

Variety's Special Needs Program

Since 1978, Variety has been supporting children with special needs and those facing economic hardship. Our mission is to fill the gaps where government, healthcare, and other funding sources fall short. Variety is the only non-profit organization in Manitoba that helps children access evidence-based therapies, provides essential equipment and other critical services at no cost to their families. Our programs are made possible by the generous contributions of private donors and organizations in Manitoba.

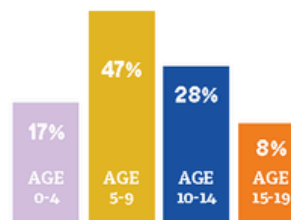
The families we serve are often overwhelmed by the financial burden of their child's care, due to gaps in the public system and a lack of sufficient funding. On average, it costs four to five times more to raise a child with special needs because many essential services are not covered by government programs, healthcare, or private insurance. Variety remains the only non-profit organization in Manitoba helping these children, at no cost to their families.



Number of children that received 6 months or more of consistent services or therapy:

182

Age breakdown of children helped:



Provided Access to Specialized Equipment Including:

- 35** Assistive Technology Devices
- 19** Auditory Devices
- 4** Specialized Strollers
- 2** Specialized Beds
- 1** Accessible Van Modifications

Over the years we've seen a documented increase in the number of children turning to Variety for support. Since 2018, the number of therapy funding requests has increased by an average of 24% annually. This growth reflects the increasing gaps within the system and the rising number of children with disabilities in need of care.

In 2024 Variety made a positive difference in the lives of 281 children and their families through Variety's Special Needs Program Family Grants. This program was able to reach 42 different communities in Manitoba. 21% of approved requests were for children outside of Winnipeg and 79% approved requests assisted children in Winnipeg.

OVERALL PROGRAM



In the first 3 months of our current fiscal year, Variety has already received over 230 applications totaling \$680,000 in requested funding.

This represents 124% of our current budget for the YEAR.

Please consider sponsoring Variety's Special Needs Program at any of the below levels:

Future Sponsor

\$50,000

Helps take 30 Children off our waitlist

Includes:

- Logo recognition on Variety Website
- Name recognition in Variety Annual Report
- Thank you post on Variety social media channels
- Thank you message in Variety e-newsletter
- Receive a Thank You note from Variety child
- Corporate table at Variety's Illumination Ball
- Recognition on signage at Variety's Illumination Ball

Ability Sponsor

\$25,000

Helps take 15 Children off our waitlist

Includes:

- Logo recognition on Variety Website
- Name recognition in Variety Annual Report
- Thank you post on Variety social media channels
- Thank you message in Variety e-newsletter
- Receive a Thank You note from Variety child
- 4 tickets to attend Variety's Illumination Ball
- Recognition on signage at Variety's Illumination Ball

Freedom Sponsor

\$10,000

Helps take 6 Children off our waitlist

Includes:

- Logo recognition on Variety Website
- Name recognition in Variety Annual Report
- Thank you post on Variety social media channels
- Thank you message in Variety e-newsletter
- Receive a Thank You note from Variety child
- Recognition on signage at Variety's Illumination Ball

Care Sponsor

\$5,000

Helps take 3 Children off our waitlist

Includes:

- Logo recognition on Variety Website
- Name recognition in Variety Annual Report
- Thank you post on Variety social media channels
- Thank you message in Variety e-newsletter

Friend of Variety Sponsor

\$2,500

Helps take 2 Children off our waitlist

Includes:

- Logo recognition on Variety Website
- Thank you post on Variety social media channels

Who you will help support..



Chiransh

Age 5; living with Autism

Chiransh lives in Altona with his family. Being in a small town means that it can be hard to access supports and therapies. Chiransh has been seeing an Occupational Therapist to help with emotional and self regulation behaviours. If things don't go his way, he can get aggressive and has many sensory seeking behaviours including running, tapping and mouthing objects. Occupational therapy is helping Chiransh regulate emotions, engagement and communication. Occupational Therapy also helps with fine motor skills as he is dependent on his parents in all aspects of self care (dressing, eating, etc.).

Chiransh's Occupational Therapy costs \$90/hr, recommended 2x week

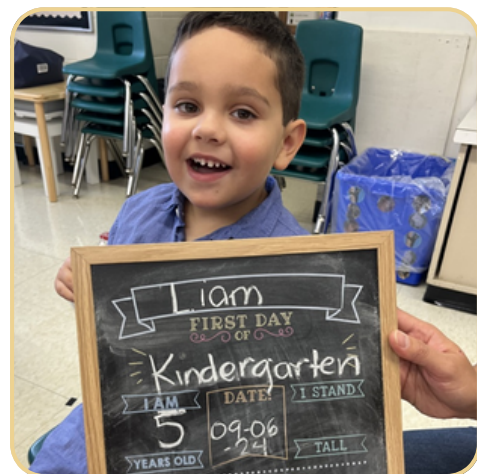


Liam

Age 5; living with Autism

Liam is a bright, curious young boy who loves letters, numbers, colours and shapes. He struggles with communication and currently uses body language, gestures and some words. Liam recently started kindergarten and has already shown improvements with his social and communication skills. Liam has trialled a communication device at school and has shown great ability to navigate the device and have communication occur with questions and conversation that has not been a possibility earlier. The communication device will help Liam build his communication and language abilities as well with his own device he can communicate across all environments.

Liam's communication device costs \$675



Sophie

Age 12; living with Autism

Sophie received a late diagnosis of Autism after mom noticed her struggles when schools closed over COVID. Mom is a single mom and went looking for supports and groups in effort to support her daughter, after a long journey they found a doctor that was able to give Sophie a diagnosis and allow for specific supports to be put in place. Sophie has always struggled with negative self talk and voiced from a young age how she felt different. As she has grown and school classes have gotten tougher, Sophie is looking for Autism specific tutoring support to help her confidence and growth in the classroom.

Sophie's Autism specific tutoring costs \$500/month



We work with referral partners throughout Manitoba including other non-profit organizations, school divisions, healthcare providers and specialists such as audiologists and speech and language pathologists to help children living with special needs.

Due to the significant increase in the number of families seeking assistance through Variety's Special Needs Program, Variety is relying on dedicated community partners to continue to help support Variety's kids. Please consider supporting Variety's kids.



Variety, the Children's Charity of Manitoba

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