

# Wheelchair Grand Prix

*Inaugural Fund Raising Event in Pittsburgh: October 7 - 9, 2006*



Variety Young Professionals of Pittsburgh's (Young Variety of Pittsburgh) inaugural fund raising event – a Wheelchair Grand Prix – will be held Friday through Sunday, October 7 – 9, 2005. Plans are underway for what will be southwestern Pennsylvania's first wheelchair relay walk, that will begin in Moraine State Park and 100 miles later (over a three day period) end at Presque Isle at Lake Erie. Teams of ten will push empty wheelchairs through designated routes going north.

Ten to fifteen teams (with one wheelchair each) will participate with three members at a time pushing the wheelchair and each team having at least one marked support vehicle carrying the other team members. Each team member will provide \$100 in pledges/donations. Overnight stops are planned along the route including campgrounds and lodging. Corporate sponsor Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield will host a "kickoff" party the evening before the event for race participants to meet Variety's very special children, and a final destination celebratory picnic is planned at the Admiral Perry Monument in Presque Isle Park. Variety Young Professionals was instituted with three goals in mind: to raise awareness about Variety the Children's Charity of Pittsburgh; to raise fund for Variety's kids with disabilities; and to encourage young people to get involved to ensure future leadership of Variety and its mission.

For more information, please visit the Variety Young Professionals (VYP) web site at:

[www.vyp-pgh.org](http://www.vyp-pgh.org)

or call Jennifer Hammerstrom, Variety's Manager of Development, at (412) 747-2680.