



variety
the children's charity

variety.org.nz

Spring 2018

Thanks to you

The gift of time: “It’s worth it”

Giving up a few hours of his time to help others is a no-brainer for our long-time supporter Andy Medcalf.

Having now run four fundraising events, with all proceeds raised benefitting Kiwi kids in need, Andy says he couldn’t imagine a life without giving back.

“You can’t choose the life you’re given, so anything that people can do with their own time to make someone else’s life a bit easier is worth it.

“Just because someone has a difficult start doesn’t mean they can’t have a successful future. . . It’s nice to be able to help other people to get there.”

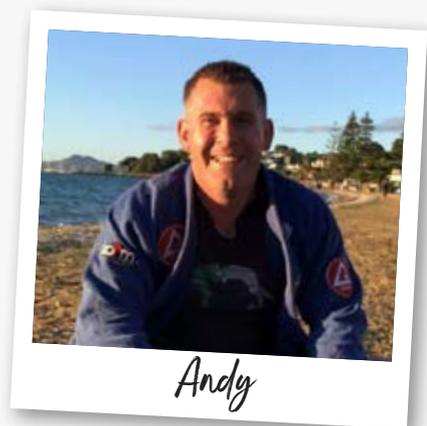
Andy, who teaches classes in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and Mixed Martial Arts, as well as trains himself, hosts a six-hour Charity Roll event every few months – where the aim is for participants to take part in a sparring session for as long as they can, and all the while raising money for Kiwi kids.

“It only takes a few hours and at the end of the day we are fit, healthy and in a position to be able to do something,”

Andy says of his commitment to keep running the events.

“I truly believe everyone deserves a decent start in life.”

To host a community fundraising event yourself, email jess@variety.org.nz



What it takes to take on the world's best

With plans to represent New Zealand in America next year, it's safe to say Variety Gold Heart Scholar Verity Howells is well on her way to stardom.

With a passion for the performing arts, Verity has a busy schedule on her hands, performing whenever she can, whether it be through singing or taking part in theatre shows and musicals.

And this, she says, just wouldn't have been possible without kind-hearted supporters like you and our programme sponsor, CMC Markets.

"I have grown up without a lot of money behind me. My mum is a single parent and she has other children to support as well, so money is often hard to come by. Being able to receive funding through the Gold Heart Scholarship programme really just makes me aware that there are people out there who want me to succeed.

"It's really awesome to find kind-hearted people that are willing to help and support you to reach your dreams."

The Gold Heart Scholarship funding has assisted Verity to attend private vocal lessons along with the cost of travel to and from the lessons, which are some 30 minutes from her home.

As well as working on her very first music album, Verity is off to America in July where she will compete against some of the best in the world at the World Championships of Performing Arts.

Verity will perform in categories such as singing, dancing, acting and modelling.

"It's really exciting. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me."

Applications for the next round of scholarships are set to open in early 2019 and if you know of a talented young New Zealander excelling in sports, arts or education that requires a hand up, be sure to encourage them to apply! Keep an eye on our website at variety.org.nz



Great outcomes, thanks to you

Putting bounce in Ajay's life

A three-year-old with lots of energy, Ajay has recently received his very own trampoline, which is making an incredible difference to his daily life.

Living with autistic spectrum disorder, Ajay is very active. Health professionals recommended a trampoline so he can burn off energy in a positive way and support his gross motor development, while also removing his need to try and scale the fence to his neighbours to access their trampoline.

Thanks to our generous Hero for Kids supporters, a weight has been lifted from Ajay's mum's shoulders, who as a stay at home mum was not in a position to fund the trampoline.

Supporting the dreams of a budding pianist

Finding support in music, Gemma is a talented and dedicated pianist who has recently received a grant for weekly lessons, music books and exam fees to ensure she can continue to hone her skills and follow her passion.

Already practising each and every day, Gemma now enjoys longer lessons and has the chance to sit exams to progress with her music – and her dad no longer has to go without to ensure she can continue with her lessons and fulfil her dreams.

There's no doubt Gemma has a bright future ahead, with her passion for music benefitting many other areas of her life by giving her the confidence to perform and engage with others.

Hundreds of bikes deployed

The Variety team has been very busy over the past few months visiting schools around the country to provide disadvantaged and deserving children with bikes of their very own.

So far this year, thanks to some very kind-hearted individuals who went on the Sri Lanka Cycle Challenge and our partner Dimension Data, we have provided more than 220 children with brand new bikes

To find out more about the programme, visit variety.org.nz

Thousands of Kiwi kids sponsored

We are happy to report that more than 3,800 children throughout New Zealand are being sponsored through our Kiwi Kid Sponsorship programme. Over the past few months many new sponsors have come onboard and a number of existing sponsors have signed up to sponsor even more children.

Thank you so much for your generous support that changes the lives of our most disadvantaged children.

To sponsor a Kiwi kid today visit variety.org.nz

The difference a waterproof jacket makes

Being able to put on a brand new, fully waterproof jacket for school has made the world of difference for *Ellie.

She and two of her siblings are on the Variety Kiwi Kid Sponsorship programme, but according to their Dad, it's not only the girls who are benefiting.

"I am on a very, very tight budget, and as a parent, not being able to provide your children with everything you want cuts you up," he says, adding that the sponsorship allows him to spoil his three girls and 'make them feel special'.

"It's really nice that I can say to them, look, you can have a nice jacket, one that is waterproof even. It is really great to be able to do that."

"They are all very aware of the help we are receiving. They always get so excited when we can go to The Warehouse for essentials."

Lack of money and illness are significant limiting factors in their lives. This is largely due to the fact that their dad lives with Parkinson's disease and hasn't been able to work full-time for more than five years.

The father adds that the benefit of Kiwi Kid Sponsorship is not just access to essentials but also opportunities. Two of the sisters recently went on school camps – and this, he says, is something that simply wasn't feasible prior to their sponsorship.



Christmas APPEAL

For many Kiwi kids living in financial hardship, the chance to do anything extra like play netball, learn the guitar – or develop a special talent – is too often out of reach.

You can change that, one child at a time, with a gift to the Variety Christmas Appeal. Donations this year will help fund Gold Heart and Have a Go Scholarships for disadvantaged young people to access opportunities others take for granted.

Gold Heart Scholarships are awarded to develop an exceptional talent in the arts, sport or education.

Have a Go Scholarship recipients don't need to be sporting superstars or academic whizz kids – just young people who are missing out. They allow a child to play a sport, learn a musical instrument, take swimming lessons, or go on a school camp.

Or just try something they've never tried before.

You can donate to our Christmas Appeal by visiting variety.org.nz

Windsor, who has sporting talent to burn, received a \$500 Have a Go Scholarship to participate in waka ama, his favourite extra-curricular activity. It's paid for race fees, affiliation fees and paddles, and has helped the 14-year-old build confidence, improve his skills and develop lasting friendships.

Your donation this Christmas can help give another disadvantaged young person like Windsor a chance to shine.



Windsor

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