

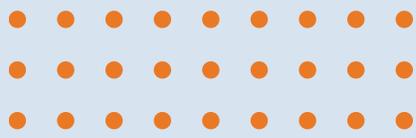


THE  
WOMEN'S CENTRE  
GREY BRUCE



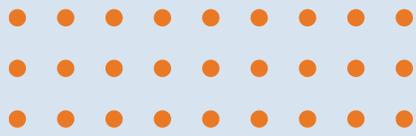
# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25





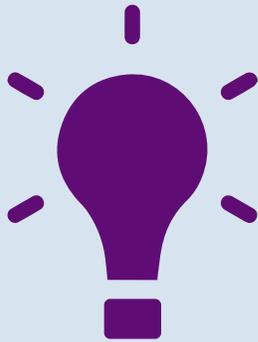
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# VISION

## *& Mission*



### VISION

The Women's Centre Grey Bruce is a safer place for women, children and youth.



### MISSION

Women, children and youth will live in safety regardless of their circumstances, and our community will recognize and work to eliminate abuse and violence.



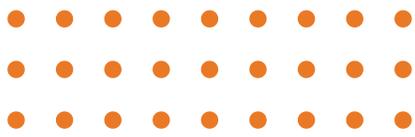
## MESSAGE FROM THE *Executive Director*

As we look back on this past year at The Women's Centre Grey Bruce, I am proud of the progress we've made, and the resilience shown by our team and the individuals we serve. Our commitment to creating safe, supportive spaces for women, children and youth remains at the heart of everything we do. During this reported year, we welcomed a Children's Services Coordinator, a vital addition to our team. This role has allowed us to offer a summer camp for youth at Second Stage Housing and provide engaging activities and games for children while their mothers attend group workshops and counseling sessions. We continue to invest in staff training, recognizing that ongoing professional development is essential to delivering trauma-informed, high-quality care. While we celebrated many successes, we also faced challenges. Heavy rains caused a foundation leak at the shelter, requiring significant repairs to address a crack in the foundation. Thanks to the dedication of our team and the support of our community, we were able to overcome this unexpected obstacle.

Our work is sustained by the generosity of our community. Many events and third-party initiatives, combined with the loyalty of our donors and successful grant applications, ensured that our programs and services remained funded throughout the year. This support allows us to continue providing critical resources to women, children and youth involved in our services.

Significant time and energy continued to be placed in our Studio Blue Youth Services program, as we must fund approximately \$200,000 each year to fill gaps in staffing needs that are not covered by other funding sources. This included securing our children's residential license and ensuring full compliance with Ministry standards and regulations, which is essential to maintaining safe, high-quality care for youth. In November, we hosted a Community Focus Group for Studio Blue with attendees from Bruce Grey Child & Family Services, Grey County, Keystone Family Services, Youth Justice Program, YMCA, Canadian Mental Health, Grey County Housing, Community Justice/Diversion Program, Safe N Sound, Supportive Outreach Services (SOS), and M'Wikwedong. Together, we reviewed referral processes, identified roadblocks to service, discussed safety concerns, and explored program goals and suggested changes. These conversations are vital to improving access and outcomes for youth.

At the same time, we worked on expansion projects, such as our Meaford Outreach initiative in partnership with Rotary House in Meaford. These efforts reflect our commitment to reaching more individuals in need and strengthening community-based supports across Grey Bruce.



## MESSAGE FROM THE *Executive Director*

We recognize the incredible value volunteers bring to our work, and while building a strong volunteer program has been challenging, we see this as an exciting opportunity for growth. In the coming year, we will prioritize volunteer development by adding a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator to our team, ensuring volunteers feel supported and engaged. If you would like to volunteer with us—whether by helping provide programming at Studio Blue for youth, organizing spaces, or supporting our community events—please reach out. Your involvement makes a real difference.

