



Variety - the Children's Charity of Queensland is dedicated to empowering the lives of Queensland kids who are sick, disadvantaged or who have special needs to **LIVE, LAUGH and LEARN!**

In 2012, Variety was able to have a positive effect on the lives of over 55,000 Queensland children in need, providing equipment and services with a value in excess of \$2.8 million.





## Nicholas' story

Two year old Nicholas was left with severe development delay, epilepsy, vision impairment and Cerebral Palsy after a seizure at 3 months, which resulted in 25 hospital admissions and up to ten seizures per day in his first year of life. Nicholas has been seizure free since November 2011, however his condition has left him unable to walk and talk which requires 24 hour care by both his loving and dedicated parents.

Nicholas is showing signs of improvement and progress, through the ability to display minimal interactions and controlled movements. "These might be very small steps to most people, but significant to Nicholas as he was not given a great prognosis from his doctors," said Nicholas' mother Beata Valinoti. The proceeds raised at the Brookwater Ball on the 14th April 2012, by the dedicated and generous supporters of Variety Queensland contributed to the funding of a specialised seating system for Nicholas, which will assist with his daily activities such as eating, sitting and playing with his friends and family.

It will also allow for the development of Nicholas' core strength, increased sitting endurance and also the ability for him to improve his upper limb muscle function and coordination.

"I was so overwhelmed by the generosity and support of everyone. We are so grateful for all the help that Variety, Brookwater and the wider community have given Nicholas. I am in disbelief – Nicholas is a very lucky boy!"

About 7,000\* Queenslanders are diagnosed with incurable Cerebral Palsy annually. In any year, Cerebral Palsy is more common than cancer, strokes and appendicitis. Nicholas' condition has dramatically affected the way he moves, communicates, learns and interacts with his family, and friends.

"He puts life into perspective for me and reminds me of what matters most every day. Never underestimate the power you have to be able to change someone else's life," said Mrs Valinoti.

\* Statistic from the Cerebral Palsy League

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## Front cover:

Red Hill Special School student benefiting from equipment and services provided by Variety's core programs

## Staff

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# Our Programs

In 2012, Variety – the Children's Charity of Queensland funded 97 grants totalling \$2,856,709.28 through our focused programs.

Generous donations allowed us to empower children and the organisations that support them through the provision of equipment, services and experiences allowing the children the opportunity to focus on their abilities, personal growth and development.



## Helping children with special needs engage in community life

The Variety Freedom Program is the gift of independence, mobility, self-esteem and access to varied environments. Variety grants wheelchairs, walkers, standers, modified bikes, postural splints, orthotics, hoists and positioning systems, 12 & 24 seat Sunshine Coaches and Liberty Swings.



## Helping families care for seriously ill children

The Variety Caring for Kids Program supports community health services, organisations including hospitals and specialised medical services.

Under this program Variety grants life changing equipment such as neonatal monitoring units, portable oxygen monitors, resuscitation trolleys, hospital beds and nebulisers.



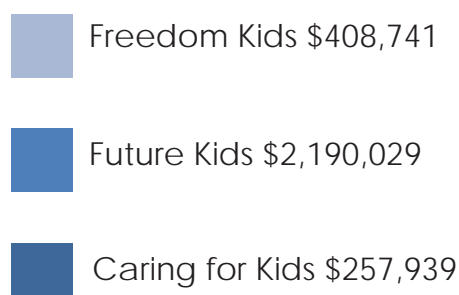
## Helping children to achieve their potential regardless of situation or ability

The Variety Future Program grants assistive technologies providing enhanced opportunities to communication, education and inclusion.

Advances in assistive technology are reshaping the very concept of learning and offer flexibility to children with special needs. Variety provides equipment and services such as communication aides, iPads, specialised software, braille machines as well as camps, outings and experiences.



## How the money was spent





# How We Help

Variety - the Children's Charity is dedicated to promoting and protecting the health and well-being of children around the world. Through our network of 43 offices in 13 countries, Variety reaches into communities across the globe to offer assistance and services to children and the organisations that serve them.

Variety recognises the huge demands, both emotional and financial, that caring for a child who is sick or has special needs can make. We can't remove that burden but we do make life easier for families in difficulty by providing vital equipment to enable communication, independence, mobility, self-esteem and confidence.

