

Wai-Yee's Story

Bonnie and Brian adopted Wai-Yee, who has Down syndrome, from China when she was 10 years old. At that time, she was the same size as the Letton's five-year-old daughter, Grace. Over the next six years, Bonnie and Brian added three more children to their family. Interested in having an activity they could all do together, Bonnie applied to Variety for a side-by-side recumbent bike. Although Wai-Yee is non-verbal, it's obvious how much she enjoys her special bike.



International Variety's Legacy of Caring

Beginning with an infant baby left on the doorsteps of a movie theatre in 1928 and the group of theatre men who vowed to take care of her, Variety has been known as the "Heart of Show Business." For the last eight decades, the organization has continued to consist of local business men and women, many of whom hail from the theatre and movie business, reaching out to children in need.

The organization has grown into the largest and most effective children's charity in the world, raising more than \$1 billion to assist in the treatment and care for disabled, underprivileged and disadvantaged children. Each chapter operates independently in meeting the needs of children in crisis in their respective region.



**For more information about the
Illinois chapter, please visit:
www.varietyofillinois.org
call: 312-822-0660 or
email: info@varietyofillinois.org.**





Variety the Children's Charity believes every child deserves access to lead a full, active life. Through an array of programs and fundraising endeavors, Variety of Illinois helps to give children with disabilities the freedom and independence to live life and fulfill their roles in society.

Variety's Mission

Variety the Children's Charity is dedicated to promoting and protecting the health and wellbeing of children. Through a network of 54 chapters in 14 countries, Variety reaches into communities across the globe to offer financial assistance and services to children and organizations that serve children with disabilities.

Through hard work, thoughtful stewardship and single-minded focus on the needs of the young, Variety strives to make a lasting difference in the lives of children, their families, our communities and the world...one need at a time.

Variety of Illinois receives no government funding.



Variety "Kids on the Go" Sports Mobility Program

Some of life's earliest memorable experiences involve playing sports. Many children with disabilities cannot relish their own sports experiences because insufficient mobility equipment keeps them sidelined.

With the advent of many new sports-mobility technologies, access is becoming available to more and more children. Variety's goal is to see that they get it. The Mobility Program is part of a national Variety effort to provide support for children and their families in the form of durable medical equipment that they cannot afford or are denied by their health insurance. By helping kids with disabilities gain the proper mobility, Variety gives them the opportunity to be active on and off the field.

Our dedicated volunteers and generous contributors and sponsors make these life-enhancing opportunities possible for children in need.

Young Variety

Have you been looking for an opportunity to meet others, and have a blast while giving back?

Young Variety offers the chance for professionals in their 20s and 30s, to meet one another while fulfilling Variety's mission to give children with disabilities greater access to lead a full and active life.

Young Variety is dedicated to extending the impact of Variety as a whole. Its members are committed to sharing their spirit, talent, and expertise, as well as encouraging the ongoing involvement of other young professionals.

Through fundraisers, holiday parties, our Variety at Play program, and other volunteer opportunities, Young Variety members contribute much needed time and money to improve the lives of Illinois children with disabilities. Aware of how precious their own freedom and independence is, this group works toward providing the same for disabled children.

For more information about how you can get involved, please contact our Young Variety Chair, Janna Penhale at volunteer@varietyofillinois.org.

Variety at Play

This program introduces disadvantaged children and youth to what happens behind-the-scenes at movie theaters and live performances. The Variety theater-tour program exposes them to everything from how to make cotton candy and popcorn, to how to operate the projection booth.

variety
the children's charity