

NEWS RELEASE

ChildServe Champions Named to Celebrate Millions Donated, Thousands of Lives Impacted

ChildServe's long-time donors Variety – the Children's Charity and Peggy Fisher and Larry Stelter fuel unparalleled growth, help provide more options for families in Iowa.

JOHNSTON, IOWA (June 27, 2019) – Child**Serve**, a pediatric specialty healthcare organization that serves more than 4,500 children in Iowa each year, named Variety – the Children's Charity and Peggy Fisher and Larry Stelter as Child**Serve** Champions.

The Child**Serve** Champions Award recognizes the non-profit's most devoted supporters for advancing Child**Serve**'s mission through generosity, service and inspiring others to action. These awards were given at Child**Serve**'s annual meeting, where the \$10 million "Forward Together" Campaign was also announced.

Variety & ChildServe: 40 Years of Life-changing Partnership

Since 1979, Variety – the Children's Charity of Iowa has forged a remarkable relationship with Child**Serve**. The missions of both organizations are closely aligned, and this positive alliance has resulted in significant growth in the number of children with special healthcare needs being served in central Iowa.

Variety has played a major role in every capital campaign and expansion of services to increase Child**Serve**'s capacity to serve more children. They are Child**Serve**'s largest cumulative donor.

"The number of children being served at Child**Serve** has soared from less than 100 when our partnership began to more than 4,500 in 2018," says Vice President of Development, Mark Gambaiana. "This growth was made possible by Variety's incredible support, which has benefitted our long-term care units, behavioral health and autism programs, and recently helped provide new imaging equipment."

Variety's support also enabled Child**Serve** to:

- Double outpatient therapy space to now provide over 100,000 therapy appointments to more than 2,000 children annually.
- Launch the Variety Club Child**Serve** Center in Ames, which served 639 children from Story County and beyond in 2018.
- Build six Child**Serve** group homes and establish a central campus for non-residential services.
- Make use of numerous vans and coaches that allow kids with special healthcare needs, many of whom live in homes built with Variety grant money, to get out and participate in their communities.

Peggy Fisher and Larry Stelter

Few donors have made such a lasting impact at Child**Serve** as Peggy Fisher and Larry Stelter.

The couple rank as Child**Serve**'s second-largest cumulative donors with a remarkable history of gift support across three campaigns to impact children across the state. Employees from the three-generation family business, The Stelter Company, have made additional contributions to Child**Serve** in honor of Peggy and Larry.

“Over the past 20 years, Peggy and Larry have made giving to Child**Serve** a priority,” says Vice President of Development, Mark Gambaiana. “Their investment has helped fuel unparalleled growth in the organization’s programs, services, and number of children with special healthcare needs receiving care. Larry’s faithful service of more than 10 years on Child**Serve**’s Board of Trustees has helped us continue to impact the lives of children during times of uncertainty.”

Peggy Fisher’s and Larry Stelter’s incredible generosity has helped to:

- Create Iowa’s only comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation program designed exclusively for children and teens.
- Double outpatient therapy space to now provide over 100,000 therapy appointments to more than 2,000 children annually.
- Start a new autism program, including one-of-a-kind services like Autism Day Health.

Peggy and Larry have also provided a leadership gift to Child**Serve**’s Forward Together Campaign, which will launch a behavioral health clinic, build a new pediatric inpatient rehabilitation unit that will serve over 2,000 kids in the next 10 years, and provide specialized 24/7 nursing care for the growing population of individuals who previously would have aged out of services at Child**Serve** with few, if any appropriate placement options for their level of medical complexity.

About ChildServe

Child**Serve** knows kids and we know specialty healthcare. When parents have questions about their child’s health and development, we’re here with answers and support for the whole family— so we can all move Forward Together. Our team of experts helps identify and meet the unique needs of children with developmental delays, disabilities, injuries, and other special healthcare needs to help them live a *great* life.

For over 90 years, Child**Serve** has partnered with families to provide much-needed healthcare services and support for children and teens from birth to age 21. We currently offer more than 30 services, including pediatric rehabilitation, physical, occupational and speech therapy, long-term care, behavioral health and autism, and more to meet the needs of more than 4,500 children across the state each year.