

THE BELIZE COUNCIL FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED



2025
ANNUAL REPORT

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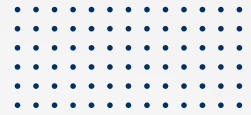
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VISION



The Belize Council for the Visually Impaired (BCVI) has a vision of a Belize where no one is needlessly blind and those who are irrevocably blind are integrated as equal members in all aspects of society.



MISSION

The Belize Council for the Visually Impaired (BCVI) is a non-profit organization committed through a Comprehensive Program, to prevent and cure blindness, restore sight and to rehabilitate and educate people who are blind to enable them to use their talents and abilities to live independent lives.

Headquarters:

National Eye Clinic
Lions Building
Princess Margaret Drive
Belize City

Accountant:

Felix Reyes
Chartered Accountant
5760 Meighan Avenue
Belize City

Bankers:

Belize Bank Ltd
Albert & Regent Streets
Belize City

The Belize Council for the Visually Impaired is a Company Limited by Guarantee and is Registered as a Non Government Organization—
Certificate No.12/02



FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude, pride, and optimism for the future of eye health in Belize.

This year marks a significant milestone for the Belize Council for the Visually Impaired (BCVI)—45 years of service to the people of Belize. For more than four decades, BCVI has remained committed to preventing blindness, restoring sight, and empowering individuals who are blind to lead independent and fulfilling lives.



In 2025, we continued that mission by serving more than 16,000 patients nationwide, dispensing over 7,000 pairs of glasses and readers, providing hundreds of sight-restoring surgeries and treatments, and expanding outreach services to communities throughout Belize. Behind every number is a life changed—a child seeing clearly in the classroom, a parent returning to work, or a senior regaining independence through improved vision.

We also strengthened our services through new technology, enhanced diabetic retinopathy screening, expanded glaucoma treatment capabilities, and preparations to welcome BCVI's first full-time ophthalmologist in 2026. These advancements reflect our commitment not only to treating vision loss, but to preventing it.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, visiting specialists, donors, and partners. I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your continued support and belief in our mission.

As we celebrate 45 years of service, we remain focused on the future and on the many Belizeans who still need access to quality eye care and rehabilitation services. Together, we will continue working toward a Belize where no one is needlessly blind and where every person has the opportunity to live with dignity, independence, and hope.

Thank you for being a part of BCVI's journey.



CARLA AYRES MUSA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

YOUR EYECARE TEAM



EXECUTIVE BOARD

Executive President Joan Musa
Vice President Donovan Reneau
Secretary Alice Riveroll
Treasurer Sheena Castillo
Legal Advisor Oneyda Flores Piper

Kamela Palma
Gina Fonseca
Marshall Nunez
Carlos Dominguez

MANAGEMENT & SUPPORT

Carla Ayres Musa - Executive Director
Mark Mitchell - IT Officer
Clifton Borland - Equipment Maintenance Officer
Carmencita Cruz - Finance Officer
Mirza Vasquez - Administrative Assistant
Carol Martinez - Custodian
Kathleen Tillett - Custodian
Kurt Burgess - Messenger/Driver

REHABILITATION

Sagrario Clarke - Coordinator
Jenine Clarke - RFO Central Region
Maria de la Luz Vasquez - RFO Northern Region

PRIMARY EYE CARE

Jacqueline Hemsley - PEC Manager
Freddy Nicholson - Programme Officer/
Senior Optometrist, BZE
Jahira Vasquez - Optometrist, BZE
Randy Williams - Optometrist, BMP
Nesani Glori - Apprentice in Optometry
Michelle Young - Diagnostic Technician, BZE
Jamil Rowland - Ophthalmic Assistant, BZE
Ruth Thompson - Ophthalmic Assistant, BZE
Shareece Sabal - Ophthalmic Assistant, BMP
Elia Slusher - Ophthalmic Assistant, OW
Magali Sabido - DR Grader, OW
Disraeli Veliz - Ophthalmic Assistant, DGA
Daniel Choc - Optometrist, PG
Luveana Bol - Ophthalmic Assistant, PG

OPTICAL LAB

Arzel Flowers - Lab Admin Officer
Rudy Cocom - Optical Technician
Alfred Borland - Optical Technician
George Berry - Optical Technician

SECONDARY EYE CARE

Dr Zoraida Diaz - Ophthalmologist
Vanessa Borland - Nurse
Mara Burgess - Ophthalmic Assistant
Sean Nicholas - Ophthalmic Assistant
Sr Alice Lewis - OR Scrub Nurse



PRIMARY EYE CARE

BCVI's five Primary Eye Care Clinics are your first point of contact for eye care countrywide. These clinics are strategically situated throughout Belize and are staffed with an Ophthalmic Assistant and Optometrist. Patients receive comprehensive eye exams at the PEC level and high-quality, affordable prescription glasses and readers are provided via BCVI's Optical Lab located in Belize City. The teams at each clinic also provide outreach community and school eye care to increase reach and support to those in more remote areas.

In 2025, Dr Millicent Peterseim, Pediatric Ophthalmologist, conducted school screenings along with our Orange Walk seeing approximately 1,200 children.



16,203

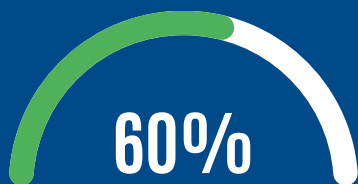
patients seen throughout Belize in clinics and on outreach visits

7,360

glasses and readers dispensed

2,726

referrals for further evaluation



BCVI continues to see an increase in patients examined since 2020 the majority of whom (60%) are diagnosed with refractive errors.

