



Variety - the Children's Charity of Jersey

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PATRONS:

His Excellency Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton
Lady Dalton

Variety at Work Annual Report for year ended 30th September 2017

Variety – the Children's Charity Jersey is part of a worldwide organisation which is non-sectarian and which raises money to improve the quality of life for all children irrespective of race, colour or creed. All the money we raise in Jersey remains in the Island and is used directly for the benefit of special needs and disabled children in Jersey. Our aim is to try to ensure that as far as possible all children have the same advantages as their peers.

Almost on a daily basis requests come in from Schools, Health Visitors, Social Workers, The Bridge, Occupational Therapists and any other agencies who have direct dealings with children and their families. All of the requests are mostly for single parent families and without exception are low income families who struggle financially. As many of the requests come with a covering note or letter we are aware that more often than not there are other social and emotional problems, including health problems within the family.

These requests are for help with food, uniforms, shoes, baby equipment and other basic day to day needs. Over the year we have provided five car seats, four highchairs, six buggies including a double buggy and a larger specialized buggy for a disabled boy. We have provided cots and children's beds, including mattresses and bedding. For the home we have supplied four washing machines and two cookers. At the request of a Health Visitor we supplied carpets for a children's room and carpet cleaning again in the children's bedroom.

We have bought spectacles for 3 young children and we have paid for music therapy for a second year running for a severely disabled girl. We are also paying for gym therapy for a young child who has problems with her balance after surgery for a brain tumour. We also bought a natural hair wig for a young teenager who has alopecia. We have helped with child care fees when the caring single parent was in hospital.

During the year we paid for school trips to France to enable 18 children to join their class. Sadly, for some children this will be the only opportunity for them to experience travel during their childhood so this expense is very worthwhile. We were very pleased to be able to help to pay towards a young Girl Guide who had been selected to represent Jersey on a Guiding trip to Kuala Lumpur. We bought wheelie suitcases and backpacks for the Special Gym Club to use when travelling to take part in competitions.

At the end of this financial year the total of these requests were 357 families with 732 children amounting to £50,333.70. This represents an increase from last year of 43% in the number of children needing our help.

Thanks to Colin Macleod who donated some of the proceeds of his book to Variety we were able to provide a special rest/learning station for Mont a L'Abbe School along with a specialized trike for a

disabled girl. Variety also bought a specialized trike for another disabled girl. It was such a pleasure to see the happiness on the faces of these two delightful little girls. These trikes will help them to build their muscle strength as well as providing the pleasure of riding a bike.

In July we held the 'I Served the Kids Party' for 74 children, siblings and parents thanks to a very generous donation from The Jersey Mutual Insurance Society Ltd. We also had a Christmas Party for 80 children and their families, this again very kindly donated by Chief Barker, Robyn Lapidus. Thanks to Manager, James Cole of the Battle of Flowers Funfair, who arranged for 2 hours exclusive use of the Funfair, 86 children came along and had a great time. We provided a light lunch of hot dog/hamburger and a much needed drink as it was a lovely hot day.

Variety is contributing £30,000.00 towards the refurbishment of Oakwell which provides essential respite care for severely disabled children.

Whilst we are pleased with what we have achieved over the last year, we cannot rest on our laurels. We must make and take every opportunity we can to raise further funds. It would seem that without any doubt our 'one to one' help with families will be needed more and more. We are undoubtedly fulfilling a desperate need and most of all, in my view, we must make every effort to continue to ensure that every child, despite their home circumstances, has the required uniform and shoes for school for their own confidence and self esteem.

Throughout each year the Barkers (Members) and Ladies of Variety hold monthly lunches with raffles. Annually we sell Gold Hearts in schools supermarkets and other outlets. We have an Annual Ball, Table Top Sales, an Islandwide Grand Draw, themed dinners and other fund raising events. Companies, members, their friends and families make donations without which we could not meet the many demands on our funds. We must make every effort to encourage new members and urge support for all our Fundraising events or simply request a donation. This can be done by contacting **Variety – the Children's Charity – Tel: 856937** or by using the website **www.varietyjersey.org.je**

May I take this opportunity of thanking all the Barkers and Ladies of Variety for entrusting me with Variety at Work. I regard this role as a huge privilege and wish to thank everyone for their support.

Jeanette Pinel
Variety at Work