



“My Bike” Program Overview:

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.

What is Variety’s “My Bike” Program?

- 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.

When did it begin?

- Variety’s “My Bike” Program kicked off in Western Pennsylvania on November 5, 2012. Since that kickoff, more than 1,000 adaptive bikes have been sponsored for kids with disabilities.

Who is eligible for an adaptive bike?

- Variety’s “My Bike” Program serves children and youth who have a documented disability; reside in Variety’s 50 county service area; are between 4 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 includes: 2 household members (below \$64,080); 3 household members (below \$80,640); 4 household members (below \$97,200); 5 household members (below \$113,760); 6 household members (below \$130,320); 7 household members (below \$146,920); 8 household members (below \$163,560).
- Service Area: Variety serves **40 counties in Pennsylvania**: Adams, Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Crawford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Northumberland, Perry, Potter, Somerset, Snyder, Venango, Warren, Washington, and Westmoreland, and York; and **10 West Virginia counties**: Barbour, Doddridge, Harrison, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Preston, Taylor, and Wetzel.

How does someone apply for Variety’s “My Bike” Program?

- An application can be obtained through Variety’s website www.varietypittsburgh.org/MyBikeProgram.asp, or by calling the Variety office at 724-933-0460.

What have these adaptive bikes meant to the children?

- For a child with a disability who struggles to skip, run, and even walk, an adaptive bicycle can be life changing - to **no longer be left out or left behind**. “When I got on my bike for the first time, I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, this is so amazing’.” – Isiah, a bike recipient.

What have these adaptive bikes meant to the parents?

- The bikes enable children with disabilities to ride with their siblings, as well as their parents, and have allowed the whole family to have fun together (as we have heard repeatedly from parents). “I’m not sure that I’ll ever get used to the surge of joy that I feel when James is on his bike.” - Mary, mother of James.

How much does it cost to sponsor one adaptive bike & how can someone donate?

- The cost to sponsor one adaptive bike is \$1,800. **Donations for Variety’s “My Bike” Program can also be designated to a specific county to impact children in your own community**. Donations can be given online, or through U.S. Mail with a check being made out to “Variety” and designated to “My Bike” (please note the county on your donation if applicable).

VARIETY IS SEEKING TO IDENTIFY ELIGIBLE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES FOR ITS "MY BIKE" PROGRAM.

PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD TODAY, SO THAT NO ELIGIBLE CHILD MISSES OUT ON A BIKE.

"Changing the lives of children with disabilities... one bike, one child, one family at a time."



Stephane is pictured above with her mom during the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on her adaptive bike.

"I've always dreamed of riding bikes with my best friends (Jillian and Sophia) and it means the absolute world to me, and I can't describe how good I feel when I get on my bike riding."

-Stephane, adaptive bike recipient





GRANTS

To find out if you qualify to receive help from Variety - The Children's Charity, please find your local chapter and contact the chapter directly.

If you look through the list and do not have a Variety chapter in your area, please e-mail Erica Lopez at erica@usvariety.org with the subject "Variety Grant Inquiry" and include:

- Your first and last name
- Child's first and last name
 - Child's age
 - Child's diagnosis
- City and State in which child lives
- Equipment, product, or service for which you are requesting funding and estimated cost
- Annual household income

CONTACT