



2023/24 Impact Report

Variety – the Children's Charity of Victoria





This will mean our kids will be able to access the community and really enrich their learning opportunities. We're very grateful – thank you Variety!

**– Claire Toohey, Principal of Nepean School
(Variety Sunshine Coach Recipients)**

Contents



**A Message from
the Chief Barker & CEO**



Our Impact



**Granting
Highlights**



Scholarships



Paris 2024



Programs



Kids Events



Motoring Events



**Corporate
Events**



**Fundraising
Highlights**



**Trusts &
Foundations**



Awards



**Partners &
Supporters**

A Message from the Chief Barker & CEO

This has been a truly transformative year for Variety – the Children’s Charity of Victoria. Together, we positively impacted the lives of over 18,270 kids and granted \$2,184,959 to children across the state. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the power of community and our shared commitment to ensuring every child has the opportunity to live, laugh, and learn.

We are proud of the impact we’ve made this year, delivering vital support to children and families through mobility aids, educational resources, and life-enriching experiences. We also launched the Variety Future Leaders Program, an innovative initiative designed to empower young people by developing their leadership skills and inspiring them to make a difference in their communities. Programs like Bikes for Kids and joyful events, such as the Variety Day at Puffing Billy Railway, have continued to create opportunities and memories that will last a lifetime.

This year, we were thrilled to fund three Variety Sunshine Coaches, a much-needed increase that has been long awaited. These coaches, essential for enabling children to access education and community activities, will transform the lives of many children who have been on our waitlist.

Our iconic motoring events, including the Variety Bash, Brats Bash, and Rally Around Victoria, alongside our corporate events such as the Variety Toyota AFL Grand Final Lunch and Women of Melbourne event, brought communities and businesses together in support of our mission. These events, combined with our broader fundraising efforts, have raised significant funds to deliver essential resources and create life-changing opportunities for children and families across Victoria.

To amplify our efforts, we focused on increasing

awareness and building meaningful connections. We partnered with new trusts and foundations, expanded corporate collaborations, and extended our crypto philanthropy initiatives with the Nouns community. These forward-thinking partnerships allow us to connect with innovative supporters and explore new ways to raise funds, further strengthening our ability to support more children and deliver even greater outcomes.

This report offers just a glimpse of the remarkable stories of impact we’ve created together. None of this would have been possible without the dedication and leadership of our board members, committee members, the tireless efforts of the Variety Victoria staff, the 1,044 amazing Variety volunteers and the unwavering generosity of our supporters. Thank you for your commitment to making a difference and for helping us transform lives and create brighter futures for children in Victoria.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Geoff & Peter



Geoff Handberg
Chief Barker



Peter Bruce
Chief Executive Officer



Our Mission

To empower Australian children who are sick, disadvantaged or living with disability, to live, laugh and learn through grants, programs and experiences.

Our Vision

For all Australian children to attain their full potential, regardless of ability or background.

Our Values

Equality

We believe everyone deserves a fair go in life.

Community

We believe it takes a community to raise a child.

Action

We believe in rolling up our sleeves and getting stuff done.

Joy

We believe in the importance of lightness and laughter.

Our Impact

We impacted **18,270** kids and granted **\$2,184,959** in Victoria through grants, scholarships, kids events and programs.



32 kids
received a
**Variety Educational
Scholarship**

14 kids
attended the
**Variety Future
Leaders Program**

6,359 kids
attended one of our
**kids events
or programs**

13 kids
received a
**Variety Heart
Scholarship**

6,822 kids
benefited from an
**individual or
community grant**

1,626 kids
benefited through
**Variety Bikes
for Kids**



3,413 kids
were visited during
**Variety Motoring
Events**



88 kids
attended the
**Variety SHINE
Program**

1,066 kids
attended the
**Abilities Unleashed
Kids Program**



3,996 kids
received a
gift at Christmas



Granting Highlights

An Insulin Pump for Maddox

At the start line of the Variety Bash, we granted 16-year-old Maddox \$10,000 for an insulin pump. A fun and cheerful teenager, Maddox has been bravely battling type 1 diabetes since he was 10. Despite his and his mother De-Anna's best efforts, managing his blood sugar levels has been a constant struggle, often leaving them dangerously high and putting him at risk of severe long-term complications.

