



Annual Report

(1st October 2024 - 30th September 2025)

The Heart Of Variety (Ireland) CLG

T/A Variety – the Children's Charity Of Ireland
(Variety Tent 41)

Company Registration Number: 25393

Registered Charity Number: 20009069

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2025





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A Word From Our CEO Derek O'Neill



During the 2024- 2025 period, I was delighted to see Variety Ireland continually grow and diversify, with the sole aim of helping as many children as possible in Ireland reach their full potential.

Now entering it's fifth year, our Recycle Mobility Programme continued to grow and positively impact so many children and their families throughout the country. This is all thanks to the incredible support from The HSE, The Department of Children, Disability and Equality and the Department of Transport, without whom we would not have been able to help so many children realise their dreams of cycling. We all say a very sincere – THANK YOU! The huge physical, mental and social influence this Programme has had on so many people was perfectly illustrated and documented in our second Recycle Mobility Impact Report, which was once again conducted by Dr Jolanta Burke from the RCSI and her fantastic team.

As a 'charity with a conscience' we have also strived to carry out all our work in the most ethical way that we can. Trikes from our Recycle Mobility Programme receive a second life, and throughout the year we developed our first Nature Garden, followed by the launch of our Bee Kind Programme. These projects not only provide tranquil spaces for communities and promote good mental health, but the trees planted will also provide clean oxygen and fruit for the communities, not to mention offsetting our carbon footprint.

In 2025 I was thrilled when our charity took further steps to engage more children in sport. Sport and exercise can have such huge physical & mental benefits for a child who has additional needs, so we encourage children to take part in activities where possible. We will continue to engage children within the GAA community, with our very own Whitehall Warriors team as a shining example of how inclusive sports can place a key role in our society.

Finally, ta massive thank you to our remarkable Board who give their time and expertise to our charity completely free of charge, without who we would not be able to enure all funds go directly where intended - helping children in Ireland!

Here's to 2026 and helping improve even more children's lives on the Island of Ireland!

About Us



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.

We are proud to be awarded Triple Lock Certification from the Charities Institute of Ireland. Triple Lock status is awarded to charities that uphold the highest standards in transparent reporting, ethical fundraising and strong governance structures.



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



Variety Ireland strive to uphold the same core values as outlined by Variety International.

T

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.

R

Respect:

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.

U

Uncertainty:

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

S

Support:

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

T

Transparency:

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



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.



2025

A Year In Review



Recycle Mobility Programme

Our Recycle Mobility Programme is a unique idea that focuses on promoting access to upcycled specialised adaptive 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!

Since the launch of this Programme in 2021, Variety Ireland has helped fund hundreds of specially adapted trikes to children all around Ireland. These trikes have proved to be so beneficial to children, who due to various disabilities, cannot cycle a regular bicycle. Not only do these trikes offer so many physical benefits, but also offer great mental benefits too.

Supported by



An Roinn Leanaí, Míchumais
agus Comhionannais
Department of Children,
Disability and Equality



An Roinn Iompair
Department of Transport



RECYCLE MOBILITY PROGRAMME IMPACT REPORT & EVALUATION STUDY 2024

Following on from our 2022 Impact Report, in December 2024 we were delighted to unveil our new research that shows both the positive and mental benefits our Recycle Mobility Programme is having for both children with disabilities and other family members.



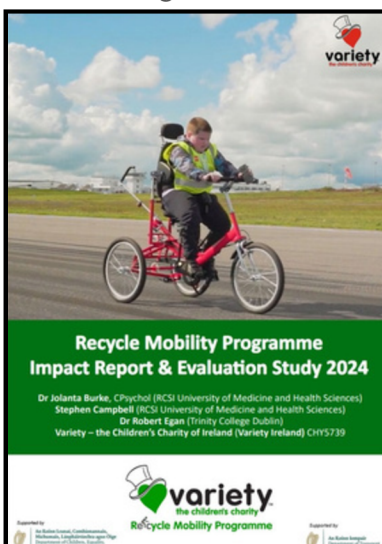
Since the launch of this Programme in the summer of 2021, with the support of The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, The HSE, The Department of Transport has enabled the charity to deliver over 350 new special mobility trikes to children with disabilities. During this time, the charity has also been able to upcycle 64 preloved trikes handed back from parents and groups who were in receipt of funding towards the cost of their new trike.

This new report which was conducted by world renowned chartered educational psychologist, author and senior lecturer Dr Jolanta Burke and her research team, Stephen Campbell, MSc (RCSI) and Robert Egan, PhD (Trinity College Dublin)

The RCSI found that our Recycle Mobility Programme improves the mental and physical well-being for children with disabilities and immediate family members by up to 87.5%.

Other key findings in this new report shows that our programme gives families with children with disabilities a real opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities together as a family with each mobility trike providing a form of vital exercise and physiotherapy for children with disabilities.

Not only does this take the pressure off physiotherapists workloads but also saves the state money given the many benefits it provides towards the cost of developing and maintaining a child's own mental and physical well-being.