Our staff also continued to represent the agency at numerous community tables, ensuring collaboration and advocacy across sectors. These tables include:

- Poverty Task Force
- Violence Prevention Grey Bruce
- Southern Ontario Shelter Association
- Situation Table for Acute Risk
- Community Safety & Well-Being Grey Bruce
- CAS/VAW Collaboration Table
- Grey Bruce Public Health IPAC – Congregate Living Settings
- Supportive Outreach Services (S.O.S)
- Housing and Homelessness via United Way
- Domestic Violence Court Advisory Committee
- Domestic Abuse Response Team
- We CARE Grey Bruce
- Grey Bruce Anti-Human Trafficking Table
- Grey Bruce Children’s Alliance
- Human Services & Justice Coordinating Committee

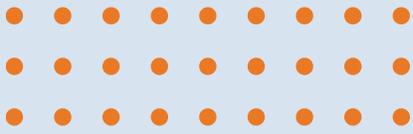


These partnerships and collaborative efforts are critical to creating a coordinated response that supports women, children and youth in crisis.

As we move forward, our focus will remain on expanding services, strengthening community connections, and ensuring that every individual who turns to us feels safe, supported, and empowered. We are deeply grateful for your partnership. As we look to the year ahead, we invite you to stay connected, get involved, and help us continue this vital work. Thank you for your support and being a part of this years' journey, whether through donations, volunteering, or advocacy - all of which makes this work possible.

With Warm Regards,

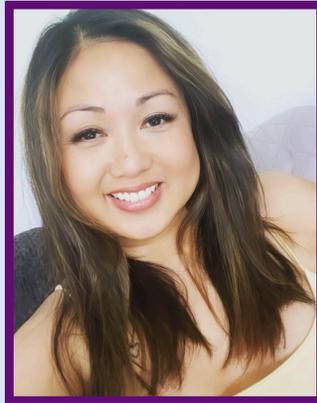
Heather Sheldrick, Executive Director



# MEET OUR *Leadership Team*



**HEATHER SHELDRICK**  
Executive Director/  
Board Secretary



**MARY THOMPSON**  
Second Stage Housing  
Program Manager



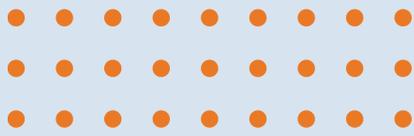
**JOYCE ANN JOHNSTON**  
Violence Against Women  
Shelter Program Manager



**JODIE HORNETT**  
Payroll & Accounts  
Manager



**STACEY BARRY**  
Fund Development &  
Communications Manager



# MEET OUR *Board of Directors*



**ALISSA ANGEL**  
Board Chair



**ERICA WEPLER**  
Vice-Chair



**KATE VANDERWIELEN**  
Director/Interim Treasurer



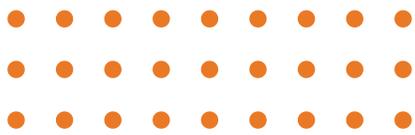
**MARIAM FARES**  
Director



**JULIE STANLEY**  
Director



**COLLEEN SAKER**  
Director



# LETTER FROM THE *Board Chair*

To Our Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers, and Community Partners,

As Chair of the Board of Directors for The Women's Centre Grey-Bruce, it is my sincere pleasure to extend heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to each of you for the incredible accomplishments and collective efforts over the past year.

Together, we have continued to advance our mission of supporting women, children and youth experiencing violence and rebuilding lives marked by dignity, safety, and hope. The strength of our work lies not only in the essential services we provide, but in the unwavering compassion, collaboration, and commitment that each one of you brings to this organization every day.

To our dedicated staff: thank you for the professionalism, care, and resilience you show in your work. Your efforts have changed lives and offered crucial support when it was most needed.

To our volunteers: your time, energy, and generosity are the heart of our community. Whether supporting shelter operations, fundraising, or outreach, your contributions make a profound impact.

To our community partners: we are grateful for your continued collaboration, advocacy, and shared commitment to building a safer, more equitable future. Together, we are stronger.

