

Kids living in poverty will get holiday celebration from children's charity

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Published:
December 5, 2018

Updated:
December 5, 2018 2:34 PM CST

Filed Under:
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Santa is scheduled to make an appearance at Variety Manitoba's Winter Wonderland celebration on Monday.

More than 300 children who may not otherwise receive a holiday celebration will have one provided by Variety Manitoba on Monday.

Variety Manitoba is organizing Winter Wonderland — a Variety Holiday Celebration for disadvantaged children. The event will pack a range of holiday experiences into a 2.5-hour event at the Metropolitan Entertainment Centre including a hot meal, carolling, Santa and his elves, magicians, glitter tattoos, Elsa and Anna, a balloon artist, and Chad Celaire, "The Christmas Singer."

"Holiday is supposed to be a special time of year," said Jeff Liba, CEO of Variety Manitoba. "We want to put on an event to brighten the lives of children who are economically disadvantaged."

Students from elementary schools Dufferin, Lavallee, Machray, Niji Mahkwa, and Pinkham will be attending.

As Manitoba is the province with the highest percentage of children

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living in poverty (29%), Variety Manitoba chose schools whose students experience a particularly high poverty rate.

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The children will receive gift bags full of practical items like socks, toques and gloves as well as toys and snacks.

This will be Variety Manitoba second year holding the event. The charity's mission is to provide assistance to Manitoba children with special needs and living in economic disadvantage.

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