



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

(1st October 2021 - 30th September 2022)

The Heart Of Variety (Ireland) CLG
T/A Variety – the Children's Charity Of Ireland (Tent 41)
Company Registration Number: 25393 - Registered Charity Number: 20009069
Revenue Charity Number: CHY5739



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A Word From Our CEO, Derek O'Neill

What another great year for Variety Ireland with so many positive developments and so many children and families helped. We survived the worst of the COVID pandemic and fought off any challenges that situation had forced on us.

Our programmes continued to grow and do as intended – help children in Ireland from all backgrounds and from all across the disability spectrum. Our Recycle Mobility Programme in particular had huge effect on so many children throughout the country. It's just so heartwarming to see the beneficial impact that something as simple as a trike can have on a child and their family's lives.

The Recycle Mobility Impact Report that was carried out by Dr Jolanta Burke of RCSI, University of Medicine and Health Sciences proved what we always knew – these trikes can help a child both mentally and physically. In her report, Dr Burke reported that inclusion of cycling for children with disabilities can in fact improve the mental and physical wellbeing

of children and other families members by up to 87.5%. Just think of that! Something that we all take for granted like cycling, and something as simple as a trike, can have such a huge influence and positive change on not just a child, but also their family!

We were delighted to be able to bring this Impact Report all the way to Leinster House, where we could showcase and explain all the benefits this programme has had to members of the Oireachtas.

Other programmes like our Heart of Learning continued to flourish and we helped deliver iPads to every National School in Galway. Then in early 2022 we saw the need to help schools and their newly arrived Ukrainian students with their educational needs.

We are looking forward to 2023 and hope our programmes can help even more children than ever before!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek O'Neill', written in a cursive style.

About Variety Ireland

Variety - the Children's Charity of Ireland (Variety Ireland) is part of Variety International, a global charity network, providing millions of children around the world with a better future. Variety delivers children equity, independence, social inclusion, mobility and self esteem by funding and delivering equipment and services for core programmes.

Variety Ireland's core programmes focus on mobility and equal access to education, which we endeavour to provide in the most sustainable way possible.

We have been helping children up to the age of 18, all across Ireland since 1951.

Who We Are

Variety – the Children's Charity of Ireland does not have any paid board members. It is run by a dedicated team of professional volunteers who donate all their time and services for free to oversee the day to day running of the charity. This ensures that all funds raised through donations and fundraising initiatives go directly to help children across the island of Ireland who rely on our help.

Our Values

Here at Variety Ireland we hold the same core values as outlined by Variety International.

Transformation: We strive to transform the lives of the children we serve. We strive to raise awareness and interest in what we do through education and influence.

Respect: We respect all people, cultures, and governing systems.

Inclusivity: We work to impact and improve children's access to everyday living, working professionally and collaboratively with our donors and supporters.

Compassion: Everything is driven by the desire to help children. It is at the centre of everything we do.

Transparency: Our leadership strives to clearly and effectively communicate with donors, supporters and the communities we serve.



Our Mission Statement

The main object for which the Charity is established is to benefit the community by providing direct help to children and young people throughout the 32 counties of Ireland up to their 19th birthday who are living with illness, disability or financial disadvantage.

The Charity will step in where statutory healthcare, support and funding ends to ensure that children have the support they need to reach their potential and thrive, regardless of their health, mobility, abilities and economic background.



