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VARIETY, THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY AWARDS PARKWAYS FOUNDATION
A \$5,000 GRANT FOR THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT ADAPTIVE CAMP PROGRAM
DONATION PROVIDES ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
TO PLAY SPORTS THIS SUMMER

Chicago, IL – Parkways Foundation is pleased to announce an award for \$5,000 from Variety, The Children's Charity of Illinois to support day camp programs for youth with disabilities. Each year, The Special Recreation Department of the Chicago Park District offers hundreds of children and adults with a variety of physical and cognitive disabilities the opportunity to try sports, art, and music in an extremely accepting setting.

"Parkways Foundation realizes the importance of Adaptive Camps and the opportunities provided to the campers," said Brenda Palm, Executive Director of Parkways Foundation. "With the generosity of partners such as Variety, Parkways will continue to help the Chicago Park District expand these camps and launch new programs."

There are four Adaptive Camps, each running for one week. The 2009 summer camps sponsored by Variety and Parkways are:

- **Inclusive Sports Camp** – August 10-14 at Independence Park. This camp is free of charge and is available for individuals with cognitive, physical and/or sensory disabilities and their siblings or peers. Activities include Adaptive Cycling, Kayaking, and Fishing.
- **Adaptive Sports Camps** – August 10-14 at Mount Greenwood Park. Camp A is for youth and teens with physical disabilities and Camp B is for youth and teens with physical disabilities and a secondary disability; both camps are free of charge. Campers receive an introduction to Paralympic type sports.
- **Adaptive Sports Camp** – August 10-14 at Rowan Park. This camp is for youth and teens that have cognitive, physical and/or sensory disabilities and is free of charge. A variety of sporting activities are offered including Fishing and Adaptive Cycling.
- **First Annual Blind/Visually Impaired Sports Camp** – August 3-7 at Piotrowski Park. This camp is free for youth, teens and young adults. Sailing, Goalball, Beep Baseball, Swimming, Track and Field, and Cultural Activities will be offered.

"Some of life's earliest memorable experiences involve the play of sports which is why we are thrilled to team up with the Parkways Foundation as title sponsors for the 2009 Adaptive Sports Camp," said Michelle Baert, president, Variety of Illinois. "Variety of Illinois has a long history of helping to give special-needs children the freedom and independence to live life—on and off the field. With the advent of many new sports-mobility technologies, access is becoming available to more and more children—Variety's goal is to see that they get it."

ABOUT PARKWAYS

As the non-profit partner of the Chicago Park District, Parkways Foundation works to enhance and improve Chicago's neighborhood parks through capital improvements, funding youth programs, greening initiatives and historic preservation. For more information about Parkways Foundation or to make a donation, please visit www.parkways.org

ABOUT VARIETY

The U.S chapters of Variety - The Children's Charity are a multi-million dollar philanthropic organization with locations throughout the United States. Starting with a baby left on the doorsteps of a movie theater in 1928, we have continued to be a group of local business men and women, many of whom hail from the theater and movie business, reaching out to children in need. Today, through the efforts of our enthusiastic volunteers and generous corporate contributors, we remain true to our heritage by bringing children real, tangible help. The Illinois Tent was formed in 1944, for more information on the Illinois Tent, please visit www.varietyclub26.org or call 312-822-0660.

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