The insulin pump is more than just a medical device for Maddox; it's a lifeline. It will provide continuous and precise insulin delivery, helping to stabilise his blood sugar levels and reduce the risk of dangerous fluctuations. This grant not only improves his immediate health but also offers a sense of stability and hope for his future. For Maddox and his family, it means less anxiety, more control over his condition, and a step toward a healthier, more manageable life.



An Assistance Dog for Levi

Levi's life has been transformed by his assistance dog, Finn-Pickles. Fourteen-year-old Levi, who loves getting outdoors to ride his bike and scooter, is living with ASD, ADHD, and anxiety. With Finn-Pickles by his side, Levi now enjoys a calmer home and can tackle challenges like shopping trips with confidence.

Levi's mum, Danni, called Finn-Pickles a "life-changing gift," explaining, "Before Finn, Levi struggled with severe meltdowns and sensory overload. Now, he can communicate when lights or noise are too much for him."

This incredible bond was made possible thanks to the generous support of Sheen Panel Service.

Levi and Finn-Pickles attended the Variety Kids Xmas Party, where Levi shared, "Having Finn gives me a routine every day. He's changed my whole life and made it better."

How did he get his name? Finn was his original name, which suited him, and Pickles was the name they had picked out for Levi's Assistance Dog - so he kept both names and he became Finn-Pickles.

Thanks to Levi and Danni for sharing their story. We wish you and Finn-Pickles all the best!

Emerson School

Communication & Learning Equipment

We delivered a grant to Emerson School, a specialist school in Dandenong, Victoria, to enhance communication, learning, and gross motor skills for its 375 students, many of whom face complex challenges. The grant allowed the school to establish a dedicated gross motor/heavy work room, facilitated by an occupational therapist, and set up AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) groups for students with complex communication needs. The outcomes of this grant have been transformative, increasing student engagement in schoolwork, intentional communication, and functional independence.



Nepean School

Variety Sunshine Coach

Nepean School in Seaford celebrated the arrival of the 189th Variety Sunshine Coach in Victoria—a remarkable vehicle designed to accommodate up to four wheelchairs. This custom-built coach ensures that all students, including those with mobility challenges, can participate fully in educational and community activities.

One student initially shared that he wasn't very excited about the arrival of the bus because he was in a wheelchair and assumed he wouldn't be able to use it. The joy on his face when we explained that this bus was specifically designed for wheelchairs was immense. It was a truly special moment that encapsulated the impact of this gift.

The Variety Sunshine Coach was funded through the Variety Toyota AFL Grand Final Lunch, with additional support from WM Waste Management Services, MRP Wired Solutions, Claire & David Marsh and the Australian Communities Foundation. This

generous collaboration demonstrates the transformative power of shared purpose and dedication.

"This coach expands our students' horizons and brings immense joy to our school," said Claire Toohey, Principal of Nepean School.

The arrival of this coach highlights Variety's unwavering commitment to inclusion, breaking down barriers and empowering students to embrace new opportunities and experiences.



Watch the joy for yourself!

Disabled Surfers Association Bass Coast

Surf Access Equipment

We supported the Disability Surfers Association of Australia (Bass Coast) with new surf access equipment. This includes a Mobi-Mat walkway extension and a specialised beach wheelchair, making the ocean more accessible for people with disabilities.

Over 200 participants, many of them children, have already been able to enjoy the waves safely. For these individuals, it's about more than just surfing—it's about fostering confidence, independence, and a sense of belonging in the community.

This initiative is a powerful reminder of how the right support can break down barriers and open up new opportunities for everyone to thrive.