2022

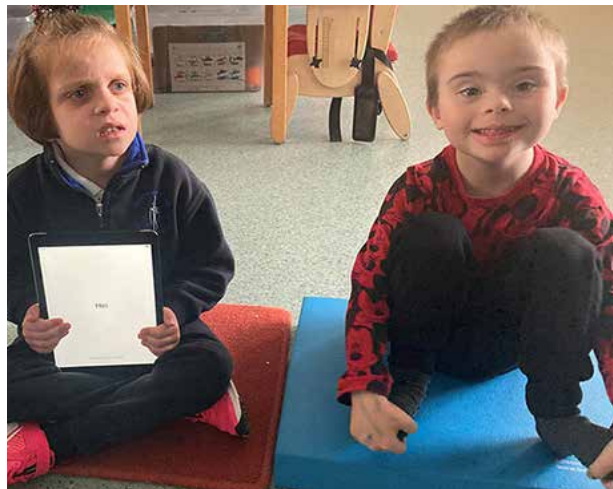
A Year in Review

Heart of Learning

Our Heart of Learning Programme provides upcycled iPads to schools and individuals all across Ireland, who may need that little bit of extra help with their education, either in the classroom or remotely.

We are passionate about helping children who require additional support with learning, so hope that by providing iPads, we can help in some small way to make learning more accessible to some.

Variety Ireland recognise the need to try and do whatever we can to be more sustainable and by supplying upcycled iPads, we can do just that. By using these upcycled iPads instead of brand new ones, we can limit the amount of carbon produced through manufacturing and international shipping.



During the year, we helped many educational facilities by providing iPads to help children with learning difficulties. Then in early 2022 we saw a new need from many schools throughout Ireland, with the arrival of new students from Ukraine. iPads are the ideal educational tool to help many children, as not only do with school work, but also as a translation and communication aid.



Read More: [iPads for Special Schools](#)

Read More: [Educational Aids for Ukrainian Students](#)

iPads for Schools Project

Our iPads for Schools project continued to have an impact and in October 2021 we were delighted to deliver an upcycled iPad to every National School in County Galway, all thanks to generous help of The Comer International Group.

Variety – the Children’s Charity of Ireland’s “Heart of Learning Programme” sees 244 upcycled iPads delivered to every single National School in Co. Galway over the coming weeks. These iPads will be given to Special Needs Assistants within each school, for teaching children who require a little more extra help with their learning.

Variety Ireland ambassador, Miss Ireland Pamela Uba, was there to help present iPads to St. Joseph’s National School in Glenamaddy and Scoil Naisiunta Gort Na Leime.



Read More: [iPads for Galway Schools](#)

Equal Access to Education

In 2021, Variety Ireland teamed up with ESB Energy for Generations Fund and our charity ambassador, Pamela Uba, for an initiative to provide iPads to children living in direct provision across the West of Ireland. Variety Ireland's "Equal Educational Access for Immigrants" programme, which was co-funded by ESB Energy for Generations Fund, saw Pamela Uba deliver upcycled iPads to children in three direct provision centres.

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As part of Variety Ireland's own environmental and sustainability policy, all iPads supplied were upcycled. Every iPad we supplied was upcycled, saving 69kg* of carbon per unit supplied. This initiative not only offered all children in each centre with the chance to advance their educational skills, but also ensured that it was done in the most environmentally and sustainable way possible.



Read More: [Equal Access to Education](#)

Christmas 2021 - Santa Visits

Christmas time saw us spreading some joy to around Ireland by arranging Santa visits to some very special children.

Thanks to BUMBLEance Children's National Ambulance Service, Santa was able to visit many children just before Christmas and first up was a little girl who won a free competition we held on our website. This very special girl received a personal visit to her house from Santa Claus! Santa not only delivered presents and informed her she was on the nice list, but also certified her a princess for a whole year!!



Then Santa visited 3 incredible schools around Dublin – St. Michael's House Special School Raheny, St. Michael's House Grosvenor School and Stewart's Special School . The joy on all the children's faces was just so heartwarming and really summed up the meaning of Christmas spirit!! This was all made possible by the amazing team at BUMBLEance Children's National Ambulance Service and Barry & Eric the Elf.



Read More: [Santa School Visits](#)

Read More: [Santa Visits Competition Winner](#)

Recycle Mobility Programme

Following the launch of our Recycle Mobility Programme in the summer of 2021, the project grew from strength to strength over the next year. More and more children throughout Ireland got to experience the joy of cycling, many for the first time ever.