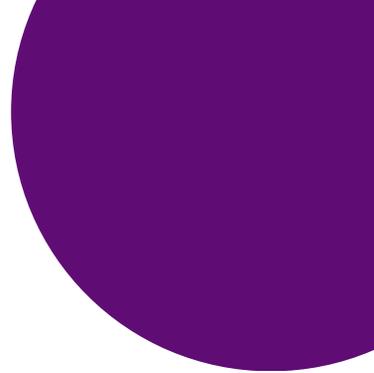
And to my fellow Board members: thank you for your leadership, governance, and steadfast belief in the power of this organization to create meaningful change. Your insight and stewardship continue to guide us forward with integrity and purpose.

This past year has brought challenges, but also remarkable growth, innovation, and a renewed sense of unity in our shared cause. Studio Blue has received a lot of support and generosity from the community, a special thanks to the 100 Men who Give a Damn for the much needed kitchen renovation. I must also thank my friends, family and neighbours for answering my call outs for donated furniture and household items. I wish you could experience firsthand the gratitude of receiving these much needed items, but please know they are met with smiles, "thank yous" and a sense of relief. I look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.

With deep appreciation and admiration,

Warm regards,

Alissa Angel  
Chair, Board of Directors  
The Women's Centre Grey-Bruce





# PROGRAMS & Services

## THREE CORE PROGRAMS

The **VAW Emergency Shelter Program** is a twenty-bed facility with security and main floor accessibility offering twenty-four hour crisis intervention and supportive counselling.

The **Second Stage Residential Program** is a safe 12-unit townhouse complex that provides transitional and supportive counselling within a geared-to-income rent program.

**Studio Blue Youth Services**, the Anti-Human Trafficking Program for Youth, includes counselling, outreach, and housing for at-risk youth 15-18 years of age.

The **Outreach program** assists women in the community and clients staying at The Second Stage Residential Program connect with local support and services

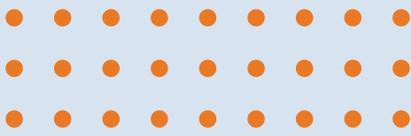
## SERVICES

**Public education** about abuse, women's issues, and human trafficking is shared with community partners including schools, community groups, and service clubs.

**Family & Criminal Court support** is provided in partnership with other community agencies to support abused women while they navigate through the Court system.

**Walk-in crisis support** is available twenty-four hours per day at the Shelter and during business hours at Second Stage. Trained staff provide phone and text crisis support, information and referrals for women, children, and youth in crisis, twenty-four hours per day.

Individual and group **counselling** is available at the Shelter and Second Stage, for all women regardless of their situation.



## STAFF

# Spotlight

### AMANDA HURLEY

*Women's Legal Advocate & Community Outreach*



Amanda has made a meaningful and transformative contribution to victims' issues in our community through a combination of advocacy, innovation, and compassionate service to our clients. Over the past three years, Amanda has demonstrated unwavering commitment to supporting individuals affected by crime and trauma. She also sits on several community tables, representing our agency and the vital work she does, ensuring that victims' voices are included in broader discussions around justice, safety, and support services.

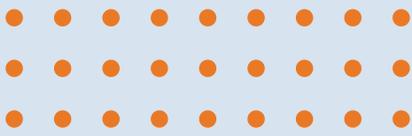
Amanda has consistently advocated for victims' rights within the justice system, ensuring that survivors feel heard, informed, and empowered throughout the court process. She has developed personalized support plans for clients navigating complex legal proceedings, often accompanying them to court, assisting with case-related documents, helping clients communicate effectively with their legal representation, and guiding them in understanding their rights and options.

Through her work, Amanda has built strong and trusted connections with members of the legal community, including the Crown Attorney's office, which has enhanced collaboration and improved outcomes for the individuals she supports. Her ability to bridge the gap between victims and the justice system has made her an invaluable resource both to her clients and to the professionals she works alongside.

As a professional service provider, Amanda consistently goes above and beyond her regular duties. For example, she frequently covers frontline responsibilities for other programs within our agency, stepping in wherever needed with reliability and skill. Amanda is knowledgeable across multiple roles and consistently puts the client first, no matter what position she is filling on any given day. Her flexibility and dedication ensure that clients receive seamless, high-quality support, even in challenging or high-pressure situations.