This grant has been a game-changer for our program. It's not just about giving kids with disabilities the chance to surf—it's about showing them that they are capable of achieving more than they ever thought possible. The impact we've seen, not only on the participants but on the whole community, has been truly inspiring. We're excited to continue growing this initiative and making surfing accessible to everyone.

— Stuart, Program Organiser



Scholarships

We granted 45 Variety scholarships, and we are proud to introduce you to two talented recipients.

Evie

Variety Education Scholar & Bikes for Kids Recipient

Evie, 14, is thriving in high school as a talented musician, singer, and academic achiever. Diagnosed with scoliosis at seven, she wore a Boston back brace 21 hours a day for over seven years until 2024, when she could finally take it off. Surgery might still be a possibility, but Evie remains optimistic.

Passionate about learning, she excels in the Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) program, studying Year 10 subjects in Year 9 and preparing to start her VCE in Media early. Last year, Evie shone in her school's production of *Bully* and is now part of *Grease*. She also explored engineering and aerospace through RMIT's Girls in Aerospace STEM program.

Variety supports Evie's education with a scholarship, helping her access resources to keep future opportunities within reach. Fun fact: Evie is the sister of rising tennis star Sonny—what a talented family!



Angus

Jack Eadon Equestrian Variety Heart Scholar

Angus is the Jack Eadon Equestrian Variety Heart Scholar, determined to overcome challenges and pursue his dream of representing Australia on the world stage. With the support of his Variety Heart Scholarship, Angus has been able to train more intensively with his coach, refine his skills, and take meaningful steps toward achieving his goals. His inspiring journey showcases the power of opportunity and the impact of this vital support in helping him turn his aspirations into reality.

The Jack Eadon Equestrian Variety Heart Scholarship celebrates the enduring legacy of Jack Eadon—a true gentleman, role model, and equestrian champion who, despite his immense talent, was unable to compete in the Olympics due to financial constraints. This scholarship provides young equestrians like Angus with the funding they need for equipment, training, and travel, ensuring that financial barriers don't stand in the way of their dreams.



Meet Angus in this video!

See page 28 to meet Kye Kelly, our Variety Young Sports Achiever!

Paris 2024

We are excited to share that some of our past Variety Heart Scholars competed in the 2024 Paris Paralympic and Olympic Games! We've been following their successes over the years and have been so proud watching them grow, and now represent Australia.



Nathan Pellissier

Para-table Tennis

- Variety Heart Scholar
- Variety Young Sports Achiever 2012

Nathan represented Australia at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Following his incredible achievement of winning a silver medal at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, Nathan competed in the Mixed Doubles TT8, Men's Doubles TT8, and Singles TT8 events in Paris, continuing to showcase his exceptional talent and dedication on the world stage.



Nicholas Hum

Para-athletics

- Variety Heart Scholar
- Variety Young Sports Achiever 2011

Nicholas Hum continues to add to his sporting legacy. After representing Australia at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio and 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo, where he won a bronze medal, Nick returned for his THIRD consecutive Paralympics at the Paris 2024 Games. Finishing strongly in 6th for the men's long jump T20 category, this milestone is yet another reminder of Nick's passion and commitment to the sport.



Brock Batty

Trampoline Gymnastics

- Variety Heart Scholar

Brock represented Australia at the 2024 Olympics, competing in Trampoline Gymnastics and finishing 13th!

Brock received a Variety Heart Scholarship in 2023 to help pay his international competition fees and take his skills to another level. His hard work and determination have now seen his dream of competing in the Olympics become a reality.



Jack Howell

Para-triathlon

- Variety Heart Scholar
- Variety Young Sports Achiever 2019
- Variety Ambassador

Jack made his Paralympic debut at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games in the PTS5 Triathlon, finishing a remarkable 7th place as the youngest competitor in the field. He is the current Australian National Champion and Oceania Champion and recently won silver at the 2024 World Triathlon Para Championships in Spain, making him the world number two in the PTS5 category. With his sights now set on LA 2028 and Brisbane 2032, this is just the beginning of an incredible career.