Our Recycle Mobility Programme is a unique idea that focuses on promoting access to upcycled specially adapted trikes, for children who cannot use conventional bicycles. Not only does this initiative offer inclusion to children of different abilities, but as the trikes are pre-loved, it is also environmentally friendly! These specially adapted trikes offer so many physical benefits, but also offer great mental benefits too. The child can experience a new found independence and now also join in with their friends and family in the great outdoors, which previously may have been unimaginable!



As these trikes are specially adapted for an each child, they cannot be used by other children, so therefore obsolete once the child outgrows it. With our Recycle Mobility Programme, once a child outgrows their trike, we take it back, upcycle it and then adapt it to another child's particular needs. This way, more children can benefit from these amazing trikes!



Read More: [Recycle Mobility Spreading Smiles](#)

Read More: [Trikes for Teens](#)

Recycle Mobility In Northern Ireland

In May 2022, Variety Ireland were delighted to extend our Recycle Mobility Programme across the border as we presented our first ever special mobility trike in Belfast, to a girl called Katie.

Katie, who has Down Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy, could not contain her excitement as her brand-new special mobility trike was presented to her by Variety Ireland.

Previously, Katie who is wheelchair bound, was restricted from doing the basic things most children enjoy, such as riding a trike outside of the home. Now she has received her specially designed mobility trike, she can enjoy fun days out with the rest of her family.



Read More: [Recycle Mobility in Northern Ireland](#)

Recycle Mobility In Special Schools

As part of Variety Ireland's Recycle Mobility Programme, the charity provides co-funding for special trikes to parents with children with disabilities so they can be included in outdoor activities with family and friends. We also love the opportunity to extend this programme whenever we can to special schools and care facilities all around the country.

In September 2022 we were delighted to be able to present specially adapted mobility trikes to St Paul's School in Montenotte, Cork. Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Micheal McGrath was there to help us with the presentation, where he got to see for himself the incredible impact these trikes can have on children, both physically and mentally.



Read More: [Mobility Trikes for Special Schools](#)

Recycle Mobility Impact Report

In June 2022, Variety Ireland were delighted to release information about our Recycle Mobility Programme in our Impact Report. This report shows the positive affects our campaign is having in supplying special mobility trikes for children across Ireland, for both children and their families.

The report was carried out by well-known and respected Dr Jolanta Burke of The RCSI, University of Medicine and Health Sciences, and commissioned by Variety – the Children’s Charity of Ireland, to show the Impact of that special mobility trikes have had on both the physical and mental wellbeing of the children and their families who took part in all the research behind the report.

Variety Ireland’s “Recycle Mobility Programme”, which was launched back in 2021 with the kind support of Minister Anne Rabbitte from the Department of Children, Equality Disability, Integration Youth and Minster for Transport, Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan, is designed to help children from across the disability spectrum in contributing financial support towards the cost of special mobility trikes for families with children with disabilities.



Read More: [Recycle Mobility Impact Report Released](#)

Download Report: [Recycle Mobility Impact Report](#)

Variety Ireland Visits Leinster House

In August 2022, thanks to Senator Mary Seery Kearney, Variety Ireland were given a platform to brief members of the Oireachtas and the wider parliamentary community, on the benefits that our scientific lead programmes are having to ensure children with disabilities are included in activities with their family and friends.

We were delighted to be given the opportunity to show Oireachtas and parliamentary members how our Recycle Mobility Programme, which provides support funding for special mobility trikes to children with disabilities, is playing a pivotal role in improving the mental and physical health of both children with disabilities and their family members.



Dr. Jolanta Burke, from RCSI, University of Medicine and Health Sciences was there to explain in detail the Impact Report she conducted on our Recycle Mobility Programme, that also recommends it should be considered as partial fulfillment of the government's strategy for enhancing wellbeing for families with children with disabilities.



Read More: [Variety Ireland Visits Leinster House](#)

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