Amanda's work continues to inspire change, and elevate the voices of victims.

9



# STAFF

## Spotlight

### NATALIA KARWACKI

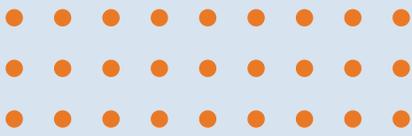
*Children's Services Coordinator*

As the *Children's Services Coordinator* at Second Stage, I currently support 12 active clients ranging from 15 months to 18 years. I provide individualized care and support tailored to every client's unique needs. Each week, I lead multiple child group sessions designed to enhance confidence, encourage play, and promote healthy social and emotional skills. Groups are based on age range and activities, which allow children to socialize with peers their own age and participate in age-appropriate activities.

My role also entails providing childcare for women currently at the shelter, allowing them to take time to themselves, appointments, job interviews, etc. In addition, I have dedicated hundreds of hours to one-on-one sessions with individual clients, building strong, trusting relationships and helping them reach personal goals.



"My goal as a **Children's Services Coordinator** is centered on supporting children to create meaningful memories, encourage emotional growth, connection with peers and caregivers, and happiness for every child I support."



# GRANTS *and Funding*

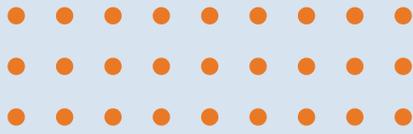
## GRANTS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS

This year, our organization was deeply honored to receive generous support from community partners, foundations, and service clubs. These contributions have strengthened our programs, expanded services, and created meaningful opportunities for women and youth in crisis.

- **Home Depot Youth Opportunity Grant** awarded **\$70,000**, enabling us to fund program support staff and continue our Employment Readiness Program at Studio Blue Youth Services.
- **Women's Shelters Canada** provided **\$50,000** to support a dedicated Children's Services Coordinator, ensuring specialized care for children impacted by violence.
- **Pickard Foundation** generously donated **\$50,000** to sustain vital services for at-risk youth and women in crisis.
- **100 Good Men Who Give a Damn** contributed **\$14,000**, making possible a kitchen renovation and providing groceries for youth at Studio Blue.
- **Eva Leflar Foundation** (via Community Foundation Grey Bruce) granted **\$5,000**, which funded youth stipends for sports, music, and school activities, equipment, and transportation, as well as general program needs.
- **REALTORS® Community Foundation** provided **\$4,190** to meet essential needs within the Studio Blue program.
- **Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario** contributed **\$2,049**, supporting our ongoing work with youth and families.

In addition to these grants, we are grateful for the ongoing support of local service clubs, including the **Zonta Club of Owen Sound, Knights of Columbus** (who contributed proceeds from their annual charity bingo), and the **Owen Sound Royal Canadian Legion Branch #6 Ladies Auxiliary**, all of whom play a vital role in supporting the Women's Centre Grey Bruce.

In total, these grants and contributions represent over **\$195,000** in funding, a testament to the incredible commitment of our partners to creating safer, healthier futures for those we serve. All proceeds were directed to program delivery and staffing needs, ensuring our programs remain operational and impactful. Every grant received has a direct impact, whether through expanding residential programs, providing additional programming and workshops, or ensuring children and youth have access to activities that foster growth and resilience.



## EVENTS

### *and Awareness*

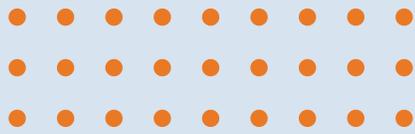


This year launched a return to The Women's Centre Grey Bruce events to increase community awareness about our programs and services that support women, children, and at-risk youth affected by abuse and exploitation in Grey and Bruce Counties. The Women's Centre Grey Bruce hosted several impactful events and campaigns that strengthened community engagement and raised essential funds for programs and services.

