



2023 Annual Report



Recreational



Vocational



Educational



VarietyWorks

"Variety staff take time to listen and think outside of the box to help every child."

- Variety Parent

"Our future is bright, and we will continue to be a catalyst for change in the lives of children and young adults with disabilities and a resource like no other for their families."

Dear Variety Families, Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

Variety's campus is full of excitement and activity, and our programs happening throughout the region are making an impact for the children and young adults we serve, the families we support, and the community and business partners who are working with us to create accessible opportunities for people of all abilities. Throughout the past fiscal year (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023), we have strengthened these relationships, opened doors and developed deeper ties with our supporters and volunteers, and collaborated with allies who advocate for Variety children and youth. We also welcomed hundreds of volunteers on campus to assist with campus beautification, administrative, and specialized, skills-based projects.

We re-opened overnight summer camp in 2023 for one week – the first time since the covid pandemic – and welcomed hundreds of children and young adults on campus for our summer educational, recreational, and vocational programming. Through VarietyWorks, we opened a new mobile cafe at Meadowood Senior Living for its residents and guests, offered trainings to local businesses related to accommodating employees with disabilities, and continued to place young adults in jobs of their choice to develop critical skills and greater independence.

While enriching our programs and increasing our reach, we also began our transformational plans to improve our campus as a result of generous support from our donors and grant funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In FY2023, we began extensive utilities, civil engineering, and infrastructure work to bring our aging campus into the 21st century. We started renovations on the Community Gym by replacing its roof, which is the first step in creating a state-of-the-art facility that will be a multi-purpose community and recreational space. We also demolished two 70-year-old cabins that were in disrepair to make room to build the first multi-purpose cabin with classrooms - the first major construction project on our campus in 40+ years!

This is just the beginning of our campus plans, and we remain incredibly appreciative of the support from our donors, neighbors, families, and elected officials to make our vision for a whole new world a reality. Our future is bright, and we will continue to be a catalyst for change in the lives of children and young adults with disabilities and a resource like no other for their families.

Together, we will keep moving forward, and we hope that you will join us and continue to be part of Variety in the ways that are most meaningful for you. Please consider attending events, donating to our programs and to our capital projects, volunteering your time to write letters of support, advocating for Variety in your neighborhoods and promoting among your networks to help build visibility for Variety.

Our doors are open, and you are always welcome to come visit us, meet the team, and be part of our reimagined and bright future!



Maribeth Roman Schmidt

Maribeth Roman Schmidt
Variety Board President

Dominique Bernardo

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Variety CEO

FY 2023: at a glance



YOUR DONATIONS HELPED FUEL PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