Unlike most organisations who focus on a single problem or narrow area, Variety grants essential equipment to families and to organisations that cater to children that may experience disadvantage, either financial or by distance, or living with one, or multiple, physical and intellectual conditions.

Variety works directly with families, medical teams, health advisors and community organisations to make sure the right equipment goes where it will make the greatest difference.

Appeal submissions for equipment and services are reviewed by an independent appeals committee which includes a medical practitioner. Recommendations from the committee are then made to the board ensuring the very best result for the child and family. Variety does not grant cash and is always involved in purchasing and tracking the granted equipment. Notably, Variety strives to minimise overheads and ensure maximum return, giving confidence each donation will reach Australian children in need.

Money raised from your generous donation, regular or workplace giving donation, your attendance or participation in a Variety event or activity will go directly towards continuing Variety's vital work. Variety welcomes applications from both organisations and individuals. Application forms and the Variety funding guidelines can be located on our website [www.variety.org.au/qld](http://www.variety.org.au/qld)

The need for equipment and services keeps growing but with the support of our sponsors, volunteers, event participants and fundraisers, we continue to work tirelessly to help children in need. Through Variety, people from all walks of life can experience the joy and satisfaction of helping Queensland children with a range of critical needs







## Children's Experiences

Swinging through the air is a sensation most of us have taken for granted throughout our childhood. Thanks to many generous sponsors, children with physical impairments or in wheelchairs from Clifford Park Special School now have the opportunity to create these same happy playground memories with their peers and friends.

Clifford Park Special School students have complex special needs with many students physically / intellectually impaired with some requiring the use of wheelchairs. The thrill and excitement these students now experience by having their very own Liberty Swing on school grounds is immeasurable.

Funding for the Liberty Swing was supported by a host of local businesses and generous sponsors including Gloria Jeans and Acceptance Finance. The addition of the Liberty Swing to Clifford Park Special School, in July 2012, will ensure all children can enjoy the playground facilities, regardless of their abilities or disabilities.



# Summary of Financial Information

## Summary of Financial Information

Year Ended 30 September 2012

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
<b>Fund Raising Gross Revenue</b>		
<b>Fund Raising Events Total Revenue</b>	<u>\$2,611,243</u>	<u>\$2,783,252</u>
<b>Other Revenue and Contributions</b>		
Donations/Grants	2,801,560	2,796,031
Wills/Legacies/Bequests		
Interest/Income on Investments	7,708	6,325
Other Income		
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<u>\$2,809,268</u>	<u>\$2,802,356</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u>\$5,420,511</u>	<u>\$5,585,608</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Fund Raising Events Total Expenses</b>	<u>\$857,664</u>	<u>\$1,168,185</u>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Fund Raising Overheads	1,208,748	1,379,268
Administration Overheads	389,453	435,172
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<u>\$1,598,201</u>	<u>\$1,814,440</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>\$2,455,865</u>	<u>\$2,982,625</u>
<b>NET Funds Raised (Available for Distribution)</b>	<u>\$2,964,646</u>	<u>\$2,602,983</u>
<b>Total Charitable Grants</b>	<u>\$2,856,762</u>	<u>\$2,710,268</u>



## Angelina's Story

At 15 months, Angelina Berwick-Tallis was diagnosed with Leigh's disease, a progressive genetic metabolic disorder similar to Cerebral Palsy, which affects her movements. Unable to sit, stand or walk independently, she was confined to a wheelchair, until recently when Variety in association with Moorooka Lions Club helped fund a standing frame for the youngster.

Her mother, Tanya explains, "Due to her condition Angelina spends most of her time sitting down, before we got the stander she would only spend 10 minutes a day on her feet at the most and I would have to physically hold her up. Her doctors thought it was imperative that we got a standing frame as due to the large amount of time spent sitting down it was causing issues for her back, as well as impeding the muscle development and growth in her legs. Since Variety funded the standing frame Angelina is spending at least two hours a day on her feet which is also beneficial in assisting with her muscle, circulatory system, spine and organ development."

Photo courtesy of The Sunday Mail



# Message from the CEO



The economic landscape has been consistently depressed for some years now and certainly there was no obvious change in the 2011/12 year that we are reflecting on in this report.

Charities continue to experience the combination of individuals looking to save their hard earned income and corporate supporters reluctant to increase their marketing and entertainment expenditure on discretionary functions and events.

