



## Intermediate Unit 1



### Variety's **My Bike**® Program, **My Stroller**® Program, & **My Voice**® Program:

All equipment is provided at **NO COST** to families that meet the program's eligibility requirements.



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.

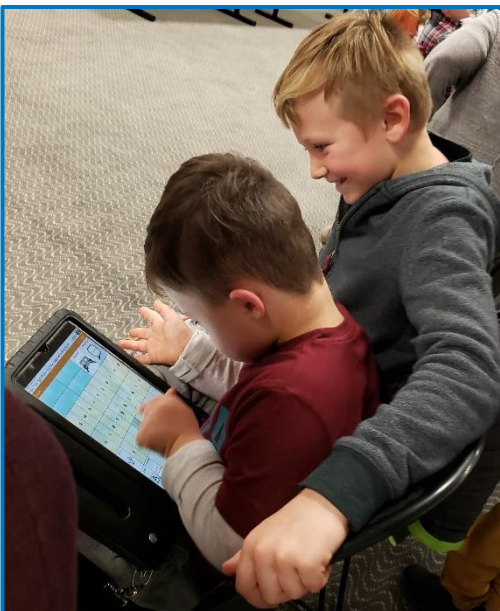
**"A bike would help him maintain his current abilities with walking and self-care, and it'll keep him active and strong. He'll be able to be social with friends and ride bikes with them versus being pushed in his wheelchair. He just wants to be like others, but he's grateful for all he has and his general health. He would simply love his own bike."**

*-Desrine, mother of Airran (left)*



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. 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.

**"Kaitlin cannot walk long distance due to her diagnosis. She likes to go out to the stores, but most of the stores do not provide a special needs cart. Right now, if I must go anywhere, she walks and wants to sit down after a few minutes. In a big store, it's hard to find a bench. This stroller will make a big difference in where we can go."** *-Tracy, mother of Kaitlin (right)*



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.

**"Mason has a delay in his speech. While he is doing amazing and trying to talk more and more every day, he continues to get frustrated when he is trying to tell or ask for things and others don't understand him. Having a device that Mason will be able to communicate from will help him express his needs and will also improve his speech."** *-Nicole, mother of Mason (left)*

## 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.

## When did it begin?

- Variety’s **My Bike®** Program kicked off in Western Pennsylvania on November 5, 2012, and the success of our **My Bike®** Program led to the creation of Variety’s **My Stroller®** Program and **My Voice®** Program on November 14, 2014. More than 3,000 adaptive bikes, adaptive strollers, and communication devices have been to eligible kids since November 5, 2012 (that’s more than \$5 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 71-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 \$86,200); 3 household members (below \$108,600); 4 household members (below \$131,000); 5 household members (below \$153,400); 6 household members (below \$175,800); 7 household members (below \$198,200); 8 household members (below \$220,600). *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. All equipment is provided at NO COST to families that meet the program’s eligibility requirements.*
- **Service Area:** Variety serves **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.; 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 can be given online ([www.varietypittsburgh.org/donate](http://www.varietypittsburgh.org/donate)), or through U.S. Mail with a check being made out to “Variety” (please note if you want your donation designated to a specific county or program).
- 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.

**VARIETY IS SEEKING TO IDENTIFY ELIGIBLE CHILDREN FOR ALL PROGRAMS.**



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