



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Variety KC Donates Communication and Sign Language Boards for the City of Olathe to Help Kids Communicate

October 20th, 2023, Olathe, KS – It is estimated that as many as 4% of the general population may have a nonverbal disability, and 25% to 50% of children diagnosed with autism speak few or no words. This is the reason why Variety KC has donated 45 inclusive Communication Boards to the City of Olathe, Kansas, to increase engagement between kids and parents/caregivers or kids and their peers, for children who are non-verbal or have limited speaking skills. Along with these Communication Boards, Variety KC also donated Sign Language Boards to further assist in communication challenges and to help provide another tool to be used to help everyone communicate.

On **Tuesday, October 24th at 12:00 noon**, there will be ribbon-cutting for the first Sign Language and Communication Boards donated at the Olathe Community Center, located at 1205 E. Kansas City Road in Olathe, Kansas.

With Communication Boards, non-verbal kids can point or even simply gaze at the various symbols and pictures on the board," said Marc Harrell, Variety KC's Chief Inclusion Officer. "Young children with limited expressive language ability can clearly express their needs and wants. With the Sign Language Boards, we found that children like the active challenge and learning opportunity to engage with the boards even more actively."

This, at its very core, is a bridge to inclusion – a connection to finding commonalities and ways to play together. One more way to remove barriers and make Kansas City as inclusive, and accessible, as possible.

The Communication and Sign Language Boards are two more examples of how the City of Olathe prioritizes accessibility and resident needs.

"These signs will improve the City of Olathe parks experience for so many families and individuals of all abilities," said Mayor John Bacon. "We're committed to providing a high quality of life for every Olathe resident, and are grateful to Variety KC for their partnership that made this possible."

Variety KC will partner with the City of Olathe installing Communication Boards and Sign Language Boards in 45 public spaces in the city as an initiative to make Olathe Parks and Recreation areas inclusive for ALL children!

For more information, contact Ali O'Grady at 913-308-4042 or through email at aogrady@varietykc.org

This special celebration will take place on Tuesday, October 24th,

at Olathe Community Center
 at 1205 W Kansas City Rd.,
 Olathe, Kansas, 66061
 at 12 p.m.

Variety KC Communication Board

varietykc.org

DONATE TO varietykc.org

OLATHE KANSAS

I	WE	PLAY	COME	ALL DONE	HURT	FUN	YES	NO
YOU	GO	STOP	TURN	FRIEND	BATHROOM	HAPPY	ON	OFF
WANT	RUN	GO UP	SIT	LOUD	HOME	SAD	SLOW	FAST
SPIN	EAT	GO DOWN	WAIT	DRINK	HELP	MAD	GOOD	BAD
SEE	PUSH	HEADSET	FINISH	MUSIC	CAR	MORE	COLD	HOT

Variety KC — Helping Every Kid Be Active, Be Social and BELONG!

For more information, go to varietykc.org

Sign Language

varietykc.org

Helping all kids Be Active, Be Social and Belong!
 #InclusionRevolution

OLATHE KANSAS

A B C D E F G
 H I J K L M N
 O P Q R S T U
 V W X Y Z

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About Variety KC

Variety Children’s Charity empowers children with special needs and disabilities, in the Greater Kansas City region, by providing access to vital medical equipment for mobility, sensory, communication, safety, therapies, and more. Variety KC requests funds to underwrite the direct costs of these services. Grants and donations we receive will increase the number of families we can serve, continuing our history of positive impact while helping us to expand our coverage offerings to more and more families. All monies raised for Variety KC stays in the Greater Kansas City area. Variety’s inclusive mission provides essential mobility equipment and opportunities for children with cognitive and physical disabilities.