VARIETYWORKS



SUMMER CAMP



EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR



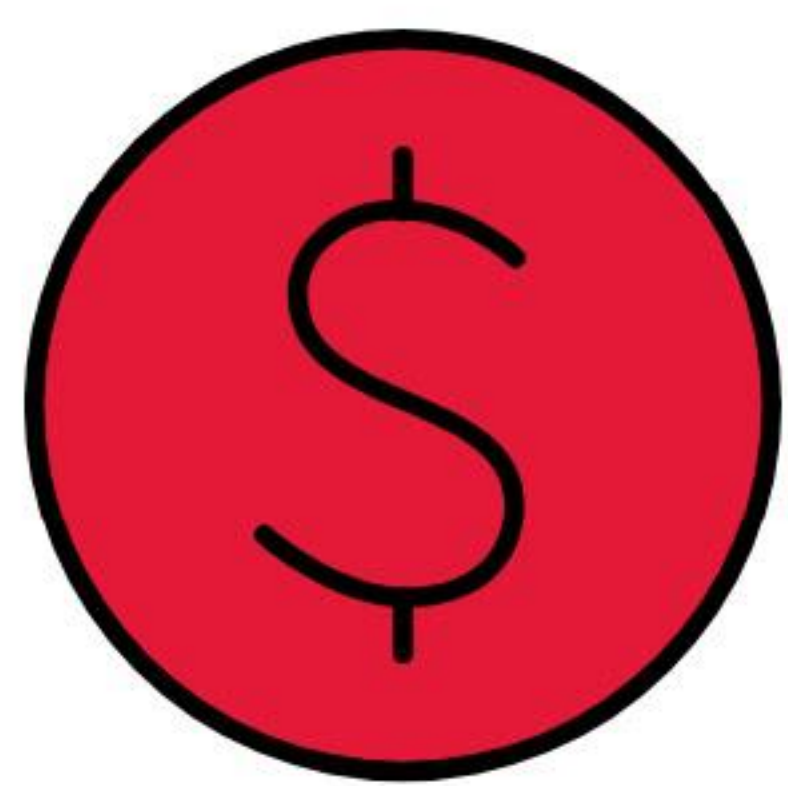
VOCATIONAL



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

REVENUE



\$6,881,166

SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

+31%



VOLUNTEERS

MORE THAN 1,230



7,097 HOURS

VOCATIONAL



142

HOURS OPERATING SNACK STAND & POP-UP SHOPS

ADAPTIVE TRIKE GIVEAWAYS



THROUGH THE RACHAEL ROSENBERG DIRECT CARE PROGRAM

VARIETYWORKS

48 YOUNG ADULTS JOB COACHED

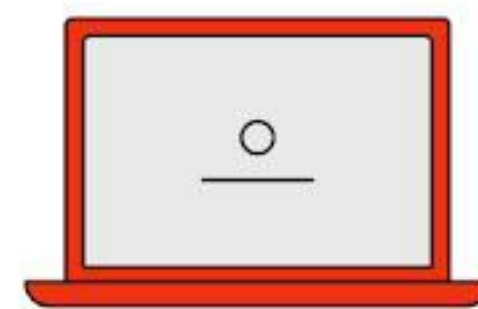
12 PLACED IN NEW JOBS

38 STUDENTS GAINED VOCATIONAL TRAINING EXPERIENCE



7,000+ HOURS OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING ON CAMPUS

20



COMMUNITY BASED WORK ASSESSMENTS



GREENHOUSE & GARDENS



BEEES FROM 3 HIVES POLLINATED OUR GARDEN & PRODUCED OVER 70 JARS OF HONEY



40 DIFFERENT VEGETABLE AND FLOWER CROPS WERE PLANTED



STUDENTS PLANTED OVER 5,000 SEEDS



WATERING = FAVORITE GARDENING TASK OF SUMMER

INTERNSHIPS

47 BACHELORS AND MASTERS LEVEL INTERNS FROM 5 UNIVERSITIES PROVIDED MORE THAN 4,100 HOURS OF SERVICE



40 TRAININGS IN DISABILITIES & ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED TO OUT OF SCHOOL TIME PROVIDERS

100+ PAGE RESOURCE GUIDE DISTRIBUTED TO 20 PHILADELPHIA OUT OF SCHOOL TIME PROVIDERS CONTRACTED WITH CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

VARIETY IN PHILADELPHIA

100+



FAMILIES PARTICIPATED IN DONOR-LED HOLIDAY PARTIES

10,697

CHILDREN INVITED TO AT-PLAY EVENTS



ABOUT OUR PARTICIPANTS

AGE

5 – 10 YEARS	40%
11 – 15 YEARS	29%
16 – 21 YEARS	20%
22+ YEARS	11%

RACE

WHITE	46%
BLACK	25%
ASIAN	6%
MULTIRACIAL	8%
OTHER	13%
UNKNOWN	2%

DIAGNOSIS

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER	58%
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY	16%
DOWN SYNDROME	6%
CEREBRAL PALSY	4%
ADD/ADHD	9%
OTHER	19%

69% MALE

31% FEMALE

COUNTIES SERVED



*DATA FOR COUNTIES RELATES TO BOTH DIRECT SERVICES AND AT PLAY EVENTS

VARIETY IS ONE OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY'S MOST ESTABLISHED ORGANIZATIONS SERVING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY, OUR MISSION HAS NOT WAVERED, BUT THE WAYS THAT WE SERVE HAVE GROWN OVER THE YEARS AND CONTINUE TO ADAPT WITH THE EVER-CHANGING NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AS OUR COMPASS. FROM CAMPS AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS TO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS, VARIETY'S SERVICES ARE TAILORED TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE LEARN SKILLS THAT THEY CAN USE IN ACHIEVING GREATER INDEPENDENCE, BUILDING CONFIDENCE, AND BEING PREPARED FOR LIFE.

