



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Variety KC Launches the Second Book in a Series on Inclusion, Variety Tales: Maddox's Dream

October 20th, 2023, Kansas City, MO – Variety KC, a leader in inclusive efforts for all kids, is launching their second book teaching about disabilities and inclusion - "Variety Tales: Maddox's Dream."

Follow Maddox's story and dream of being able to fly in an airport that was built to include all. "Maddox loved to fly! Young Maddox dreamed of an airport that even kids like him could enjoy. Travel with him as Mr. Heart shows this incredible dream come to life!"

Maddox literally flew into the lives of everyone at Variety KC. When asked where he came from, he said "baggage claim at the airport." Maddox arrived with the odds stacked against him; born a 29-week preemie, with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder, and chronic eye and stomach issues. Maddox may have been challenged from the beginning but that never held him back.

Maddox had an incredible imagination and a sense of wonder about life. He lived and breathed every moment in full color. He loved history, landmarks, museums, and he loved to fly! Thanks to his work with Variety KC, he was recognizable to almost everyone who worked in the old Kansas City terminal.

Maddox was so excited for the new renovated and inclusive airport. He loved to take car rides to see what had changed with construction and couldn't wait until opening day. Sadly, we lost Maddox before the new Kansas City terminal would open. We hope that Maddox would be thrilled to know that the airport simulator room is named in his honor and that millions of families will have a better travel experience because of these inclusive measures.

The book launch will take place on Tuesday, October 24th, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at VMLY&R, located next to the Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport. The local author, Lorri Stanislav, and illustrator, Beth Snider, will be on site to speak and answer questions. Kansas City's City Manager, Brian Platt, will be the guest reader of this book. Platt was a champion for inclusivity at the new terminal at the Kansas City International Airport.

Thanks to Variety KC and Platt's help, the new terminal is one of the most inclusive airports in the world. The airport has numerous accessible parking spots, cart services for those with disabilities, Variety KC's Inclusive Play Zone, Maddox's Flight Experience, Molly's Sensory Rooms, and Olivia's Universal Restrooms. Variety KC's kids have stamped KCI with innovation.

Why buy this book? Every classroom, church, and home library should hold this book to be able to help teach the fundamentals of inclusion in a relatable way. People with disabilities make up 26% of our community which is the largest single minority in the population!

This is the second inspirational series of inclusive stories, and Variety KC has continued plans to launch a new book every Spring and Fall.

You can purchase Maddox's Dream through [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), and hopefully soon the book will be available in even more local retail stores throughout Kansas City.

A special thanks to the Meyer family for underwriting this book.

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 VMLY&R
at 250 NW Richards Road,
Kansas City, Missouri,
at 4 p.m.**



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.