

WHAT PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE?

With a mission to empower children with disabilities to live life to the fullest, Variety the Children's Charity ensures that our most vulnerable kids are no longer left out, behind, or excluded.

By listening to those caring for the kids, Variety created three adaptive equipment programs, including:

1) Variety's My Bike® Program, which currently provides the new Rifton adaptive bike model (including a stationary stand and prescribed 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 Convaid EZ Rider adaptive stroller to eligible kids to use for on-the-go mobility, and/or general safety/inclusion in the community. **It's not your typical toddler stroller, but equipment that's letting families "stroll" together.**

- ⇒ **Parents tell us** that their child is a runner or bolter, and they don't have a way to keep them safe while out in the community—so they stay home. An adaptive stroller takes away that fear / anxiety.
- ⇒ **Parents also tell us** they must typically choose between getting a wheelchair or an alternative option. Though, a wheelchair is more necessary, an adaptive stroller allows for easier "on-the-go" mobility and participation in daily activities.
- ⇒ **Parents have explained** that with an adaptive stroller, kids and families are no longer isolated or left out, and it has an immediate impact.

3) Variety's My Voice® Program provides a communication device (i.e. a restricted iPad with a prescribed communication app) to eligible children who are nonverbal (or have a communication disorder) to give them the ability to express their thoughts, feelings, wants, and needs 24/7.

- ⇒ The device is solely for communication, so all features are disabled or restricted by Variety to focus on the child's prescribed communication app. —making the device their voice.

"Our **My Voice®** Program is financed {in part} by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development as well as generously funded by community donations."

SOME THINGS TO KNOW:

- We encourage families to apply for one, two, or all three pieces of equipment if your child can benefit!
- There's **NO CATCH** to our programs and all equipment is provided for **free**.
- After **4** years from receiving the first bike, and **3** years from receiving the first stroller or device, eligible kids can re-apply for a second (**see pages 10,12-13**).
- All equipment must be presented within one year of approval, or a new application must be completed.

My Bike & My Stroller applicants are required to attend a scheduled presentation with their parent or legal guardian to receive the custom medical equipment and conduct a final fitting for safety.

Ordering the equipment and scheduling these presentations can take time, so your patience is greatly appreciated.

For My Voice applicants, Variety will work with the child's Speech Language Pathologist to get the device ready and present it to the child safely at a predetermined location (therapy, school, etc...).

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

1) Geography: Must live in one of the 60 counties that Variety currently serves, including:

59 counties in Pennsylvania: Adams, Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Bradford, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Carbon, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Crawford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Mifflin, Monroe, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, Somerset, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Venango, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Westmoreland, Wyoming, and York.

Ohio County, West Virginia

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) Diagnosis: Have a diagnosed physical, mental, and/or sensory disability documented by one of the certified medical professionals listed on **pages 10,12,13**.

3) Age: Must be 3 through 21 years of age. An application may be submitted up to 60 days prior to a child's 3rd birthday, but equipment cannot be presented until the child is 3 years old.

4) Income: Applicant's household income must not exceed Variety's income guidelines listed below. Income verification is required with the application (**see pages 6-7**).

# Of Household Members	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Household Salary	\$98,600	\$124,300	\$150,000	\$175,700	\$201,400	\$227,100	\$252,800	\$278,500

—For each additional household member, please add \$25,700.

HOW TO APPLY:

1. Complete the application to the best of your knowledge. **KINDLY PRINT IN INK.**
2. Compile documentation to verify your household income (**pages 6-7**).
3. Request a “letter of medical justification” for each program you’re applying to (**see pages 10-13**).
4. Each parent/legal guardian living in the child’s household with the child must sign and date the application before it can be processed (**page 14**).

If you need any help or have questions, please feel free to contact us (724-933-0460 / info@varietypittsburgh.org).

The application can also be completed online at www.varietypittsburgh.org/applynow.

We anticipate a large volume of new bike applications, so please have patience with us as processing times may increase over the next few months.