

Board Chair's Message



Lynn Keays, BVO Board Chair

2025 was a productive year for BVO as we continued implementing our strategic plan and supporting positive initiatives within our community. We were also pleased to welcome three new members to the Board of Directors, who have brought valuable expertise and perspectives to the organization.

On behalf of the Board, I extend sincere appreciation to BVO's staff and volunteers. Their dedication and teamwork have enabled the organization to expand its reach and impact while continuing to serve our community.

A key focus in 2025 was planning the expansion of our 54 King Street East location. Through consultations with staff, volunteers, and community members, we worked with +VG Architects to develop concept drawings that reflect our growing needs, including improvements to the Treasure Shop, sorting areas, offices, and parking.

The Board also reviewed and updated several policies to strengthen governance and ensure compliance with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act.

As this was my first year as Board Chair, I would like to thank Cathy Innes, former Board Chair, for her guidance, and express my gratitude to fellow Board members, staff, volunteers, and community partners for their continued support.

Let's keep making good things happen in our community together!

Good Things Happened in 2025



Building Bright Futures

Children aged 0-6 had a wonderful year engaging with their peers, parents and caregivers, while developing both physically and mentally through a variety of EarlyON programs such as Music & Mondays, Fun with Food, Little Scientists, Little Artists, Baby & Me, and Toddlers Takeover the Library. Our EarlyON Baby Depot also supported local families with essential baby items!

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



Empowering Youth Participation

BVO Youth Engagement provided mentorship and supported youth participation in community conversations, environmental initiatives, and school events such as exam de-stress sessions and intergenerational programming. Through these opportunities, youth deepened their understanding, increased participation, built confidence, developed initiative and leadership skills, and strengthened their interest in future roles within their community.



Seniors Centre Without Walls



Keeping Seniors Informed

Our Program supported seniors with information on falls prevention, legal planning (wills and powers of attorney), fraud awareness, community paramedics, and hearing health. Seniors also received individual guidance, recreational funding, information, and referrals to local resources. These initiatives helped seniors make informed decisions, maintain their health, and remain active and engaged in our community.



Investing in Children

1,161 children participated and benefited from our programs and services, including EarlyON, Kids Club, Summer Fun Day Camp, Preschool & Recreational Funding.



Youth Engagement in Action

Approx. 2,000+ visits through weekly school engagement; 800+ youth engaged through major events; 400+ unique youth and 20+ youth volunteers engaged.



Supporting Seniors

215 seniors were supported through public information sessions, senior adult funding, and Individual, confidential, referral/liaising/navigating service.



Caring for Families and Households

- 116 households were supported through holiday hampers.
- 19 families received recreational funding.
- 35-45 households per month received food and gift card support.



Protecting our Environment

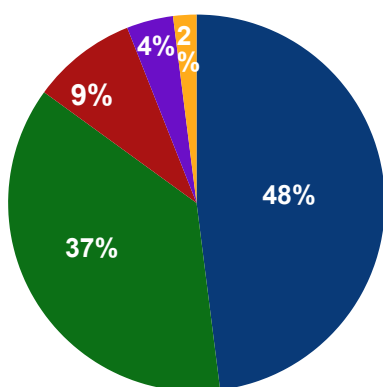


- **Bottles for BVO:** \$30,343 revenue generated: Over 100,000 recycled cans/bottles.
- **Treasure Shop:** 593,421 lbs of tracked materials and textiles were diverted from our local landfill.

The Heart of Our Community



- 175 active volunteers, volunteer placement and ongoing orientation.
- BVO volunteers of all ages contributed 20,500 tracked hours to support our community.



2025 Revenue Sources

- Children's Programs*
- Treasure Shop + Off-site
- Donations
- Programs & services
- Grant

*Includes County funding

Our Community Partners

- Town of The Blue Mountains
- BVCS, GBGS
- The Blue Mountains Public Library
- County of Grey
- Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary Club
- Thornbury Foodland
- Global Coin Solutions

The senior program helped me make friends and made life better after I was widowed

As a volunteer, I enjoy the people and the energy that makes BVO work

Thanks for everything you do to keep the kiddos safe and smiling



Social Gatherings

BVO's volunteers and staff enjoyed seasonal winter and summer gatherings, embracing the opportunity to socialize, connect, and have fun. Both events featured games, music, shared meals, and engaging activities, creating a relaxed and joyful environment. The gatherings left volunteers and staff feeling connected, refreshed and ready to keep up their great work.

BVO Podcast

A group of volunteers representing various BVO programs and services was formed to produce BVO podcasts. The volunteers met regularly online, connected with a local podcaster to exchange knowledge & gain experience, and produced eight podcast episodes. These episodes helped raise awareness and deepen understanding of our programs and services within the community.



Walking Through The Fire

BVO, in collaboration with the Blue Mountains Public Library and Amnesty International Group 82, hosted Walking Through the Fire, a free visual album by Sultans of String, followed by an inspiring Q&A session with Elder Dr. Duke Redbird and Chris McKhool. Community members experienced this powerful fusion of music, Indigenous storytelling, and artistry in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.



Beaver Valley Fall Fair

We joined our community in celebrating Beaver Valley Fall Fair by sharing information about BVO programs and services, showcasing our work, and sponsoring children's entertainment. The event provided valuable learning opportunities and allowed us to engage with diverse organizations, leaders and community members.



Community Transportation Survey

Public transportation has been a significant challenge for some community members in the Town of the Blue Mountains. In 2025, we launched a transportation survey to better understand the situation and help identify community needs.





Looking Ahead

Carolyn Letourneau
BVO Executive Director

This past year has been one of thoughtful growth, strengthened partnerships, and continued commitment to serving our community with compassion and accountability guided by our strategic plan.

We strengthened relationships with residents, partners, staff, volunteers, and donors to ensure our programs reflect evolving community needs.

Collaboration with service providers improved referral pathways and coordinated supports, while our dedicated staff and volunteers continued to contribute their time and expertise across programs and services.

Sustainability is fundamental to our ability to serve today and into the future. Through environmental stewardship, we continued to divert waste and promote sustainable practices that help keep materials out of our local landfill.

We also enhanced communication by expanding digital outreach, sharing community stories, and improving reporting to stakeholders, ensuring transparency and stronger engagement.

In 2026, we will continue together with our board, staff, volunteers, donors, partners, and community members to build a stronger and more connected community. Thank you for your support!

2025 Awards

BVO, in partnership with the Blue Mountains Public Library, won the 2025 I Partner with My Public Library Award. BVO Preschool also received Gold in three categories in CommunityVotes Grey County 2025.



Thanks to our community



Our New Van



In Memory and Gratitude



Joan Gaudet

Joan began volunteering with BVO in 2006. She contributed in countless ways from emptying bins and driving clients to making snacks for students and greeting visitors at BVO Treasure Shop with her friendly banter and smile.

Jean-Marc Pagé

After retiring in 2015, Jean-Marc Pagé became a dedicated BVO volunteer and transformed Bottles for BVO into a well-organized program with growing volunteer support and a major revenue stream for the organization.

Julie Ruo

Julie joined BVO Treasure Shop team in 2017 and was calm, resourceful, discerning, and full of quiet laughter. Julie's final days were spent travelling to Asia with her son last summer, on what she called the best trip she had ever been on.