



# Variety's Wheelchair Programme

**Almost 4300 children have received mobility equipment funded by Variety since our wheelchair programme began 29 years ago. Over that time we've given away more than £10,000,000 of mobility equipment. Each wheelchair that we provide is designed specifically to meet the needs of the child, helping to improve not just their life, but their families too.**

Having the right wheelchair can make all the difference in terms of independence, improving medical outcomes or just making it possible for a child to have a more ordinary childhood. Your donations literally help to change the lives of children who, with the right chair, can talk to their friends at their eye level, move themselves around without having to be pushed or can enjoy playing on the beach with their family. Variety doesn't discriminate; we provide wheelchairs for children irrespective of their disability or diagnosis. With your help we focus on the needs of the child and help them to become more mobile and independent as quickly as possible.

On average, 25% of the wheelchairs funded by Variety are sports chairs and this is increasing every year. Last July Variety published a report, drawn from our own research, into the availability of sporting opportunities for children with disabilities. Shockingly, half of the parents we surveyed told us that their disabled child is not comfortable playing sports. Even more worryingly only 9% told us that their child takes part in sports at a specialist sports club that can support their needs. With your help, Variety can make a difference to the lives of children like Ben who has been going along to watch his local power chair football team every week for the last 6 months. He is desperate to play but the club don't have any suitable wheelchairs which will safely support his posture. Variety stepped in to provide the chair he needs and it's due to be delivered in a couple of weeks. Without the generous support of our guests at PROPS 2017, this just wouldn't have been possible.

Your pledge to donate a wheelchair today will transform the life of a child. If you would like more information about how else you can support the children and families who come to us for help please contact:

## Variety's Head of Programmes

**Dave King**

**02074288124**

**dave.king@variety.org.uk**



Variety's Wheelchair Programme

2018 the PROPS

**Finlay says** "My new power chair has made a world of difference to my school life. I can keep up with my friends and get around a lot quicker from class to class. I am so grateful to Variety. Thank you."







## The difference you made in 2017

Last year, Variety provided 62 wheelchairs to children and young people across the UK, from Scotland down to the South of England. On average that's one wheelchair every 6 days. As technology progresses we're receiving applications for more expensive equipment; the kind that makes the biggest difference but which isn't easily available anywhere else.



**Olivia**



**Dillon**



**Milosz**

### **Olivia**

*Olivia, 5, has Goldblatt Syndrome which means that she has a short stature, muscle weakness and joint laxity, leaving her unable to walk. Since receiving her new powerchair last May her quality of life has improved considerably. She no longer has to travel in a buggy like a baby but can be fully independent at school and on trips to the park or with her family. Mum tells us "I had to knock on a lot of charity doors to raise enough money to fund this expensive chair - it was a real struggle until the charities came along. Thankfully, Variety was one of them."*

### **Dillon**

*Dillon, now 20, depends completely on a wheelchair to get around. Now an elite athlete ranked in the UK top 10 (T54) with the potential to represent GB in future Paralympics, he has just made his Commonwealth Games debut on the Gold Coast. Dillon has literally grown up with Variety receiving three chairs from us over the past 10 years. Last summer Variety provided Dillon with his most elite racing chair yet to enable him to train 5 times a week at home and compete on the world stage.*

### **Milosz**

*Milosz, 9, has an underlying muscle condition, Myotubular Myopathy, which affects his muscle strength and development. Walking is challenging for him and so Variety funded a lightweight, portable manual wheelchair to increase his mobility both indoors and outdoors. His mum tells us "our family have gained more freedom and are able to go for longer walks or visit different locations and enjoy quality time together without worrying about how to organise family trips and get away. We are beyond grateful for Milosz's new piece of kit. Thank you Variety - you are an amazing charity that changed our life!"*

The difference you made in 2017

2018 the PROPS