The **1st Annual Charity Golf Classic** at Legacy Ridge Golf Club in July, brought together local businesses and supporters for a day of golf and philanthropy. This inaugural event successfully raised funds through corporate sponsorship, silent auction, and group entry costs to support our vital programs and services. In August, we then hosted a social gathering **Afternoon Tea Party** offering an elegant and welcoming space at Meaford Hall Arts and Cultural Centre for community members to connect, share stories, and raise awareness about gender-based violence prevention. This ran in conjunction with a local donation drive towards non-perishable food items and personal care productions at Godard's Your Independent Grocers in Meaford. November brought the **Serve It Right Charity Volleyball** fundraiser which united teams from across Grey Bruce in a fun tournament that blended recreation with a meaningful cause.

In addition to fundraising events, the Women's Centre Grey Bruce led key awareness initiatives. **International Women's Day** on March 8, 2025, featured keynote speaker and author Gwen Lamont at our **Annual Breakfast** and communities activities celebrating women's achievements and advocating for gender equality with our involvement all across Grey and Bruce counties. During Woman Abuse Prevention Month in November, the **Wrapped in Courage Campaign** encouraged individuals to wear purple scarves as a visible show of support for survivors of violence, reinforcing the message that ending abuse requires collective action.

Through events and initiatives, The Women's Centre Grey Bruce strengthened its outreach, raised critical funds, and engaged the community in creating a safer environment for women, children, and youth. Each initiative contributed to sustaining our programs and continue our vital services and raised awareness in the community.



# THANK YOU

*To our Donors*

## \$25,000+

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services | Grey County | The Home Depot Canada Foundation | Pickard Family Foundation | Women's Shelters Canada

## \$10,000+

The Shoppers Drug Mart Life Foundation | Timothy D. Mayer Charitable Foundation | The Joan & Jim Patterson Foundation | Cargill District Community Foundation | 100 Good Men Who Give a Damn | 100 Women SGT

## \$5,000+

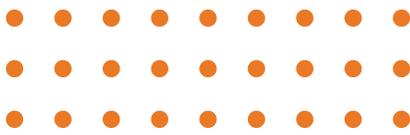
Bruce Power L.P. | Zonta Club of Owen Sound & Area | St. John's United Church | Peter VanDolder | Stephanie Stuart-Vanderburg | Eva LeFlar Foundation | Michelle & John Visser | Dobbinton United Church | Robert's Farm Equipment

## \$2,500+

Elementary Teachers Federation Ontario Bluewater Local (ETFO) | Unifor International Department | Cathryn Kennedy | Markdale Golf & Country Club | Royal Canadian Legion Branch 6, Ladies Auxiliary | OnePoint Association of REALTORS®. (FKA: Ontario Realtors Care Foundation) | Patricia Smith | Gwen Lamont | Royal LePage Shelter Foundation

## \$1,000+

First Christian Reform Church | Shannon Cameron | Ruthann Carson | Charlene Codner | Kerry Connelly | Electrical Contacts Limited | Darlene Forrest | Paul Dick | Elisa Levi | Karen Marcell | Ruth Martin | Betty Munro | The United Church of Canada Foundation - M. Elizabeth McKinlay Fund | Rita Wilson | Ivane Zitanishvili | Bev Miller | Rotary Club of Southampton | The Church of St Edmund | Joshua Matthews | JA Custom Homes Inc. | RBC Foundation | Mark Cohen | Jane & Sid Dykstra | Amelia Langeman | Bert Leeder | Women 2 Women | The Purse Project Network - Blue Mountain & Collingwood Chapter



2024-2025

*Financials*

**THE WOMEN'S CENTRE GREY BRUCE**  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT MARCH 31

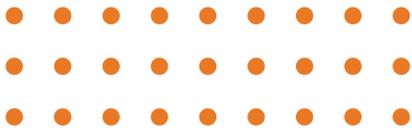
	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	143,135	144,099
Deferred contributions (Note 8)	25,000	28,480
	<u>168,135</u>	<u>172,579</u>
Deferred contributions related to property and equipment (Note 7)	1,048,138	1,087,765
Long-term		
Mortgage payable	-	1
	<u>1,216,273</u>	<u>1,260,345</u>
<b>Fund balances</b>		
Operating fund	11,684	11,684
Restricted for housing replacement (Note 3)	335,966	306,826
Restricted for housing maintenance (Note 3)	45,068	45,068
Invested in capital assets	927,469	956,891
Internally restricted funds	300,000	300,000
Donation fund	254,650	120,323
	<u>1,874,837</u>	<u>1,740,792</u>
	<u>3,091,110</u>	<u>3,001,137</u>