WITH THE HELP OF FAMILIES, DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND PARTNERS, VARIETY IS:

- EXPANDING HORIZONS TO EXPLORE UNIQUE AND MEANINGFUL JOB OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH OUR VARIETYWORKS VOCATIONAL PROGRAM;
- CREATING LIFELONG MEMORIES AND BONDING THROUGH OUR SUMMER AND SATURDAY CAMP PROGRAMS; AND
- LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS AND BEST PRACTICES TO PROVIDE INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS AND REACH AS MANY CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS AS WE CAN THROUGHOUT OUR REGION.

JOIN US IN IMAGINING A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF VARIETY – THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY!

DONATE & VOLUNTEER TODAY!

MEET HALEY

Following her participation in Variety's Extended School Year (ESY) program beginning at age nine and Summer Day Camp, Haley is currently one of Variety's amazing participants in our VarietyWorks Small Group Employment Program who is thriving in making connections with her peers and colleagues.

When it came time for Haley to seek employment opportunities, Haley began her OVR-funded Paid Work Experience at Torbella Equestrian in Phoenixville in September 2020 with the support of a Variety Employment Specialist. Working directly with the barn owner, Tori, Haley initially helped to maintain the barn and care for the animals. As Tori recognized Haley's efforts and abilities, Haley earned more responsibilities that included walking the horses and preparing them for upcoming lessons. Each day that she worked, Haley's love of working with the horses grew along with her soft, work, and social skills preparing her for new opportunities and possibilities.

After completing this experience in March 2021 and graduating from the Camphill School in 2022, Haley chose to continue developing her work skills in a paid but supported environment. Haley joined the VarietyWorks Small Group Employment Program at the Norristown Mobile Café. There she collaborated and interacted with co-workers, supervisors, and customers, and learned how to manage a variety of different social situations within the workplace including how to clock in and out of a job and keep track of the hours she worked.



At the Mobile Café, Haley exceeded all goals and was able to complete new and varied tasks and offer peer support to individuals to better understand workplace expectations and skills. For example, she assisted a Mobile Café participant through learning and building confidence in the steps of pouring a cup of coffee. Seeing friendships she made and nurtured and the support she offered others was heartwarming and inspiring. Haley most recently transitioned to Variety's newest Mobile Café site at Meadowood Senior Living Center in hopes of fine-tuning additional skills.

"Since beginning work at the Mobile Café over a year ago, Haley transformed from a shy, underconfident person to a leader in the workplace. She jumps at the first opportunity to assist her co-workers and customers alike. Her infectious and positive personality provides a meaningful boost to everyone here at the Mobile Café and makes the workday that much more enjoyable. Not only has Haley grown in her own confidence and abilities, but she has also made a positive impact on her co-workers' personal and skills-based growth," Mike Suhmolin, Mobile Café Supervisor.

Haley's mom, Jennifer, hopes Haley reaches her fullest potential and the highest level of independence while making community connections. Jennifer believes this is possible through inclusive, gainful employment provided by VarietyWorks and that Haley can accomplish any work goals and dreams that she chooses to pursue.

At 24 years old, Haley's personal interests include arts and crafts and playing games with her co-workers and friends. In addition to working, she attends Variety's Adult Social Club to continue to foster friendships in a supported environment and have fun! We are so proud of Haley and everything she has achieved in her time here at Variety!

BECOME A COMMUNITY BUSINESS PARTNER

Our Community Business Partners help Variety young adults with disabilities reach their potential and discover new opportunities. Contact us at programs@varietyphila.org to hear more stories like Haley's and to learn how you can get involved!