Samuel Rizzo

Wheelchair Athletics

- Variety Heart Scholar
- Variety Grant Recipient
- Variety Young Sports Achiever 2014

Samuel Rizzo made his Paralympic debut at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, competing for Australia in the T54 800m, 1500m, and 5000m events—a phenomenal achievement on the world stage. Variety has been part of Sam's journey since 2017, when he received a sports wheelchair through a Variety grant. That same year, he made an impact at the World Para-athletics Junior Championships in Switzerland, winning four medals while also carrying the Australian flag as team flagbearer.



Ahmed Kelly

Para-swimming

- Variety Heart Scholar
- Variety Young Sports Achiever 2005

Ahmed Kelly made his fourth consecutive Paralympic appearance at Paris 2024, winning silver in the Men's 150m Individual Medley SM3—his second Paralympic medal. Adopted from an orphanage in Baghdad, Ahmed found Para-swimming after surgeries to remove both legs below the knees. He made his Paralympic debut in London 2012 and won silver at Tokyo 2020 in the same event. His dedication and resilience continue to set him apart on the world stage. Congratulations, Ahmed!

Programs

Variety SHINE Program

The Variety SHINE program made a meaningful difference in rural schools thanks to the support of the Mazda Foundation. The program provides children facing learning challenges with access to a team of allied health professionals onsite at their school, offering tailored support to address individual needs. These professionals work with students to boost confidence, enhance learning outcomes, and build critical life skills, while teachers are equipped with tools to create inclusive and nurturing environments.

One student, Emily, who was years behind in reading and losing her confidence, worked with the program to progress from struggling with basic sounds to reading words and sentences. By the end of the program, Emily's confidence and love of learning had been reignited. Teachers and parents praised the program for its transformative impact, highlighting improved engagement, stronger peer relationships, and a renewed sense of community across schools.



Variety Future Leaders Program

We proudly launched our inaugural Variety Future Leaders Program with 14 incredible participants. This initiative is focused on empowering the next generation of leaders and advocates, equipping them with the skills and confidence to create meaningful change in their communities.

Participants explored their aspirations, learned that leadership is about action rather than titles, and shared their stories with passion. Workshops covered vital skills such as managing anxiety, public speaking, financial literacy, job applications, and self-advocacy.

A heartfelt thank you to PKF Melbourne for hosting the event, creating a welcoming and inspiring space for these young leaders to thrive. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from students,

teachers, and facilitators highlights the program's impact, and we look forward to continuing to inspire and support young leaders through future workshops.

Watch this video to learn more about this program and the impact it had on participants.



Variety Abilities Unleashed - Kids Sports Days

The Variety Abilities Unleashed Kids events, delivered in partnership with Disability Sports Australia, offer a free, enjoyable, and inclusive sports experience tailored for children with physical disabilities or facing social challenges. The program features a variety of activities for kids to try, including soccer, netball, tenpin bowling, cricket, dance, NRL, AFL, and more.

During the year, the program was delivered to 1,066 children across 11 events around Victoria, providing them with opportunities to participate in physical activities within a supportive environment. These events are designed to be accessible and engaging, helping children explore new sports, develop confidence, and build valuable skills.

By breaking down barriers to participation, Variety Abilities Unleashed Kids promotes active lifestyles and provides children with meaningful opportunities to connect with their peers and embrace their abilities in a fun and welcoming setting.



Variety Bikes for Kids

An amazing 1,626 kids were impacted through our Variety Bikes for Kids program. This includes individual bike grants and grants to schools for Bike Education Programs. Here are some of the happy faces of those who received the grants and are now enjoying the benefits of riding a bike.



Students at Worawa Aboriginal College are having an absolute blast with their new bikes! Their weekly bike club rides have already taken them on some picturesque adventures through the Yarra Valley – what a fun way to explore and get active!



