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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bidwell Riverside Center receives \$15,000 grant from Variety - the Children's Charity**

*September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020:* Bidwell Riverside Center has received a \$15,000 grant from Variety - the Children's Charity to fund the installation of much-needed new flooring in the Bidwell Riverside Child Development Center.

The Bidwell Riverside Child Development Center provides a comprehensive education and care program at an affordable price for children ages 2 to 5 years old in Des Moines, Iowa. Along with academic preparation, the children receive essential instruction and experiences related to social interaction, emotional development, and physical activity. The Bidwell Riverside Child Development Center served 99 children in 2019, and 71% of families received tuition relief through Bidwell Riverside Center or have qualified for childcare assistance through the Department of Human Services.

The grant from Variety – the Children's Charity will be used to replace the damaged flooring on the main level of the building. The current flooring has many cracks and chips in the tiles and has created a safety hazard for children and staff. The new flooring will be much more durable and will allow the children to be able to run and play without worrying about tripping on the damaged tiles.

"We're very appreciative of Variety – the Children's Charity's continued support throughout the years," said Tim Shanahan, Executive Director. "This grant will allow us to not only replace our current, damaged flooring but also help foster an environment of learning where our children can thrive."

About Bidwell Riverside Center: Bidwell Riverside Center is committed to a vision of a future where no one lives in poverty and every person has the opportunity for a positive future. Established in 1893 by a group of Methodist women dedicated to helping disadvantaged families, Bidwell has evolved into a secular organization seeking to build hope for a better future by providing support through two primary programs, a Food & Clothing Pantry and Child Development Center.

About Variety – the Children's Charity of Iowa: Variety - the Children's Charity is dedicated to improving the lives of children who are underprivileged, at-risk, critically ill or living with special needs. Grant funding is provided to programs and initiatives that directly impact the well-being of children. For more information on Variety grants and programs please visit [varietyiowa.com](http://varietyiowa.com).

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