READ REPORT!



JACK & LIAM'S FUNDRAISER

In May, Irish actor and star of Games of Thrones, Liam Cunningham, joined a young child called Jack from Killester, Dublin, on a very special walk.

Jack, who is 4, has a rare genetic disorder, tubulin alpha 1a, and has recently received a mobility trike through Variety Ireland's Recycle Mobility Programme. The trike had such a positive impact on Jack, he wanted to help other children just like himself, enjoy the freedom and new experiences his mobility trike has provided him.

Jack was joined by Liam and many other friends, for a very special walk from his preschool (The Orchard Preschool) to St Brigid's GNS in Killester.

The atmosphere was incredible with support from the local community and the pupils of St Brigid's GNS lining the route and cheering Jack and Liam on. Jack completed this special journey on his own special own mobility trike, all with the aim of raising money for a mobility trike for a local school, so that the students there can also enjoy all the physical and mental benefits a mobility trike can offer.

Well the good news is, that Jack and Liam's walk reached their fundraising target and the students of the special childcare class in St Brigid's GNS now have their very own mobility trike, which was presented by Minister of State at The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Hildegard Naughton. Way to go Jack and Liam!!

Watch Video!



SENSORY ROOM & ACCESS TO CYCLING OFFERS MORE INCLUSION AT SPORTS CLUB

It was a double day of celebrations in April at Creggs RFC in Co Galway when Variety – the Children’s Charity of Ireland teamed up with both Ability West and the IRFU to provide both a special wheelchair bike and sensory room to this all-inclusive rugby club.

Funded by Variety Ireland’s “Recycle Mobility Programme” a special wheelchair bike now allows both children and adults with mobility issues to experience cycling around the club’s fabulous scenic walkway facilities. This promotes inclusion and equal access to cycling for people with mobility needs.

The new sensory room funded by both Variety Ireland and the IRFU now allows people visiting Creggs RFC to avail of their new facility. This provides people with additional needs a safe space to relax while other family and friends watch games at the club.

On hand to present our special wheelchair bike to Creggs RFC on behalf of Variety Ireland and Ability West, was Galway native Minister Hildegard Naughton, Minister of State at The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. We were also joined by Irish World boxing and Olympian legends Lisa & Aoife O’Rourke from Co Roscommon, who took time out of their busy schedules to test out the new mobility wheelchair bike.

Watch Video!



1ST CROSS BORDER CHILDREN'S DISABILITY GROUPS CYCLING INITIATIVE

In December, Ireland's first All Island Disability Cycling Initiative for children with disabilities was launched in the Memorial Park, Omagh, Co Tyrone.

Supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs "Shared Island Fund", 12 children's disability groups from both sides of the border of Northern Ireland came together for the first time in The Omagh Memorial Park, Omagh, Co Tyrone. Here, individual disability groups each were presented with a special mobility trike by Good Friday Agreement negotiator, Bertie Ahern, on behalf of Variety – the Children's Charity of Ireland.

This Programme which is the first of its kind to be ever introduced as a cross border initiative for children with disabilities, allows schools/disability groups with children with disabilities to create new cross border relationships where they can now meet up together with their children so they can enjoy cycling activities together, both sides of the border of Ireland.

Variety Ireland's "All Ireland Disability Cycling Partnerships" is designed to break down barriers within communities and unite children's disability groups both north and south of Ireland, where they can enjoy great cycling days together.

Watch Video!



FIRST AUTOMATED CHILDREN'S DISABILITY CYCLING HUB LAUNCHED IN MAYO

In October, 2024, Variety – the Children's Charity of Ireland launched Europe's first automated children's disability cycling hub.

This automated disability cycling hub is situated at the entrance to The Great Western Greenway at The Mulranny Park Hotel, in Westport, Co Mayo was officially opened by Minister of Finance Jack Chambers, Minister of State for Trade Promotion, Digital and Company Regulation, Dara Calleary on. Also in attendance on the day to show their support for this wonderful initiative were Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Alan Dillon, Senator Lisa Chambers, Deputy Michael Ring and Cllr Paul McNamara.

This self-automated disability cycling hub includes a range of special disability mobility trikes that cater for children aged from 5-18 years. Each trike is fitted with the latest in digital technology where parents or guardians of children with mobility issues can hire a trike 365 days of the year.

The Great Western Greenway is one of the busiest and most picturesque greenways in Europe. so it was the obvious choice to install our first Children's Disability Cycling Hub. Families with children with mobility issues can now reserve a special mobility trike ahead of their visit to The Great Western Greenway in Westport by app.

Watch Video!



Environmental Programme

Dunmore Nature Garden

Late 2024, saw Variety Ireland launch our very first Nature Garden at Dunmore Community School in Dunmore, Co Galway.

This garden, which was co-funded thanks to the generosity of the Irish people who donated to The Late Late Toy Show Appeal 2023, was created as a safe space where two classes of students with additional needs can escape to when life gets too much.