On Super Saturday, there were smiles for days as we granted 38 bikes to children experiencing disadvantage at Anaconda Hoppers Crossing.

Cody's bike was presented to him at the 2024 Rookies Day Out for the Variety Bash. His smile says it all!



Kids Events

Variety Kids Xmas Party

The Variety Kids Xmas Party powered by Nouns returned bigger and better than ever. The party, decked out in Noggles and immersed in the imaginative universe of Nouns, provided a unique and unforgettable experience for the children and their carers – which also happened to be the largest crypto philanthropy activation ever held in Australia!

We had carnival rides, characters, fun activities, puppies, Santa... and more for over 3,000 kids to enjoy! Each child also got to take home a Christmas gift - their joy was shining for all to see.

A huge thank you to Variety Top Hat Partner, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), for hosting this fantastic event, and to Nouns DAO for their major support and adding some Nounish fun to the day.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event, especially to the 538 Variety volunteers who we couldn't do this without!



Variety Day at Puffing Billy Railway

What a day! Variety Day at Puffing Billy Railway was an absolute blast, with 900 kids, their families, and carers coming together for an unforgettable experience.

From the joy of riding on Puffing Billy to the energy on the dance floor with our fantastic DJ, the day was filled with excitement. The kids showed off their moves, got creative in the craft room, took on the challenge of a scavenger hunt, and were delighted by some fabulous dress-up characters and hula hoopers who added extra magic to the day.

A big shout out to our 25 volunteers that made this day possible, and a massive thank you to the incredible team at Puffing Billy Railway for their continued support and for helping us create these wonderful memories. Until next year!



Experience the joy here!



Motoring Events

Variety Rally Around Victoria

1–3 March 2024

The Variety Rally Around Victoria, presented by the ACE Radio Network, was an inspiring journey with a focus on creating meaningful change for children across the state. Participants travelled through beautiful landscapes, stopping to deliver essential grants and connect with local communities.

Among the impactful grants was a \$6,100 stroller for Daisy, a 4-year-old with a rare genetic disorder, enabling her to explore her world with greater freedom, and a \$4,500 Phonek Roger system for Max, a 9-year-old budding author with ASD and ADHD, to enhance his communication and emotional wellbeing. Each stop brought smiles and tangible support to children in need.

Thanks to the generosity of participants, \$163,000 was raised for kids. These funds will help provide resources and opportunities to Victorian children, ensuring every child has the chance to thrive, regardless of their circumstances.



Variety Brats Bash

29 March – 6 April 2024

The 18th Variety Brats Bash was an incredible adventure that raised over \$100,000 to support children in need. Spanning nine days, the journey combined fun and purpose, with participants visiting local towns, iconic destinations, and hidden gems while creating life-changing opportunities for kids.

This year's event exemplified the "kids helping kids" spirit. Families and participants worked together to make a difference, raising funds that will help hundreds of children access the tools, resources, and opportunities they deserve.

The journey wasn't just about fun stops and breathtaking scenery—it was about making a real impact. Each dollar raised will go toward helping children overcome challenges and live their best lives. Huge thanks go to the participants, sponsors, and supporters who made the Variety Brats Bash an overwhelming success.

Variety Victoria Bash

16–24 August 2024

The Variety Bash, powered by Nouns, was a truly extraordinary event, raising an incredible \$1,600,324 to support children facing disadvantage, disability, and illness. Over eight days, 244 participants in 81 themed vehicles travelled from Swan Hill to Airlie Beach, delivering grants and joy to children in regional communities.

The Bash provided essential resources, including bikes, toys, educational supplies, and vital medical equipment. These grants made a tangible difference to children and their families, spreading hope and positivity throughout the journey.

This year's event was more than just a road trip; it was a celebration of generosity, community spirit, and the power to create change. The funds raised will help countless children overcome challenges and achieve their goals. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible—it's proof of what can be accomplished when we come together for a common cause.