VOLUNTEERS HELP US FULFILL OUR MISSION

Volunteers give their time selflessly, fueling our mission and allowing us to provide programs and events for our participants and community. We are so grateful for the many volunteers who choose to lend a helping hand at Variety. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please email volunteer@varietyphila.org. We accept groups both large and small.

"Variety makes everyone that attends feel incredibly special. I share my passion for the Variety services, staff, volunteers, and Variety kids, and have been able to include my family and friends in many of the events that are held at Variety. Variety's mission is apparent to anyone that has the pleasure of participating with Variety events. Inclusion is key and the cornerstone to everything they do. I am grateful for the experience of Variety and the joy experienced by the Variety kids and staff is infectious! I cannot wait to go back and help each time." - Tammy Gaul, Aetna



HOLIDAY LANE & BLACK HAT BASH ARE A SUCCESS!

Each year, Holiday Lane welcomes more than 1,200 guests to our campus for a magical celebration! Our annual Black Hat Bash in Philadelphia honors Variety supporters, celebrates our mission, and recognizes our annual Golden Heart of Variety award recipients.



THE GIFT OF A NEW TRIKE

We are so fortunate to be able to provide a limited number of adaptive trikes each year to those in need through the Rachael Rosenberg Direct Care Program.

Each time is just as special as the next!



VARIETYWORKS IN PHOTOS

Individuals in our vocational programs get hands-on experience learning various skills throughout our campus and at community business partner sites. They take these skills with them as they move through our VarietyWorks program with the ultimate goal of employment in the community.



VARIETY IN PHILADELPHIA

VARIETY AT WIDENER MEMORIAL SCHOOL



Variety provided daily after school programming for over 21 students during the academic year. Students got the chance to engage with STEM, arts, culinary, and recreational programming in the classroom while enjoying frequent visits from martial arts instructors, food education groups, music therapists, and more!

HELPING THE PHILADELPHIA ZOO



Since 2015, Variety has grown more than 11.2 tons of food for the Philadelphia Zoo. These plants and vegetables, including beans, tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers, are important sources of nutrition for animals at Philadelphia Zoo.

SAM STATEN JR. VARIETY SUMMER CAMP AT TEMPLE UNIVERSITY



Offered in collaboration with the Department of Health & Rehab Sciences, College of Public Health at Temple University, Variety provided two weeks of no cost satellite urban camp to over 20 children in the Philadelphia area. Students had the opportunity to swim, play, and learn on Temple's campus!

VARIETY BOARD MEMBERS

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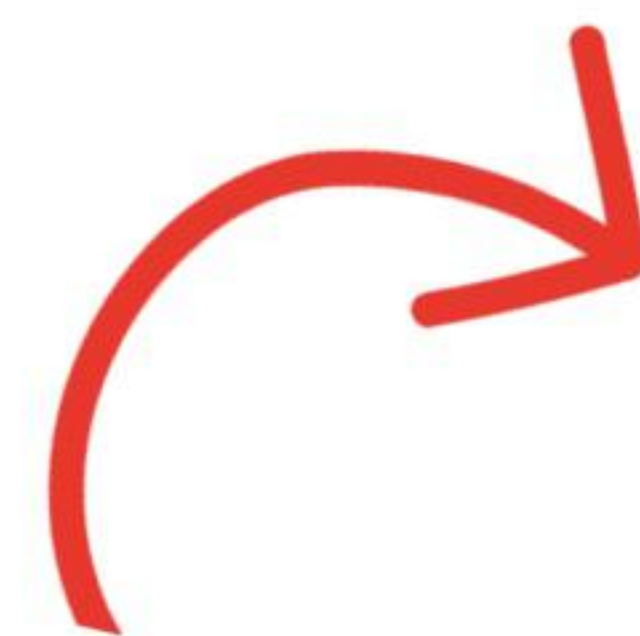
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR
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help change the lives of
young adults with disabilities*

