



**variety**  
the children's charity

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

## Winter 2018 **Thanks to you**

### **The biggest difference**

*"My heart just expands in my chest when I think of the kindness of others, and the relief that generosity offers has my eyes brimming with tears of gratefulness. As I begin to think of the difference it has made from the help*

*we have received with so many things, like blankets, uniforms, stationery and food, it's wonderful. It has made the biggest difference, more than I can really express."*

— **The parent of two boys on the Kiwi Kid Sponsorship programme.**

# The gift of giving

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It had been something she kept in the back of her mind for many years, but after taking the leap and signing up as a Kiwi Kid Sponsor, Auckland mother of two, Mailene, wouldn't change a thing.

Fittingly, Mailene now sponsors two Kiwi kids, who have become 'like a part of the family'.

"I've got my two [sponsored] kids' photos on the fridge and we talk about them a lot, but especially when it's their birthday or around Christmas time."



Mailene

Thankyou so much for paying my Stationary and my fun camp. My first activity at camp was the mud slide it was Cozyfun. The most amazing activity of all is the pampelope it was huge. for Safety we had to put on helmets and a harness. When I was climbing then I reached the top I was terrified. My legs were shaking like im in a earthquake. I leaped off the pole and I was falling then I bounced back in the air because of the harness, then I came down slowly onto the ground. I had heaps of fun. And thankyou once again for your Sponsorship.

Love:  
Kuldeep

"I really try to make sure my boys appreciate the life they have and always encourage them to think of others. We have a lot of family surrounding us and a lot of people to call on — we have a lot of support. Not everyone has that."

Having become a sponsor last year, Mailene says she now encourages everyone around her to get involved.

**To sponsor a Kiwi kid today visit [variety.org.nz](http://variety.org.nz)**

# When passion and determination pay off: Crystal's story

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Kickboxing is 15-year-old Crystal Cook's passion, and her dedication to the sport has resulted in her selection to represent New Zealand in this year's Junior World Kickboxing Championships.

To be held in Italy in September, it's a competition Crystal wouldn't be able to attend if she wasn't one of the 13 Variety 2018 Gold Heart Scholarship recipients — all thanks to CMC Markets — and as such she is extremely grateful to have the opportunity.

Having taken part in the sport for eight years, Crystal is as dedicated as can be, even travelling the 200kms between her home town in Kaiwaka and Auckland for training at least three times a week.

Crystal's interest in kickboxing began in primary school. Weighing 90kgs at only nine years old, she was unfit and had no friends; that is until the day she decided to try out kickboxing at a gym she heard about through family friends.

***"I loved it and have been doing it ever since," she said.***

And her hard work and perseverance is paying off. Crystal is a world champion in this sport for her age and weight. She has excelled in competitions, bringing home many a medal.

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*Crystal*

While her current focus is on the upcoming world championships, Crystal has big dreams for the future.

With her coach's support, she is aiming to represent New Zealand at the Olympics. One day, she hopes to open her own gym to teach others what she has learnt, with a focus on disabled and disadvantaged children.

**Gold Heart Scholarships**



# What's On

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## Variety at Work

If you'd like to work together with your colleagues to give back to your local community, you will love our corporate volunteering programme, Variety at Work.

We can create stress-free volunteering activities to suit your team, which are designed to make a difference in the community and benefit our most vulnerable children.

Variety will organise everything from start to finish, including a team lunch.

Email Carly at [carly@variety.org.nz](mailto:carly@variety.org.nz) for further information.

## SKYCITY Variety of Chefs

We are so excited to reveal the date, 31 August, for the fine dining, charity event of the year: SKYCITY Variety of Chefs.

With renowned chef Nic Watt set to take attendees on a sophisticated exploration of uniquely Kiwi cuisine, and much-loved broadcaster Mike McRoberts to MC the evening, the night is one not to be missed.

To secure your spot, email Jess at [jess@variety.org.nz](mailto:jess@variety.org.nz)

## Shares for Good

Sell some shares and donate the proceeds to support Variety!

Shares for Good was established to provide a charitable home for unwanted shares and a place for those wanting to sell shares to benefit charities in New Zealand.

Shares for Good is a pro-bono collaboration between JBWere, NZX, Computershare and Link Market Services. 100% of proceeds from the sale of your shares goes directly to Variety.

To find out more go to [sharesforgood.com](http://sharesforgood.com)

## Variety Kiwi Kid Sponsorship

Thanks to you, our generous supporters, over 3000 Kiwi kids have a happier, healthier childhood and the foundation for a better future, as they now have access to basic essentials and life opportunities they would otherwise miss out on.



# “I would do it again in a heartbeat”

If someone had told Helen Evans last year that she was going to take part in a 400km cycle tour, she wouldn't have believed them, or have thought it would be possible. But it was, and she did. Earlier this year Helen completed the Variety Cycle Challenge to Sri Lanka with World Expeditions — and raised an incredible \$13,700 for our Bikes for Kids programme while she was at it.

“We saw so many diverse things. There were wet days, hot days, dry days. Every day there'd be a cycle ride and something else absolutely wonderful to do. . . And all of it was done to benefit kids,” she says of the experience.

“I would do it again in a heartbeat.”

Inspired by a close friend who passed away earlier this year, Helen said although the thought of the challenge terrified her, it has ultimately done her a 'wealth of good'.

“The group was delightful. We all had different reasons to be doing it, but most importantly, everyone had the motivation to be there and everyone was absolutely fantastic.”



Cycling is now something Helen enjoys doing regularly, and soon, thanks to her fundraising efforts, she will be able to present 68 disadvantaged Kiwi kids with bikes of their own.

“I am so looking forward to visiting the children at their schools, handing over the bikes and seeing their faces. I am so proud and I know my friend definitely would have been proud too.”

## Follow in Helen's footsteps

The next World Expeditions fundraising trip is the 11-day Variety Food Lover's Camino Challenge, hosted by Sir Graham and Lady Raewyn Henry.

Departing on 30 October, the trip is a unique approach to the classic pilgrimage route combining a passion for good food and produce, with the incredible history of the trail crossing from Bilbao to Santiago.

Funds raised will benefit our Have a Go Scholarships, which provide disadvantaged young people with the chance to participate in extra-curricular activities.

For full trip details and to secure your spot visit [worldexpeditions.co.nz](http://worldexpeditions.co.nz)

# Happy homes make for happy kids

Having previously had to share beds, five Auckland sisters are now sleeping soundly in beds of their own, and the one small change has made a world of difference.

Thanks to kind-hearted supporters like you, Variety provided three grants for the family in need — two grants for two sets of bunk beds and one grant for a single bed, bedding and clothing for the eldest daughter.

The girls' old beds were often damp and cold and because of their sleeping arrangements, any illnesses quickly spread throughout the family.

Ranging in age from three to 16, the two youngest girls often shared respiratory illnesses, while the eldest lacked confidence, and had low self-esteem from having damp bedding and very few items of clothing.



The girls' mother is over the moon that her daughters now have beds of their very own.

The Variety team extends a very big thank you, once again, to our family of supporters for allowing us to carry out these life-changing acts.

Donate to our Winter Appeal at [variety.org.nz](http://variety.org.nz) to provide vital winter clothing, beds and bedding to children living in deprivation this winter.

## Variety — the Children's Charity

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