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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Variety-The Children’s Charity grants \$20,000 towards the construction of a local coffee shop to employ local young adults and high school students.

Des Moines, Ia (November 5, 2015) Variety-The Children’s Charity of Iowa awarded Freedom for Youth Ministries (FFYM) \$20,000. These funds are currently helping with the construction of FFYM’s youth employment training center. Freedom for Youth Ministries empowers youth across Iowa through the love of Jesus Christ to break bondages, discover their God-given talents, and lead transformed lives.

For the past 3 years, Freedom for Youth Ministries (FFYM) has employed homeless young adults who reside in their transitional housing program to roast, package, and sell gourmet coffee to churches, businesses and individuals. Through this existing business, known as “Freedom Blend Coffee”, FFYM is building a full-scale coffee house, offering the opportunity to employ and train hundreds of high school, and young adult students in the future.

“We are excited that Variety – The Children’s Charity is partnering with us in building the youth employment center coffee shop. They understand our vision of teaching young people how to be great employees!” said Mark Nelson, the Executive Director at Freedom for Youth Ministries.

“These young people are eager to work and will gain invaluable work skills, such as effectively communicating with customers, developing a positive attitude and working productively, all in a supportive, Christ centered, teaching environment said Denise Juhl, the Director of Young Adult Programs and Chief Operating Officer at Freedom for Youth Ministries.

About Variety-The Children’s Charity: Variety is dedicated to improving the lives of underprivileged, at-risk and special needs children. Funding is provided to programs and initiatives that directly impact the well-being of children throughout Iowa. For more information on how you can be a part of Variety’s work, please visit varietyiowa.com.

About Freedom for Youth Ministries:

This ministry was founded in 2003 it serves K-12 and young adults. The 6 acre Des Moines campus includes a wood shop, art/pottery studio, worship center, mechanical shop, welding shop, computer lab, coffee roasterie/shop, teaching kitchen and recreational center. Volunteers teach classes in these areas and/or mentor and/or tutor the youth. There are 2 residences for young adults nearby that provide transitional housing for men and women. There are other Freedom for Youth centers statewide, currently in Mitchellville, Stuart, Perry and Winterset and four others in the Des Moines metro area. For more information please visit www.freedomforyouth.org or call (515) 282-4822.

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