As mentioned in previous years, these tough economic times have the effect of pushing up the number of appeals received with a significant number coming as a result of one or more of a child's parents/carers being out of work or generally being affected by the economic downturn. On the other hand, our fundraising efforts are hampered with many charity dollars being halved or in many cases just not available. In this environment, I sincerely congratulate our staff and all our event participants and supporters who have worked long and hard to get us the result that we achieved.

Our success in granting an impressive \$2.86m (up 5% on 2011) for Queensland's needy kids is a very satisfying result and in many ways we are well prepared for the future growth of Variety when the economy improves. We estimate that Variety Queensland continues to have a positive effect on the lives of over 55,000 children each year through our three programs: Variety Freedom program; Variety Future Kids program and Variety Caring for Kids program.

During 2011/12 we again ran a vast number of events and functions including the Bash, 4WD, Brat's Bash, Ride for Kids, RV Adventure, Jet Trek, Variety of Chefs Ball, Santa Fun Run, Gladstone Ball, Old Bags Lunches, Young Variety functions, Variety Friday, Melbourne Cup functions, Golf Days and many, many more including third party events. To all our sponsors, supporters, volunteers and participants, we owe you all a great deal of thanks and with your on-going assistance we can continue to provide much needed equipment and services to that ever growing number of children in need across our State.

Adding to the list of tried and proven events and functions, we have and will continue to look for other sources of fundraising including workplace giving and donations, regular donor appeals and other initiatives that will broaden our revenue streams. Our emphasis next year will be on cash donations which have no pre-approved grant attached.

During the year we also joined with the other Australian offices in national fundraising partnerships. Nationally, we negotiated relationships with Nurofen, Gloria Jean's Coffee Houses, Kmart, Vodafone, Westpac, Charter Hall, Knight's Roses and a number of others are in progress. The brand of Variety is getting out into the marketplace and we are confident that more fundraising partnerships will be developed in the months and years to come.

Our website is functioning well and the look and feel continues to be tweaked to improve its 'user friendliness'. I would encourage all members to visit it at [www.varietyqld.org.au](http://www.varietyqld.org.au) and navigate your way around this tool. As mentioned in past years, we have also embraced the social media explosion and we are on Facebook, Twitter and You Tube to aid us in our communication with the world! In addition and again with all Variety Australia Offices, our Customer Relationship Management ("CRM") system is working well and this has added greatly to our ability to interact and communicate with our supporters in a more meaningful way and attract more funds for the special kids.

# Message from the CEO

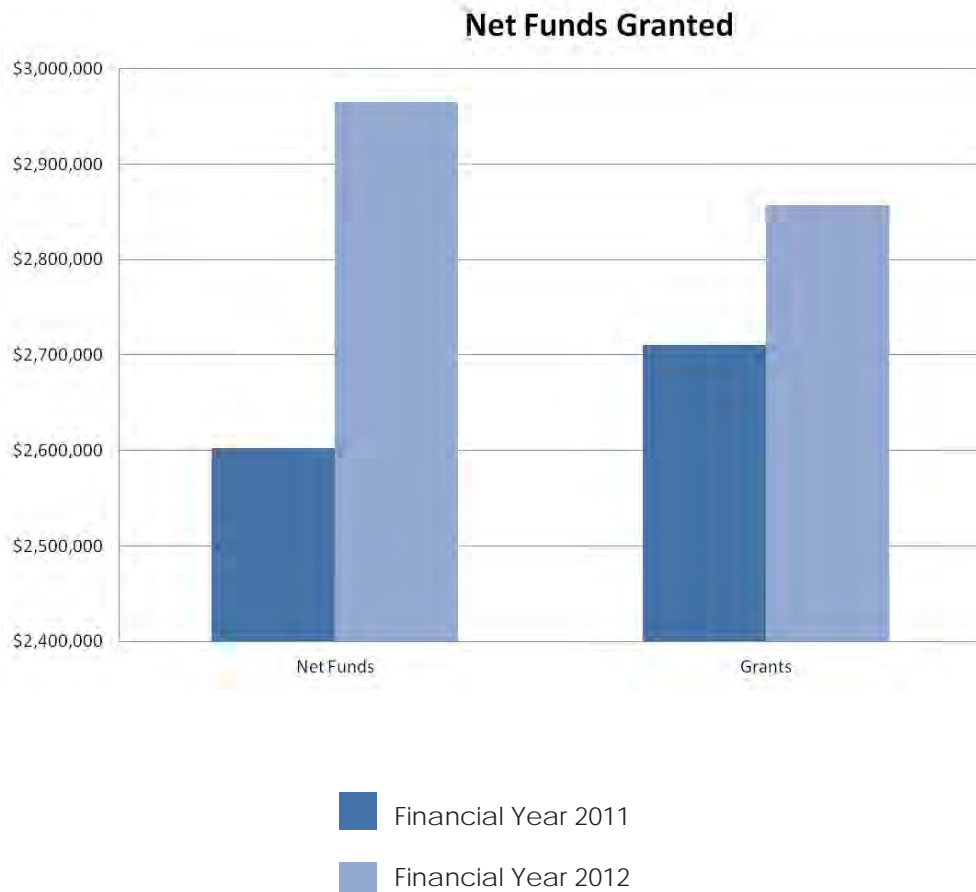
As is always the case with a successful organization, none of these plans could be put into practice without committed and dedicated Board and staff. Variety Queensland is fortunate in attracting a group of people who are both caring and professional individuals who work together as a team to maximize our assistance for the kids.

