“My Voice” 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 and not be left out, left behind, or excluded.

What is Variety’s “My Voice” Program?
• Variety’s “My Voice” Program provides a communication device (currently an iPad with a prescribed communication app) to eligible children with a communication disorder to give them a voice at all times – enabling kids to express their thoughts, feelings, wants, and needs.

When did it begin?
• Variety’s “My Voice” Program was officially unveiled in Pennsylvania on November 14, 2014.

Who is eligible for a communication device?
• Variety’s “My Voice” Program serves children and youth who have a documented communication disorder; reside in Variety’s 54 county service area in Pennsylvania and West Virginia; are 4 through 21 years of age; and can meet the eligibility guidelines outlined in the application.

• Income Guidelines: An applicant’s household income must meet the program’s income guidelines that include:
  - 2 household members (below $81,200);
  - 3 household members (below $102,100);
  - 4 household members (below $123,000);
  - 5 household members (below $143,900);
  - 6 household members (below $164,800);
  - 7 household members (below $185,700);
  - 8 household members (below $206,600).

  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.

• Variety serves the following 42 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, Mifflin, Northumberland, Perry, Potter, Snyder, Somerset, Union, Venango, Warren, Washington, and Westmoreland, and York; and 12 counties in West Virginia: Barbour, Brooke, Doddridge, Hancock, Harrison, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Preston, Taylor, and Wetzel.

• Please note – a letter of medical justification must be written by a Speech Language Pathologist (see application for more details).

How does someone apply for Variety’s “My Voice” Program?
• An application can be obtained through Variety’s website www.varietypittsburgh.org/my-voice/overview, or by calling the Variety Office at 724-933-0460.

What has a communication meant to Variety families so far?
• Before receiving his device, Jennifer, mother of Cooper shared how the communication device would impact their entire family,

  "As his mother it breaks my heart that he may need something, and I just don’t know what it is, or maybe he’s not feeling well, but I can’t see a tummy ache or headache. We feel that this communication device will help bridge that gap and enrich Cooper’s, as well as our family life."

How can someone donate to Variety’s “My Voice” Program?
• Donations can be given online, or through U.S. Mail with a check being made out to “Variety – the Children’s Charity” and designated to “My Voice”. The cost to sponsor one communication device (i.e. an iPad with a prescribed communication app) is $1,200.

Revised 11/16/2017
VARIETY IS SEEKING TO IDENTIFY ELIGIBLE CHILDREN WITH A COMMUNICATION DISORDER FOR ITS “MY VOICE” PROGRAM.

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

“Giving children a voice at all times.”

Dylan is pictured above holding his new communication device (left) and a photo of his communication app, Proloquo2go (right).

"Thank you again for all that you're doing for the students here in our building. They are interacting with peers / staff, demonstrating progress towards academics, and their personality is shining! Specifically, Dylan, who just received his iPad, is our student of the month for using the device purposefully, showing responsibility, and peer tutoring another student with the same iPad / communication app."

-Sharon, Dylan’s speech language pathologist