

News Release

For Immediate Release March 3, 2003

Variety Telethon Raises Over \$1.4 Million

With the theme, What A Wonderful World, The 41st annual Variety Club Telethon concluded at 7pm on Sunday March 2, 2003 raising \$1,440,777.

Marge Arnold, General Chairman of the annual event broadcast on WKBW-TV Channel 7 was elated. "The people of Western New York, Southern Ontario and Northern Pennsylvania always come through for our kids." The medical and social miracles for our kids will continue and their lives enhanced."

In a major announcement at the beginning of the Telethon, Stuart Williams, President of The Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo announced that the new Neo Natal Intensive Care Unit currently under construction at the hospital will be named The Variety Club Neo Natal Intensive Care Unit. The Variety Club, through the annual Telethon has committed \$3 million of the total building cost.

Pictures of the annual Telethon can be found by visiting the Variety Club Telethon Website at www.variety.buffnet.net/telethon.htm

Diane Kuciel, Chief Barker of the Variety Club announced that the 42nd annual Telethon will take place March 6 & 7, 2004 live from the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Cheektowaga, New York

According to Kaleida Health President and Chief Executive Officer William D. McGuire, "To say that Western New York has been generous to The Women & Children's Hospital is quite an understatement. All segments and corners of this community, once again, came forward to support this hospital in our mission to care for the most critically ill infants. Thank you to the companies, organizations and individuals of Western New York."

Annually, the NICU cares for more than 700 infants, 230 of whom are transferred from hospitals within the regional perinatal network. With an average daily census of 47 babies, and approximately 17,000 patient days per year, the new NICU will better accommodate our critically ill newborns.

The NICU staff is extremely comprehensive and includes physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, respiratory, occupational and physical therapists, neonatal transport teams, nutritionists, a psychologist, social workers and pharmacists. All staff are specially trained in the care of infants and children.

WCHOB offers its critically ill infants pediatric sub specialists in every aspect of pediatric medical care – neonatology, cardiology, dermatology, neurology, genetics, endocrinology, gastroenterology, hematology-oncology, immunology, infectious disease, pulmonary and rheumatology. WCHOB is the only hospital in the region to have pediatric surgical sub specialists for cardiothoracic surgery, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, orthopedics, otolaryngology, urology and general pediatric surgery.

According to WCHOB Chief of Neonatology Rita Ryan, MD, "This new facility means a great deal to our staff who work so hard to help these babies, day in and day out. It's a very exciting day for all of us and I am very grateful to those who made it a reality."

According to WCHOB President Stuart Williams, "This unit is all about helping families. We want to give them the best medical care in a setting that is as pleasant and comfortable as possible. That's now possible in our Variety Club Neonatal Intensive Care Unit."

June 17, 2002

Proceeds generated by the 40th Annual Variety Club Telethon were presented to designated areas of the Children's Hospital of Buffalo and the Robert Warner Rehabilitation Center on Monday June 17 at The Variety Club Headquarters, in Buffalo, New York.

Monies that were presented were:

\$7,250.00 to the Children's Hospital Bereavement Program from Stroehmann's Bakeries

\$4,945.00 to the Children's Hospital Juvenile Diabetic Clinic from Unlimited Energy

\$3,429.36 to Children's Hospital of Buffalo Child Life Department from Maple East Elementary School

\$3,429.36 to Robert Warner Rehabilitation Center Early Childhood Program from Maple East Elementary School

\$5,000 to Children's Hospital SANE Program from Quality Markets/Penn Traffic

\$14,000.00 to the Children's Hospital Neonatology Dept. from Wildermuth Foundation

\$1,500.00 to Carly's Club at Roswell Park Hospital - proceeds from Tony & Tina's Wedding

\$2,500 to Challenger American Little League Baseball Program from the Variety Club Women and a personal bequest