variety
the children's charity
of ontario

Impact Report | October 2026

What Nine Weeks Can Change

Nine weeks is a long time when you're five. Long enough to make new friends. To discover that you love swimming. To climb a little higher than you did yesterday—and eventually make it all the way to the top.

For Naomie Pasquino, it was also long enough to find a place that got to know her.

Naomie spent her entire summer in Variety Village's Junior MultiSport Camp. Her grandmother, Sylvette Bertin, hoped camp would be somewhere Naomie could have fun, try new things and build her confidence and independence.

Having a place at camp mattered. What made Naomie's experience meaningful was that the people around her took the time to understand how she experienced it.

"The staff were so warm and caring, communicated with her in ways she could understand, and always took the time to connect with her at her level," Sylvette says.

That distinction matters. An open door creates access. Genuine inclusion goes further: it creates the conditions for each person to participate in ways that work for them. That might mean adapting an activity, removing a financial barrier, providing additional support or taking the time to understand the person in front of you.

It's something our entire community helps create.

For Naomie, nine weeks of belonging created room to grow. She made friends with campers and staff. She began expressing herself more verbally and became increasingly comfortable responding to direction and trying unfamiliar activities. She loved exploring outdoors and climbing the rock wall, eventually reaching the very top.

And then there was the pool.

Over the summer, Naomie's swimming progressed until she could complete a somersault underwater—one of the highlights of her summer. By the end of many days, she had only enough energy left for a well-earned nap on the bus ride home.

Naomie was part of almost 2,000 camp registrations at Variety this summer. And this spring and summer, our community came together in remarkable ways to help create those opportunities.

varietyontario.ca

For 42 years,

I've have been a part of Variety and experienced the impact that access and inclusion can have for children and families. I've dedicated myself to this work.

I also choose to give financially because I believe deeply in what we make possible here. For me, giving is an investment in a future where every person has the opportunity to participate, belong and discover what's possible.

Archie Allison, Director, Access & Awareness

Pizza Nova Day marked 26 years of partnership and pushed the total raised for children and families at Variety beyond $3 million. Then in June, 250 supporters contributed another $248,000 through our 3X Giving Campaign, helping make participation possible for more families regardless of financial circumstances.

Those are numbers worth celebrating. But their meaning is found in what happened next: a child made a friend, someone tried something for the first time, a family found a place that understood, and Naomie climbed to the top of the wall.

That's what possibility looks like when we create room for it.

And perhaps that's another thing nine weeks can change: our understanding of the role each of us can play.

When you choose to be part of Variety—by giving, participating, sharing our story or showing up—you help shape the kind of community you want to live in: one where differences don't determine who gets to participate, barriers can be changed, and more people have the opportunity to discover what they're capable of.

That's leadership. And we've seen what it can make possible.

Thank you for choosing to be part of this community, and for everything that choice makes possible for people like Naomie—and for all of us.

We look forward to showing you what else is possible.

Because of you, we're breaking down barriers—from affordability and adaptive equipment to inclusive spaces and specialized coaching.

Behind every moment like this, is a community of supporters, like you, helping turn uncertainty into access—and access into possibility.

This summer, I had the chance to interact with Naomie's camp team every day. I came to appreciate how dedicated they are and how much they genuinely care about the children. Everyone loved Naomie, even when they were chasing her around the facility! That care gave her the confidence to try new things, build relationships and truly enjoy her summer.

Sylvette Bertin
Naomie's Grandma

Your support helped drive...

1,077
SPRING PROGRAM REGISTRATIONS

1,966
SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATIONS

1217
ATHLETIC TEAM TRAINING HOURS

837
CHILDREN & YOUTH AT SUMMER CAMP

142
1:1 SUPPORT REGISTRATIONS

116
SUMMER CAMP OUTINGS

18,065
Hours of Spring & Summer Programs