



**variety**  
the children's charity

[variety.org.nz](http://variety.org.nz)

## Summer 2017/18 **Thanks to you**

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### **The difference you're making**

**An independent study has confirmed what struggling families have been telling us since we launched Variety Kiwi Kid Sponsorship in 2013: The programme is changing children's lives in a most profound way.**

Conducted during June and July, **Variety's Kiwi Kid Sponsorship Social Impact Study** analysed written responses from 529 children and their caregivers. Almost all the children surveyed said their sponsorship helped them feel more socially included and confident. They said they were doing better at school, were enjoying school more and felt healthier.

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# The difference you're making

Variety's Kiwi Kid Sponsorship  
Social Impact Study

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Parents and caregivers unanimously agreed with their children's self-assessments.

**They reported that their children attended school more, were more engaged with their learning and were healthier.**

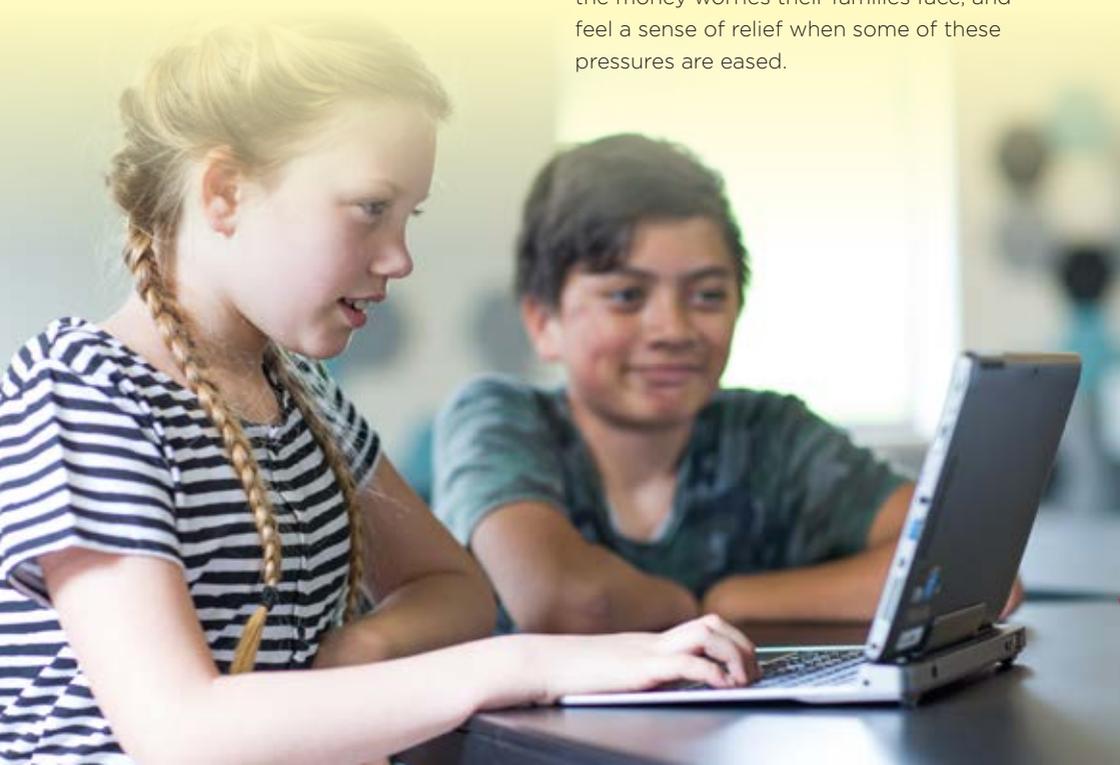
They also told us that they turned to Variety for help because they had no other options, and that Kiwi Kid Sponsorship was unique in meeting their children's individual needs.

*"[Thanks to the sponsorships] my children are making great steps with their achievements at school and are more happy and spontaneous about learning new things."*

- A parent

Having a child or children sponsored made parents feel less stressed and better about themselves. It helped improve family relationships and made it easier for them to manage their money.

The Social Impact Study also highlighted something children often tell us in their letters – that they are acutely aware of the money worries their families face, and feel a sense of relief when some of these pressures are eased.



# I wanted to sponsor a Kiwi kid

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## Rachel Neale talks about helping Athena

I was really happy when Variety started doing sponsorship in 2013. I had always wanted to sponsor a child, but wanted it to be a Kiwi kid, as I knew lots of New Zealand children needed help.

We love that we are helping Athena to do important things like swimming lessons, have a school uniform and a winter coat. We started sponsoring her when she was four. She's eight now and it's lovely getting an updated photo each year and seeing her growing up. I get in touch with a gift and written note at Christmas and her birthday, and my kids love it when we hear back from her. Athena has drawn lovely pictures for us and it will be nice as she gets older to get written notes as well – hearing about what she loves to do at school, for example, will be special.

About a year after we started sponsoring,

Athena's mother wrote me an amazing letter. She told me about her family situation and what it meant for her daughter to be sponsored by our family.

I have three children, my eldest is eight – the same age as Athena. I also have a six-year-old daughter and four-year-old son. Sponsorship is a valuable lesson for them, that helping those in need is important. It also helps them realise how lucky they are having a warm house, warm clothes, lunch every day, etc.

