

# **News Release**

For Immediate Release October 3rd, 2000

## **Variety Club Presents Historic Contribution to Children Hospital**

### **Patient Families Help Celebrate \$2 Million Commitment to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit**

BUFFALO, NY, Oct. 3 - The Variety Club of Buffalo, Tent #7 will again demonstrate its remarkable history of commitment to sick and injured children in Western New York when it presents a \$931,000 gift to Kaleida Health to renovate and expand the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at The Children's Hospital of Buffalo.

A check presentation and reception is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fisher-Price Family Center at Children's Hospital. Attending the ceremony will be Children's Hospital, Kaleida Health and Variety Club leadership, NICU staff and patient families who have benefited from the NICU.

"Nearly 70 years ago, the Variety Club of Buffalo first dedicated itself to sick and injured children throughout Western New York," said John E. Friedlander, Kaleida's President and Chief Executive Officer. "Since then, it has provided essential funding and support for countless programs and projects at Children's Hospital including this remarkable commitment that ensures our ability to provide state-of-the-art care for the most critically ill newborns in our region and beyond."

The NICU at Children's Hospital is the only Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Western New York and provides advanced medical therapy for newborns including high frequency ventilation, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, nitric oxide inhalation, surfactant replacement and partial liquid ventilation.

"The Variety Club of Buffalo is extremely proud to present \$931,000 to Children's Hospital which will be used to upgrade the current NICU to a state-of-the-art unit at the current Bryant Street site," said Sam Gikas, President of Variety Club. "Since Variety's involvement began with Children's Hospital in 1978, it has donated more than \$15 million to help sick, handicapped and underprivileged children in WNY."

Among the countless Children's Hospital projects funded by the Variety Club are the completion of the 10-floor Variety Tower, a \$1.1 million commitment to the current Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and support to establish the current NICU at Children's Hospital now called the Jack Lemon NICU. **THE RENOVATED UNIT WILL BE NAMED THE VARIETY CLUB NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT.**

The \$931,000 represents the first installment of a \$2 million commitment by the Variety Club to the renovation of the NICU.

The \$2 million commitment by the Variety Club combined with approximately \$1.6 million already raised for the NICU renovation from other sources will help

Kaleida Health address one of several conditions made in the recommendation by the Children's Hospital Ad Hoc Committee to build a new Children's Hospital as part of the medical corridor on High Street. The first of two phases recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee to a Steering Committee established to oversee this project is an immediate, fully-funded investment in critical capital infrastructure projects on the Bryant Street site. These projects include the NICU and the Emergency Room among others.

A NICU design team comprised of physicians, nurses, administrators and including representation from the Variety Club has been formed and continues to develop plans for the renovated and expanded NICU. The development of these design plans includes determining the exact location of the NICU on the Bryant Street campus.