kailey becomes very overwhelmed when in a public setting or in a crowded area. Kailey does not have safety awareness. Having a stroller to be able to take her virtually anywhere we want/need to go and also keep her safe. It will help us live and not fear.”**  
-Christina, mother of Kailey (above)

**“Mia began trialing a communication device in the Spring of 2018, and it has been a catalyst for her understanding of what communication is and showing our family what she is capable of. One day, Mia showed us on her device how to spell her first name and last name without any prompting. We were shocked as we had no idea she knew that. We laughed, we cried, and celebrated. A device has given us hope and we would love for Mia to always have this opportunity to talk and showcase her cognitive ability. She has many obstacles, but having a device makes life at home and school a little easier.”**  
-Anita, mother of Mia (above)

