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For Immediate Release

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**Variety – the Children’s Charity and Clear Lake Fareway to present
specialized bike to 10 year old child living with special needs**

Media Event: Variety – the Children’s Charity in partnership with Clear Lake Fareway will present a specialized bike to 10 year old Kiara Jean Espinosa of Clear Lake

When: Friday, April 1 at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Clear Lake Fareway (910 US-18 #18, Clear Lake, IA 50428)

Presenters: Sheri McMichael, Executive Director of Variety – the Children’s Charity and Tim Augustine, Fareway Store Manager

About Kiara: Kiara has a condition that leads to muscle pain and extreme fatigue in response to physical activity (exercise intolerance). Due to Kiara’s condition, she has difficulty participating in recreational activities with her peers – she has never been able to ride a bike without tiring quickly due to the weakness in her muscles. Kiara is active, intelligent, and strives to be as independent as possible in all aspects of her life, despite living with special needs.

About the Specialized Bike: Kiara will receive a Pace 500 electric bike with stabilizer wheels. This bike has a battery-powered motor to help give Kiara an extra boost to be able to ride at the same speed as her friends without tiring.

About Variety’s Mobility Program: Variety helps children with special needs gain mobility, confidence, freedom, independence and the chance to join in the life of their community by providing funding for specialized bicycles, gait trainers, standers, mobile standers, specialized strollers, specialized car seats and more to families in need. What started as a program offering specialized bikes has expanded to fit the growing needs of children in our communities. In addition to seeing the smiles on children’s faces, these mobility pieces offer both physical and therapeutic benefits. Unfortunately, these items are cost prohibitive to some families and are rarely covered by insurance. That’s why we work with physical therapists throughout the state to identify children who would greatly benefit from a specialized bike or other piece of mobility equipment.

About Variety: Variety – the Children’s Charity is dedicated to improving the lives of children who are at risk, underprivileged, critically ill or living with special needs. Funding is provided to programs and initiatives that directly impact the well-being of children in our community. For more information on how you can be a part of our work, please visit VarietyIowa.com.

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