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The Belle Center Receives Prestigious Disability-Related Award Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis Honors Nonprofit's Service

November 26, 2008—ST. LOUIS: The Belle Center—a nonprofit organization that serves children with disabilities—received a Stellar Performance Award from Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis. This award recognizes the “best of the best” of local disability-related nonprofits. This is the second year in a row that Belle has won this prestigious award.

In addition to the Stellar Performance Award, Belle received \$7,000 in scholarships for children with disabilities who attend its University City-based preschool program.

“Our strong partnership with Variety is crucial for our organization,” says Woessner. “The grant helps us support our kids with disabilities, and the Stellar Performance Award attests to the quality of our preschool.”

Belle's mission is to ensure that all children with disabilities—and their families—are fully included within their schools and communities. The nonprofit's three programs—Center-Based Preschool Program, Outreach Therapy Program and Families as Partners Program—annually serve more than 300 children with disabilities in St. Louis City and County. Nearly 90 percent of the children served come from families who are uninsured, underinsured, underserved, and/or receive low reimbursement rates from government programs. This includes many middle-class families who struggle to afford preschool tuition and therapy services for children with disabilities.

Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis serves children with physical and mental disabilities in the Greater St. Louis region, each time they need assistance, from infancy to the age of 21. Founded in 1932, the Variety chapter of St. Louis is an international leader, raising more than \$3.5 million annually to help local children with differing abilities. Variety is a repeat winner of Charity Navigator's “Four-Star Rating.” Variety earned this rare consecutive rating by exceeding industry standards for fiscal responsibility and financial health. For more information, please visit www.varietystl.org.

Founded in 1984, The Belle Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides services for children with disabilities and their families. Belle was the first organization in the Midwest to provide a full inclusion preschool program where children with and without disabilities could learn and play together. The organization won the Stellar Agency Award in 2007 and 2008 from Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis, and meets all 20 Standards of Charity Accountability through the Better Business Bureau (BBB). For more information, visit www.bellecenter.com.

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Meets all 20 BBB
Charity Standards

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Recipient of two
Stellar Performance Awards:
Daycare Category
2007 & 2008