I was brought up on a farm and got to experience a very special Kiwi upbringing. Sadly, my mother was killed in a car accident when I was six. I have experienced great loss but I was lucky, as I have also had lots of love too. I think that's why I'm passionate about helping people when I can, because I know that when life is really tough, if you have people that love and help you, you will be OK.



"Out of all the kids in Aotearoa you chose me. Now I finally have the chance to be all I can be!! Thank you for sponsoring me. I am so grateful. And so is my family."

**15-year-old Taylor**

# Nathan's new shoes

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**Nathan accepts that his mum, Nellie, can't always provide. As Nellie explains,**

He would say, 'Mum, my shoes are giving me blisters.' I would say, 'I can't afford to replace them right now. Maybe at Christmas we can get a new pair.' He would say, 'Mum, I understand.'

That changed when the 10-year-old was matched with a Variety Kiwi Kid Sponsor. A recent item they used the funds for was – you guessed it – shoes.

He chose three new pairs, one for running around, one casual and one for church. He's proud of his shoes, and holds them up saying, "Mum, which pair should I wear today?"

Nellie tells him, "We're just popping out to the supermarket. Go with the slip-on ones."

Nathan loves school and can't wait for intermediate. His favourite subject is maths and he wants to be a police officer. Nellie encourages him to be ambitious. She says that wasn't how she was raised, but she thinks it's important that her kids dream.

I told him, 'You could be a police officer, you could be the first All Black who's also a pastor!'



# Henare aims to compete with the best

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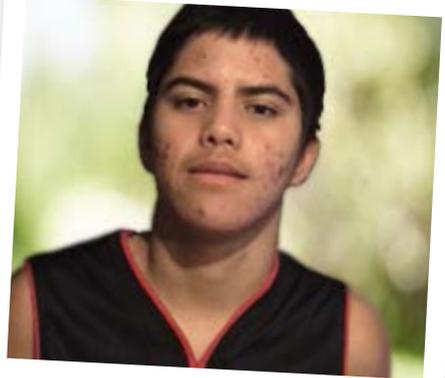
**At 5.30 every weekday morning you'll find Henare starting a two-hour training session at his local swimming pool. In fact, this motivated 16-year-old spends at least 18 hours a week in the water.**

In 2017, thanks to CMC Markets, Variety was thrilled to award Variety Gold Heart Scholarships to Henare and seven other talented young people.

The scholarships of up to \$5,000 go to disadvantaged children who excel in the arts, sport or education, to develop their talent. It was Henare's third scholarship in succession, with each year's award taking him closer to his dream of competing at the Olympic or Commonwealth Games.

He entered his first race at eight and he's had many successes since. His specialty is backstroke. His three Gold Heart Scholarships are proof of his dedication and his extraordinary ability from a young age. They've helped cover costs his family could never have afforded on their own: pool and coaching fees, travel to competitions and equipment, including racing togs (they can cost up to \$600 and often need to be replaced every racing season), swim caps, goggles, kickboards, pull buoys and fins.

Pursuing his goal has meant sacrifices. In 2015 he had to leave his home in Kaitaia,



*Henare*

and the school he had attended all his life, to live with his uncles on Auckland's North Shore. That was the only way he could be close to top swimming coaches and facilities. In Auckland he does all his own washing and cleaning, and gets himself to training six days a week.

He also has another ambition – to be an electrician. That's why, when traditional schooling wasn't quite working around his intensive training regime, he enrolled in correspondence papers to keep up his education.

**Gold Heart Scholarships**



# Variety Christmas Appeal



**Here at Variety, we want to see all Kiwi children growing up healthy, happy, and as ambitious as their dreams allow.**

**Hope's dream was a simple one: to run around for as long as her friends did in PE class.**

The 12-year-old always gave physical activities her absolute best try, but all too often severe asthma left her sitting on the sidelines. Then recently, a doctor suggested that swimming might make a difference. Her mother, Moana, jumped at the chance to see her girl breathing more easily.

The problem was Hope couldn't swim – and Moana couldn't afford to pay for lessons.

Thanks to our incredible family of supporters, Hope soon got the instruction she needed. Moana told us that the lessons have made a big difference to Hope's lung capacity and breathing. Hope can now participate in rigorous PE and sports activities. "It means she can be part of the team."

Poverty limits children's lives and choices. Every day, children who live in families that struggle to put food on the table and a roof over their heads, are missing out on



*Hope: swimming lessons made all the difference*

opportunities that most of us take for granted.

Please give to our Christmas Appeal so that, in 2018, we can make wishes come true for more children like Hope, Henare and Nathan.

## Your donation today could help a child:

- learn to swim
- play a musical instrument
- play a sport they love
- have their own bike
- have a computer to use at home
- have a school uniform that fits
- go on school camp
- have more than one pair of shoes
- get extra tuition in a subject they struggle with
- start school with the right stationery
- try out a new extra-curricular activity
- develop a special talent.



Donate now at [variety.org.nz](http://variety.org.nz)  
Or donate by internet banking to  
account **12-3037-0399063-00**

(Write your name and 'Christmas' in the  
reference fields)

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