Variety 4WD Adventure

The Variety 4WD Adventure took a break in 2024 and will return bigger and better in 2025 with a spectacular route to South Australia exploring the iconic Flinders Ranges!



Check out the adventure here!



Corporate Events

Variety Toyota AFL Grand Final Lunch

The Variety Toyota AFL Grand Final Lunch once again brought footy fans and supporters together to make a real difference in the lives of kids who need it most. For over three decades, this event has been raising vital funds, and this year was no different!

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we reached our goal to grant two Variety Sunshine Coaches—one to Portland Bay School and one to Heywood & District Secondary College! Not only that, but we also raised enough funds to grant a third coach! These coaches will provide vital transport to help children access the education and opportunities they deserve.

A huge congratulations to Changkuoth Jiath, winner of the Tom Hafey Heart of Football Award, for his unwavering dedication and impactful work with children in his local



community, and to Kye Kelly, our Variety Young Sports Achiever, for his incredible success in basketball, overcoming adversity to shine in his sport.

A big shoutout to our amazing supporters: Sheen Panel Service, Magic 1278, Easy Music 3MP, WM Waste Management Services, Crown Melbourne, MRP Wired Solutions, Chadstone Kia, and Tim Adams Wines. Your support truly makes all the difference!

And congratulations to Peter Barnes from Wheelers Hill VIC, our raffle winner, who took home a brand-new Kia Seltos!

Thanks to everyone who joined us for this incredible day. Together, we're changing kids' lives - one Sunshine Coach at a time.

Watch the event highlights!



Variety Women of Melbourne

The Variety Women of Melbourne Lunch was held at the iconic Melbourne Town Hall. A heartfelt thank you to our incredible host, Patrina Jones, for her engaging presence, and to the talented Lisa Barron team for delivering a stunning runway show that captivated the audience.

Guests were inspired by Montana, who shared her story of fundraising and her journey in cutting and donating her hair to Variety's Hair with Heart program. We were also deeply moved by Tiahna, who spoke about how her Variety wig grant has made a meaningful impact on her life. Thank you to these remarkable young women for sharing their stories.

A special thanks to our event partners the City of Melbourne and Lisa Barron and all who supported this event. Your generosity ensures we can continue making a difference for young women like Tiahna who are experiencing hair loss. Together, we're creating brighter futures.



Montana and Tiahna at Variety Women of Melbourne



Fundraising Highlights

Christmas Appeal

We are forever blown away by the generosity of our Variety family, which again brought smiles to countless faces over Christmas. For most of us, Christmas is a time of joy and excitement. But for many children in Victoria, Christmas morning may not bring those moments of joy.

With this in mind, we made it our mission to gift 5,000 toy bags to children across Victoria – and our incredible community delivered, ensuring Victorian kids who are sick, experiencing disadvantage, or living with a disability were able to receive Christmas presents in the lead-up to Christmas via delivery and at our Variety Kids Xmas Party!



Hair With Heart

The Variety Hair with Heart program inspires incredible individuals to donate their hair and set up fundraisers to change the lives of kids in need. The donated hair is turned into wigs for children who've lost theirs due to medical conditions such as cancer or alopecia, while the funds raised help cover the cost of creating the wigs and supporting Variety's other life-changing programs.

This year, we want to highlight the incredible efforts of one of our Hair with Heart fundraisers.

At just 11 years old, Tayla set up a Hair with Heart fundraiser and took the brave leap to chop off her hair for kids in need. Together with her dad, Tayla organised a fantastic fundraising event, making an incredible impact through her generosity and dedication.

Tayla's hair will be used to create a wig for a child experiencing medical hair loss, while the funds she raised will help support Variety's wig grants and other programs for kids living with a disability, illness, or disadvantage. A huge thank you to Tayla and the 574 incredible individuals who donated their hair—your generosity has helped fund 5 wigs for children across Victoria, giving them confidence and comfort when they need it most.