My thanks to the Board for their support and vision shown during 2012 and I'm confident we will continue to improve on our results in 2013.

The Variety staff, individually and collectively are an absolute pleasure to work with and they have contributed many, many long hours to make this charity the force that it is in raising funds for special kids. There is an amazing sense of positivity (mixed with a great deal of fun) within this group and I cannot thank them enough for their dedication and achievements.

The year ahead will be a challenge but there are signs that some of our motoring events will reach new heights and the work being done by our regional development office in Gladstone is magnificent, particularly the construction of our Charity House which will be auctioned in February 2013.

Members can be proud that Variety Queensland, your charity, is empowering Queensland children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs to live, laugh and learn!





# Get Involved

All children are special but spare a thought for those less fortunate, those who live with special needs, disadvantage or illness. These are the special children Variety - the Children's Charity helps every day.

There is nothing better than seeing the absolute joy on a child's face when they are presented with their much needed equipment. We rely on the kindness and generosity of the community to make this possible.

By raising funds for Variety you will be transforming the life of a Queensland child.

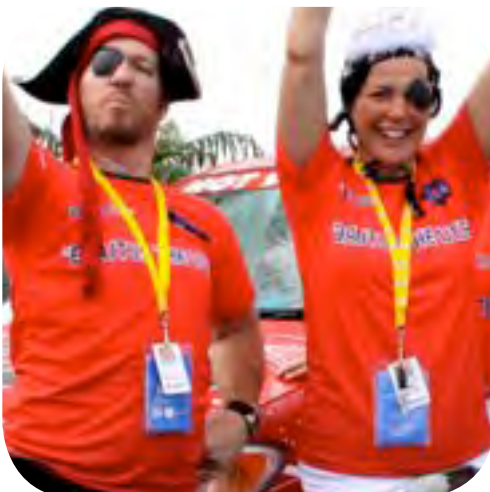
Its easy to get involved, just contact us at the Variety Queensland office - phone 07 3907 9300 Email [info@varietyqld.org.au](mailto:info@varietyqld.org.au). Below is a snapshot of how to get involved:



## Volunteer

Volunteering is the heart of Variety. By donating your time, you can see firsthand the squeals, laughs, giggles and excitement of the special children that Variety helps.

Give a few hours of your own time or gather an army of your workmates together to help — it will help make all the difference.



## Fundraise

Fundraising for Variety can be a fun and rewarding experience with a range of support levels from which to choose.

Whether it be simply making a one-off donation, to taking up the challenge to participate in one of Variety's famous motoring events or treks, your support will help transform the life of a child.

# Get Involved



## Donate

When you give to Variety, you give directly to children in need in the Queensland community.

Your money buys practical and tangible assistance including wheelchairs, walking frames, communication devices, hospital beds, nebulisers and much more. All donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible.



## Corporates

Variety - the Children's Charity offers a wide range of opportunities for businesses to get involved, ranging from individual giving programs through to multi-faceted corporate partnerships.

To learn more about some of the ways your company can work together with Variety to deliver great outcomes for your business and children in need, contact our office today.



## Young Variety

Young Variety (YV) is a group of like minded 18-35 year olds with a flair for hosting fresh and exciting events in and around Brisbane.

YV is your ticket to having a good time and making a difference in the Queensland community.



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