



Fact Sheet

Variety the Children's Charity of Pittsburgh re-established a group of "Variety Young Professionals (VYP)" to help raise monies for children with disabilities in southwestern Pennsylvania. VYP is comprised of young professionals from ten counties in Variety's serving area throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. VYP members, ages 21 thru 40, will have the opportunity to work in a group in a social environment of their peers creating new and exciting ways to raise money for children with disabilities. VYP will utilize the talent and energy of its members to help run its programs and fund raising activities.

Josh Doty, age 28, serves as President of Pittsburgh's VYP. Josh is the Director of Business Services for Ceeva, Inc., a firm that provides technology-based solutions and services including systems integration, software and Web development. According to President Doty, the relationships developed through VYP can provide a sense of fulfillment for both the volunteer and the child and ensures the perpetuity of Variety the Children's Charity with effective leadership.

VYP's inaugural fund raising event – a Wheelchair Grand Prix – will be held Friday through Sunday, October 7 – 9, 2005. Plans are underway for what will be southwestern Pennsylvania's first wheelchair relay walk, that will begin in Moraine State Park and 100 miles later (over a three day period) end at Presque Isle at Lake Erie. Teams of ten will push empty wheelchairs through designated routes going north. Ten to fifteen teams (with one wheelchair each) will participate with three members at a time pushing the wheelchair and each team having at least one marked support vehicle carrying the other team members. Each team member will provide \$100 in pledges/donations. Overnight stops are planned along the route including campgrounds and lodging. Corporate sponsor Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield will host a "kickoff" party the evening before the event for race participants to meet Variety's very special children, and a final destination celebratory picnic is planned at the Admiral Perry Monument in Presque Isle Park.

Variety Young Professionals was instituted with three goals in mind: to raise awareness about Variety the Children's Charity of Pittsburgh; to raise fund for Variety's kids with disabilities; and to encourage young people to get involved to ensure future leadership of Variety and its mission.

For more information, please visit the Variety Young Professionals (VYP) web site at www.vyp-pgh.org or call Jennifer Hammerstrom, Variety's Manager of Development, at (412) 747-2680.

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