Variety Bikes for Kids Tax Appeal

For over 20 years, the Variety Bikes for Kids program has been giving children the joy and freedom of their very own bike. A bike is more than just a gift—it's a way for kids to experience independence, build confidence, and create lasting memories.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, along with support from MRP Wired Solutions and Anaconda, we've continued this legacy—ensuring kids in need have access to the fun, fitness, and freedom that comes with owning a bike.

Through this year's Variety Bikes for Kids tax appeal and other fundraising efforts, 1,626 kids have been impacted by the program. That's thousands of new adventures, big smiles, and happy memories made possible because of our wonderful supporters.



Crypto Philanthropy

Variety Victoria has embraced cryptocurrency as an innovative way for supporters to help children in need. Through our partnership with The Giving Block, we accept over 100 different cryptocurrencies, including Bitcoin and Ethereum, making it easier than ever for donors to contribute. This program allows us to engage with forward-thinking communities and expand our reach, ensuring we can provide essential support to children facing disability, disadvantage, or illness. Every crypto donation contributes directly to creating opportunities for children to thrive, empowering them to participate more fully in their communities and enjoy brighter futures.

Learn more or donate at fundraise.variety.org.au/donatecrypto.

Trusts & Foundations

Trusts and Foundations have been pivotal in helping us deliver on our mission to support children in need across Victoria. Their generosity, belief and trust in our work have enabled us to create life-changing opportunities during a time of economic uncertainty.

Thanks to their invaluable contributions, we've been able to fund critical programs, provide essential equipment, and launch innovative initiatives like the Variety Future Leaders Program. These efforts have directly impacted thousands of young lives, empowering children to overcome challenges and thrive.

By partnering with us, Trusts and Foundations played a crucial role in meeting the growing demand for support, ensuring that no child is left behind. Their support fosters hope, inclusion, and brighter futures for children and families throughout our community.

To our incredible partners, thank you for making an enduring difference. Together, we're transforming lives and building a stronger, more inclusive future.



We would like to thank and acknowledge the following Trusts and Foundations for their support

Andrews Foundation | Australian Communities Foundation (Dennoch Fund) | Brian M Davis Foundation | Cassandra Gantner Foundation | Count Charitable Foundation | Datt Family Foundation | Australian Philanthropic Services | Equity Trustees Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) | Grahame Mapp Family Foundation | Mazda Foundation | Morris Family Trust | Oracle Health Foundation | Percy Baxter Charitable Trust Inc | Perpetual | Pierce Armstrong Trust | River Birch Foundation | State Trustees Australia Foundation | Many other foundations that contribute anonymously

Thank you to the following corporates who have supported us through their community grants this year

EnergyAustralia | Vicinity Centres



"The Cassandra Gantner Foundation, whose mission is to support children with physical and/or mental disabilities and their families, is delighted to partner with Variety – The Children's Charity, especially when potential recipients of the Foundation's support do not enjoy the tax status that is necessary to receive grants from a Private Ancillary Fund (PAF) such as this. Such partnerships with Variety have enabled the Foundation to support a much wider range of programs and projects than would otherwise be possible. In this way our limited funding can reach a wider number of those with special needs."

- Carrillo Gantner AC, Cassandra Gantner Foundation



The Cassandra Gantner Foundation funded a grant for Yarrabah School for soft play climbing equipment and a sensory bubble tube, enhancing the learning environment for 50 students with complex sensory needs by supporting motor skills, sensory regulation, and engagement in learning.



Thank You

to our **1,044 amazing volunteers** who volunteered an incredible **11,208 hours** and helped us impact **18,270 kids** in Victoria this year.

Awards

Kye Kelly

Variety Young Sports Achiever

Congratulations to Kye Kelly, our 2024 Variety Young Sports Achiever! At just 16, Kye's basketball journey is truly inspiring. Despite family challenges, including helping care for his brother Brodie, who has intellectual and physical disabilities, Kye's dedication and resilience shine.

