

## “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 and not be left out, left behind, or excluded.

### 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 1,200 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 54 county service area; are 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 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.*
- Service Area: Variety serves **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 West Virginia counties**: Barbour, Brooke, Doddridge, Hancock, 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/my-bike/overview](http://www.varietypittsburgh.org/my-bike/overview), 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?

- “After his first ride on the bike, **it made my heart smile to watch Gage accomplish another milestone.** This program is important to so many families who are less fortunate, have mentally, medically, or physically challenges loved ones. **‘My Bike’ is making a difference in this world, one children and family at a time...** giving hope, building confidence, encouraging independence, and providing self-esteem because of your generosity.”  
-Tracy, mother of Gage

### 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.”***



**“Aubrey has tried a typical bike and it is just really difficult for her, even with training wheels, but not with this bike. Aubrey really enjoys being outside, active and doing things other kids do. **She’s able to ride this bike and it helps her to feel independent and increase her self-confidence.** We would go to Ohio Pyle as a family with her older sisters being able to ride their bikes. In the past, Aubrey has had to stay behind, but now she is included!”**

*-Angela, mother of Aubrey*

*During the Labor Day Parade in Pittsburgh, Aubrey is pictured left all smile on her adaptive bike beside her mom, Angela and dad, Steven.*



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[www.varietypittsburgh.org](http://www.varietypittsburgh.org)