

Building on Our 40-Year Heritage: 2024 Highlights

New Strategic Plan: Following a busy and productive 40th Anniversary year, BVO launched its new Strategic Plan in 2024 – a road map guiding our direction for the next three years.

COMMUNICATION	ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
Raise awareness of BVO's programs, services and impact in our community.	Strengthen our organization to be fully operational at all times and well into the future.	Engage with the community to ensure that we continue to meet current needs and future changes.	Protect the environment through education, partnerships and diversion initiatives.



Preschool Graduation



EarlyON Program



Little Free Libraries: Ravenna Ribbon-Cutting

Space Needs Analysis: BVO hired the architectural firm of +VG to do a space needs analysis of our building and property, and to produce concept drawings showing how we might increase efficiencies through improvements and expansion of our facility.

Youth Climate Action Fund: In 2024, the Town offered grants for youth who submitted winning projects to the Youth Climate Action Fund. BVO facilitated the completion of 3 of the successful projects: Green, Grey, Blue - videos on local groups and organizations taking actions to help our environment; The Tiny Forest at the west end of Moreau Park; and Sustainable Marker Ink Research and Development - promoting the use of natural inks/dyes from local plant berries.



Living Wage: BVO is proud to be a Certified Living Wage Employer in Ontario. As a member of Grey Bruce Poverty Task Force, and as an organization that provides emergency services, we want to lead by example. We support our staff with an income that

enables them to meet their basic needs and participate in the community they live in.

Little Free Libraries: BVO, in partnership with the BMP Library and Thornbury Clarksburg Rotary, launched the Little Free Libraries, which contain books and non-perishable food items. Built by Georgian Bay Community School's (GBCS) Tech class and decorated by the art students. There are 5 locations throughout the Municipality.

Program Awards: BVO Preschool received Platinum awards through Community Votes Grey County in the Parenting & Childcare category - "Daycare", "Child Play Places" and "Childcare Services". BVO Kid's Club received a Gold award in the Parenting & Childcare category - "After School Program".

EarlyON: Our EarlyON program for parents and caregivers with children ages 0-6 saw record numbers of families visiting in 2024. Visits by adults: 1,072; Visits by children: 1,871. This speaks to the number of families in our area connecting with essential services run by qualified staff.

Making Good Things Happen in our Community!

Many families, seniors, and individuals in our community relied on BVO to make their lives better – and we continued to deliver!

Caring for Our Children

25 Years Cheers to Jennifer Miller for achieving this milestone at BVO.

60 Children from 52 families were cared for at BVO Preschool

44 Families spent quality time together at our EarlyON Child & Family Centre.

73 Children enjoyed after-school activities at Kids Club

15,220 Meals were served at Beaver Valley Community School. 1,059 Volunteer Hours

116 Children from 83 families participated in Summer Fun Day Camp

25 Children from 17 families received Recreational Funding

Youth Engagement

Approx 1200 visits to interactive tables at GBCS; 400 students engaged in Exam De-stress Events, Change Maker program and Cooking Sessions

Caring for Our Environment

539,911 lbs of used clothing, textiles, toys, books & household items diverted internally and externally

Caring for Those Who Need Us

35-40 Average number of households per month BVO supports with food & gift cards

115 Households supported through our Holiday Hamper program

245 lbs of fresh, local food was donated to BVO's Food Cubby from Thornbury Community Gardens

50 Boxes of fresh fruit & vegetables for our Good Food Basket buying cooperative (many of these subsidized) over 10 months

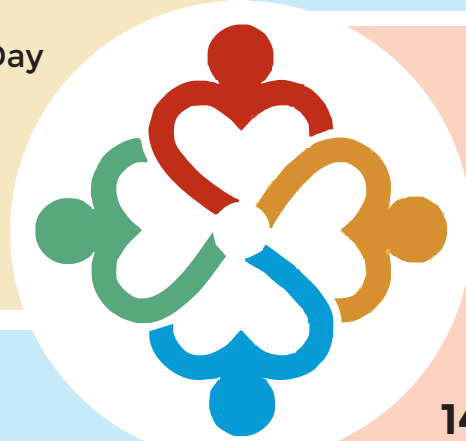
Keeping Seniors Safe & Engaged

10 live Seniors Centre Without Walls/New Territory 4 Seniors seminars, 3 community feedback seminars, 165 phone sessions

140 Seniors & caregivers benefited from attending Seniors Centre Without Walls phone & in-person activities

200⁺ Seniors benefited from individual Answers 4 Seniors advocacy, liaising, referrals

202,614 lbs diverted from the landfill through Treasure Shop customer purchases
\$34,115 Raised by our Bottles for BVO Program



From Cathy Innes

Chair BVO Board of Directors

After celebrating BVO's 40th anniversary in 2023, the Board turned its focus to the future, with the major project being a new Strategic Plan 2024-2027, which was successfully completed and introduced in April 2024. While some strategic plans tend to just sit on the shelf, the Board has set strategic targets and deadlines for the various action items in our plan, and reviews its progress at every Board meeting.

