**Talking Points**

**About Variety**

Helping kids who are sick, disadvantaged or live with disability.

Started by a group of entertainers in 1928, Variety – the Children’s Charity has a network of 45 offices in 14 countries, and many millions of individual children around the world live a better life because of the generosity of Variety’s communities of supporters.

**What Variety do**

Variety - the Children's Charity help kids who are facing challenges with sickness, disability or disadvantage.

* Variety provides support to families and organizations through providing grants for a range of equipment, such as wheelchairs or all-abilities playgrounds to provide practical help to kids, schools and organizations in need.
* We run programs to educate and empower kids that are falling through the cracks.
* We give scholarships to encourage the talents of kids living with disadvantage or disability.
* And last but certainly not least, we hold kids’ events to bring joy, light and laughter to children in need and their families.

**About Assistance Dogs**

* Assistance Dogs are one of the highest areas of demand for Variety
* These PAWsome animals change the lives of kids living with Autism, Anxiety and Epilepsy.
* It costs up to $40,000 to train and place an assistance dog
* Some of the ways these dogs help include:-
  + Independence - Dogs are trained to be tethered alongside kids with autism and sensory disorders. The dogs sit or lie down to anchor them, allowing safe visits near roads and other public areas and getting kids out and about in the community and taking part in day to day activities.
  + Confidence - Dogs provide companionship and a best friend for kids living with anxiety and other disorders. The dogs reassuring presence grows kids confidence to interact with their peers and form strong social connections, often for the very first time.
  + Anxiety Relief - Dogs can detect an oncoming anxiety attack in kids and intervene by nudging, applying contact pressure or licking to induce calm. These special dogs can even retrieve a parent or carer to provide assistance to their child.
  + ...And Save Lives - Specially trained seizure alert dogs save lives. These highly trained animals can place their bodies next to a child having a seizure to prevent injury, remain with the child as a support and, most importantly, activate an alarm to alert parents and carers that a seizure is taking place.

**Donation Points**

* $25 could buy an interactive toy for an Assistance Dog in training
* $48 could buy a cosy coat to keep an Assistance Dog snug and warm
* $124 could provide 1 month of quality dog food to keep an Assistance Dog in top shape
* $182 could keep an Assistance Dog protected with vaccinations