The garden itself is situated on derelict land situated inside the school boundary which has been transform into a special place of nature which also provides shelter for local wildlife in a pesticide free environment. As well as including a range of native Irish apples trees and shrubbery, plants and flowers, the garden also includes a bespoke “Insect Hotel” an enclosed Calming Sensory shelter as well as “Banjo’s Bench Buddy”.



[Watch Video!](#)

BEE KIND PROJECT LAUNCHED

To celebrate International Women's Day and National Tree Week, we brought together diverse social groups including schools, disability organisations, sports clubs, cultural groups and vulnerable communities of all ages in Lough Lannagh, Castlebar, Co Mayo, came together to plant 100 heritage apple trees in March 2025.

Over 60 community groups united to plant these two orchards and to spread the core message of being kind to yourself, kind to others, kind to your community and kind to nature. Getting out into nature is proven to have a benefit on people's mental health and wellbeing.



This project encouraged people of all backgrounds to connect and work together. Planting trees gives the opportunity for families and community groups to come together and plant something that can be revisited as it grows as a living memory. Biodiversity and environmental awareness is key and in this case the trees will produce an estimated 50,000 apples per year for the inhabitants of Castlebar as well as producing 40 tonnes of oxygen on an annual basis!

The project funded by Variety Ireland, is was in partnership with Castlebar Tidy Towns and supported by Mayo County Council.

Watch Video!



Sports Inclusion

Promoting Equal Access to Sport

Everyone knows the benefits and positive impact that sports activities can have for children with additional needs, that is why Variety Ireland just love helping children feel included both on and off the pitch.

Sport and exercise can have such huge physical & mental benefits for a child who has additional needs, so we encourage children to take part in activities if possible, no matter what their ability.

That is why in summer 2025, Variety Ireland reached out to all GAA Clubs in the Dublin area, with an aim of bringing children with additional needs within the GAA community together. The response was overwhelming, with so many clubs within the Dublin region already catering for children with additional needs. With All-Star Féiles organised for late 2025 and 2026 which will see dozens of GAA clubs and members come together for days of inclusive fun and sport, we will continue to promote **Sport for All!**

Whitehall Warriors GAA Team

2025 saw Variety Ireland become proud sponsors of the Warriors team, from Whitehall Colmcille GAA Club, in Dublin.

This inclusive team encourages children with additional needs to get involved and join in with other team mates in GAA sports. It's inspirational to see what children from across the disability spectrum can achieve when given equal opportunities and access to sport.

We are continually blown away by how incredible children are and can see the benefits sports inclusion can provide for everyone. The support from club volunteers, local communities and above all parents, can really help in making so many children's lives that bit brighter.

Come on the Warriors!!



DUBLIN GAA FOOTBALL TALENT ACADEMY FUNDRAISER

The talented members of Dublin GAA Under 15's Football Talent Academy 2025 and their coaches, took fundraising to a new level at Whitehall Colmcille GAA club, by raising funds to purchase 4 special mobility trikes for children with mobility needs in Dublin & County.

The guys from the football talent academy set a target of €5,000 where they would kick 60,000 shots in 2 hours to raise funds where 100% of this money raised would go directly towards the cost of purchasing 2 special mobility trikes for children with mobility issues in Dublin so these children and young adults with mobility could be included in cycling activities with their family and friends.

However, they managed to smash the total of kicks set from 60,000 to over 100,000 in less than 90 minutes plus raise a whopping €10,000 – which is enough money raised to go towards the cost of supplying 4 special mobility trikes.

This incredible fundraising initiative now means that all members of the Dublin GAA Under 15's Football Talent Academy 2025 and coaches will actually get to meet and present 4 special mobility trikes to the young children and adults at a presentation event in the home of GAA, Croke Park, later this year.

The coaches all volunteered their time over the summer to train and develop the skills of their talented footballers really deserve massive credit. Thanks to them and the efforts of all the Dublin GAA Football Talent Academy 2025, they are providing the power of mobility to children who may never know what it is like to play football.

Watch Video!



Heart of Learning



Our Heart of Learning Programme provides upcycled iPads to schools all across Ireland, who may need that little bit of extra help with their education.

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.

Educational Support for Special Needs Children

As part of Variety Ireland's Heart of Learning Programme we visited Thornleigh Educate Together Primary School in Swords, North County Dublin where we delivered iPads sponsored by The Dearcán Foundation and The Community Foundation.

This school is a DEIS school, which also caters for children with learning disabilities. Amazingly, these are the only iPads that the school possesses and thanks to Dearcán Foundation and The Community Foundation, they will help to improve the communication skills and learning for non-verbal students and those with disabilities.

Gillian who is a teacher at the school, is responsible for looking after the educational needs of children with disabilities within the classroom commented:

"This is a DEIS Class 1 school where English is a second language. These iPads will help all the teachers involved in the education of these wonderful children in areas surrounding their educational and communication needs. We also run an after-school club for children and these iPads will allow us to download special educational apps to help with the learning and communication needs of the children."

Watch Video!





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