Another major project was revising our Articles of Incorporation and our Corporate Bylaws to comply with the new Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act (ONCA). Our lawyer has reviewed these documents, which now await the approval of the membership at our AGM this April. Setting the annual budget is always a challenging time for the Board. One of our accomplishments was becoming certified as a living wage employer; we are pleased to continue to fulfill our obligations to our staff.

The Board is so grateful for the dedication and hard work of our amazing staff, led by our Executive Director, Carolyn Letourneau, whose creativity and excellent leadership skills have built a great team.

The Board's biggest project falls under both the Organizational Sustainability and the Environmental Stewardship pillars of our strategic plan. It has been evident for some time that, as our community has grown and the demographics have shifted somewhat, BVO must accommodate by making some changes to its physical space. The first step was to hire Enerplan to create a long-term plan for the replacement of various components of our building, thus allowing us to budget for future capital expenses. Next, the Board realized that it needed outside help to create a space needs analysis. The job was tendered, and we hired +VG Architects to do the analysis and create concept drawings for expansion. The process sought input from staff, volunteers, and many users of the building. We will continue to communicate as this process moves along.

Our April AGM marks the end of the Board's three-year term, and so we give our sincere thanks to Susan Thomson and Norine Baron for their time, talents and ideas. As many of you know, Norine has been on and off the Board a few times since being one of BVO's founders. She will continue to organize the food cubby and be the "Keeper of BVO's History."

BVO is blessed to have the support of its staff, volunteers, partners, and a generous community to enable us to carry out our mission. Thank you!

From Carolyn Letourneau

BVO Executive Director

This past year was one of growth, resilience, and impact as we continued our mission to serve the community through our 18 grassroots programs and services. Despite the challenges that come with operating a charity, our dedicated team of staff and volunteers has worked tirelessly to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of those who rely on us.

Thanks to our Treasure Shop team, we continue to help extend the lifespan of our local landfill by diverting hundreds of thousands of pounds of materials. Through our programs and services, we have made a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals and families. From providing essential services to offering educational and support services, our reach has extended across multiple areas of need. Our Holiday Hampers alone reached 115 households. Please refer to our Programs & Services insert to see the rest of the impressive numbers that highlight the collective impact we make in our community.

Each of our programs & services would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our small but mighty team of staff who work hard daily to help BVO fulfill our Vision, Mission and Values. I am privileged to work with a team that shares strong work ethics and rises to the occasion in a multitude of circumstances, and I appreciate everyone's commitment to the people we serve. The year 2025 will be fulfilling, as we focus on the four pillars of our Strategic Plan, and together continue making good things happen in our community!

Volunteers are the heart of our organization. Last year alone, 195 active BVO volunteers contributed 19,765 recorded hours, making it possible for us to run our programs and services efficiently and expand our reach. The passion and commitment of our volunteers ensure that we can continue making a difference, and we are incredibly grateful for each and every contribution.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our Board of Directors for their guidance, our staff for their dedication, our volunteers for their generosity, and our donors and community partners for their continued support. Together, we have made a meaningful impact, and together we will continue to build a stronger, more connected community.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. I look forward to another year of growth, collaboration, and service.



OUR Vision

A vibrant, engaged, and inclusive community with quality programs and services that enhance the well-being of families and individuals.



OUR Mission

Beaver Valley Outreach is a charitable, community-based organization of staff and volunteers that provides quality programs and services to enhance the social, economic, and environmental well-being of people in our community.



OUR Values

BVO Strives to:

- be welcoming and accessible
- treat individuals with respect and integrity
- be accountable and transparent to our supporters and those who use our services
- be collaborative, responsive and resourceful in meeting the needs of our community

Thank You Community Partners!

Town of The Blue Mountains | Beaver Valley Community School | L.E. Shore Memorial Library
County of Grey | Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary Club | Thornbury Foodland

In Memory

BVO remembers these very special people who passed away in 2024:

Mike Young - A great neighbour of BVO in our years at Bruce St., Mike always had a smile on his face and a great sense of humour, helping us with some behind the scenes computer troubleshooting and advice.

June Krueger - A dedicated Kid's Club volunteer twice a week in the 1990s and into the 2000s, June contributed her rich background of working with children. Each week, she brought in her loom to teach weaving to the kids.

Marj Stewart - One of the very first volunteers in 1983, Marj supervised the Clothing Depot (now Treasure Shop) and was a member of the coordinating committee before there was a Board of Directors. She lived to be 101.

Mary Lounds - Mary started volunteering in our Treasure Shop in 2014. Her smiling face was always welcome and her contributions were appreciated.

Barb Moreau - A Board member in the early 2000s, Barb was also a Treasure Shop volunteer for many years. She was always cheerful, with a twinkle in her eye.



Making Good Things Happen in our Community!