2024-2025

*Financials*

**THE WOMEN'S CENTRE GREY BRUCE**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31**

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services	1,672,904	1,558,421
Grey County housing	164,710	213,578
Adopt A Room Fundraising	23,500	97,350
Donations and fundraising	206,346	271,684
Other grants	51,410	8,765
Housing rental income	57,158	62,948
Investment Income	19,438	23,789
Foundation grants	180,190	-
	<u>2,375,656</u>	<u>2,236,535</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Allocated administration	113,192	118,149
Second Stage Mortgage Interest	-	800
Advertising and promotion	919	28,711
Communication	18,648	14,781
HST expense	11,660	40,322
Insurance	40,240	40,556
IT services and supplies	39,619	32,491
Property tax	-	27,349
Other services	14,946	15,138
Other supplies and equipment	50,887	79,586
Professional	58,498	76,421
Repairs and maintenance	111,816	89,387
Salaries and benefits	1,678,681	1,690,563
Training	24,190	6,385
Travel	5,479	7,532
Utilities	52,850	64,353
Contributions to replacement reserve	9,421	9,096
	<u>2,231,046</u>	<u>2,341,620</u>
Excess of revenue over expenditures (expenditures over revenue) before amortization	<u>144,610</u>	<u>(105,085)</u>
Amortization of property and equipment	(107,812)	(103,951)
Amortization of deferred contributions	68,107	73,497
	<u>(39,705)</u>	<u>(30,454)</u>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenditures (expenditures over revenue)</b>	<u>104,905</u>	<u>(135,539)</u>



# 2024-2025

## Statistics



**72**  
WOMEN RECEIVED  
COUNSELLING  
SUPPORT



**227**  
WOMEN  
ACCESSED  
OUTREACH  
PROGRAMS



**66**  
WOMEN & CHILDREN LIVED  
IN TRANSITIONAL HOUSING



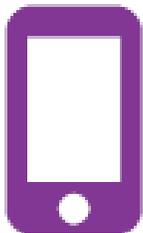
**97**  
WOMEN SUPPORTED  
IN COURT



**1083**  
DAYS OF PET STAYS

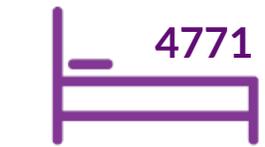


**156**  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
STAYED IN THE SHELTER



**1679**  
CRISIS CALLS &  
TEXTS RECEIVED

**899**  
SAFETY PLANS  
DEVELOPED



**4771**  
DAYS OF  
RESIDENTIAL STAYS



**338**  
YOUTH CRISIS CALLS &  
TEXTS RECEIVED



**137**  
YOUTH SAFETY PLANS  
DEVELOPED



**15**  
YOUTH STAYED IN  
STUDIO BLUE



The Women's Centre Grey Bruce's crisis line is available  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week:



CALL 519-371-1600



TEXT 226-974-0755



TOLL FREE 1-800-265-3722



[www.thewomenscentre.org](http://www.thewomenscentre.org)



[facebook.com/twcgreybruce](https://facebook.com/twcgreybruce)



[instagram.com/twcgreybruce](https://instagram.com/twcgreybruce)



[linkedin.com/company/twcgreybruce](https://linkedin.com/company/twcgreybruce)



2048 A 9th Avenue East  
Owen Sound, ON N4K 3H2

If you have any questions  
about **The Women's  
Centre Grey Bruce** or if  
you are interested in  
learning more about our  
programs or facilities,  
please contact us.

If you or someone you  
know are experiencing  
gender-based violence  
and need immediate  
assistance, **call 911.**