In September, Kye was named U/18 Club MVP for his creativity, leadership, and team-first mindset. His talent was on full display in the Geelong league semi-final, scoring 34 points with seven 3-pointers in the first half!

Kye dreams of earning a U.S. college scholarship by the end of 2025 to pursue an engineering degree while furthering his basketball career. With his determination and family's support, we know he'll go far.

Congratulations, Kye!

Meet Kye in this video!



Collingwood Football Club premiership player Nick Daicos with the 2024 Tom Hafey Heart of Football award winner Changkuoth Jiath and 2024 Variety Young Sports Achiever Kye Kelly.

Changkuoth Jiath

Tom Hafey Heart of Football Award

Announced at the 2024 Variety Toyota AFL Grand Final Lunch, Changkuoth Jiath, who plays for Hawthorn Football Club, received the Tom Hafey Heart of Football Award, presented by Maureen Hafey OAM.

This award honours the late AFL legend and Variety supporter Tom Hafey, recognising AFL and AFLW players who demonstrate extraordinary dedication and selflessness in improving the lives of children.

Changkuoth's work with Next Gen Unite reflects his deep commitment to the South Sudanese community. Through mentoring and coaching young participants, he has fostered personal growth, unity, and resilience, leaving a lasting impact and inspiring youth through education and sports.

Changkuoth joins a distinguished group of past winners who have left a legacy of dedication to children.

MRP Wired Solutions

Variety International Corporate Award

We were so honoured to present the 2024 Variety International Corporate Award to MRP Wired Solutions, led by Managing Director, Matthew Patterson.

Since 2015, Matt and his team have shown incredible generosity and hands-on support, from bike-builds for our Bikes for Kids program to establishing the Jack Eadon Equestrian Variety Heart Scholarship.

This dedication to helping children in Victoria continues to grow, making a lasting impact on our community. Thank you, MRP Wired Solutions, for your incredible support!



Craig Willis

Variety International Presidential Citation

Congratulations to Craig Willis, recipient of the prestigious Variety International Presidential Citation 2024!

For over 30 years, Craig, known as 'the voice of the AFL', has been a dedicated supporter of Variety - the Children's Charity of Victoria. His leadership in hosting the Variety AFL Grand Final Lunch has raised over \$2 million to support children living with disability, illness, or disadvantage.

Craig's passion for making a difference extends beyond football, and his enduring commitment to our cause is truly inspiring.



Nouns

Variety International Innovation Award

Variety Victoria has been recognised for its pioneering partnership with Nouns DAO, Australia's first large-scale charity initiative funded by a Decentralised Autonomous Organisation (DAO).

In just 12-18 months, this innovative approach has secured two crypto donations totalling ~USD\$180K. These funds supported the 2023 Variety Kids Christmas Party and underwrote grants for regional children through the 2024 Variety Bash.

This partnership showcases how technology and philanthropy can unite, connecting Variety with new supporters and setting a bold precedent for the future of charitable giving.

Partners & Supporters

A heartfelt thank-you to the amazing partners and supporters who have stood by us and supported Variety Victoria and our events throughout the year.

Your generosity makes everything we do possible!

Variety Victoria Partners

Top Hat Partners



Platinum Heart Partners



Gold Heart Partners



Silver Heart Partners



Variety Bikes for Kids Partners



Variety Women of Melbourne Partners

Event Partners



Variety Grand Final Lunch Partners

Platinum Heart Partners



Gold Heart Partners



Silver Heart Partners



Variety Kids Xmas Party Partners

Presenting Partner



Top Hat Partners



Variety Rally Around Victoria Partners

Presenting Partner



Variety Bash Partners

Presenting Partner



Gold Heart Partners



Silver Heart Partners



Bronze Heart Partners



Supporters



Variety Brats Bash Partners

Key Supporter



Supporters





variety
the children's charity



www.variety.org.au/vic