SECONDARY EYE CARE

Patients referred from BCVI's five Primary Clinics are seen by an Ophthalmologist. Dr Zoraida Diaz, who retired in 2024, continued to offer her services, examining patients weekly at BCVI's clinics countrywide as well as at our main referral center in Belize City. A total of 2,228 patients were seen throughout the country.

Specialists visiting monthly operate and treat patients with Cataract, Retinal issues, Glaucoma and other eye diseases. Thanks to a donation from Dr Inder Singal, BCVI now has the capacity to provide laser treatment for patients with Glaucoma. This is a global standard which, along with continued medication, can help manage the pressure and reduce the incidence of blindness.

Through a generous donation from Taiwan's International Cooperation & Development Fund (ICDF), BCVI received a state-of-the-art fundus camera and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance the Diabetic Retinopathy Programme. This camera is the first of its kind for our organization and will allow camera operators to provide diagnostic information to patients thanks to the AI grading feature. While we are fortunate to have the Vitrectomy Programme running and performed 22 in 2025, our focus remains on prevention through early identification and early intervention.



**CATARACT
SURGERY**

323

**LASER
TREATMENT**

400

**PEDIATRIC
SURGERY**

37

**PTERYGIUM
SURGERY**

46



REHABILITATION & EDUCATION

In 2025, BCVI's Rehabilitation and Education Programme continued to empower children and adults who are blind or visually impaired through comprehensive community-based rehabilitation services, educational support, orientation and mobility training, braille instruction, low vision services, and advocacy initiatives across Belize. The programme reached clients nationwide through home visits, school visits, community outreach activities, and individualized rehabilitation services, helping individuals maximize their independence and quality of life.

A major highlight of the year was the successful BCVI Summer Camp, which provided participants with opportunities to strengthen independent living skills, braille literacy, orientation and mobility, leadership, confidence, and social development. The Rehabilitation team also worked closely with schools, families, the Ministry of Education, healthcare providers, and community partners to improve educational access and ensure students with visual impairments received the support they need to succeed.

Recognizing the importance of holistic care, the programme expanded its focus on psychosocial wellbeing through Eye Health and Mental Health Sessions held across multiple districts. These sessions created safe spaces for clients to receive support, share experiences, build resilience, and foster meaningful peer connections. Public awareness campaigns, Sighted Guide Training, health fairs, and community presentations further promoted inclusion, accessibility, and greater public understanding of visual impairment.

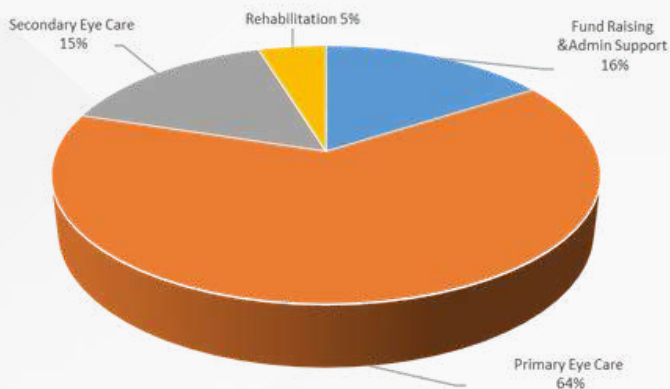
Ongoing professional development remained a priority throughout the year. Staff participated in training in low vision care, rehabilitation techniques, eye health, and first aid, strengthening service delivery and enhancing collaboration between BCVI's clinical and rehabilitation teams.

As BCVI looks to the future, the Rehabilitation and Education Programme remains committed to expanding community outreach, strengthening strategic partnerships, and creating greater opportunities for independence, accessibility, and inclusion for persons living with vision loss throughout Belize.

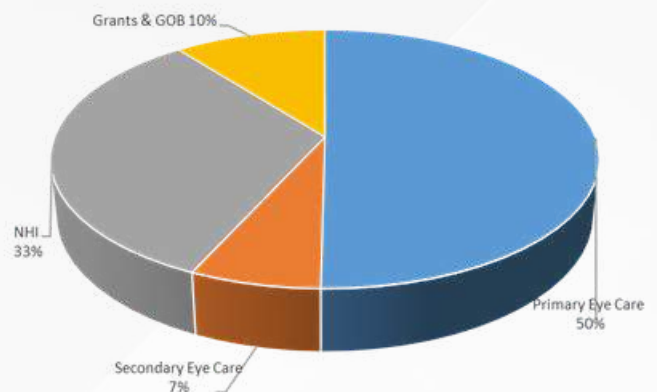


SUSTAINABILITY

EXPENSE BZ\$1,881,037



INCOME BZ\$2,174,133



BCVI continues to strengthen its services through strategic training opportunities and partnerships that enhance our capacity to deliver quality eye care across Belize. The Adarsh Foundation remains a valued partner in supporting human resource development through scholarships for Optometrists and Ophthalmologists, while also funding the acquisition of essential diagnostic and treatment equipment that has significantly strengthened our clinical services.

Our primary source of income continues to be patient service fees, particularly from the sale of prescription glasses, which are manufactured locally at BCVI's Optical Laboratory in Belize City. In 2025, BCVI operated five clinics, compared to four in the previous year, increasing both our reach and service capacity.

Although the cost of laboratory supplies and materials has risen significantly, careful planning and the continued guidance of our partners at Help the World See (HTWS) have enabled BCVI to maintain high-quality, affordable eyewear for our patients. Increased support through the National Health Insurance (NHI) programme has also strengthened our ability to ensure that financial hardship is never a barrier to receiving essential eye care. In 2025 alone, BCVI subsidized more than \$75,000 in the cost of glasses, surgeries, medications, and treatments for patients who were unable to pay.

While the addition of a full-time Ophthalmologist represents an important investment for the organization, we are confident that the expansion of specialist services will increase patient activity and strengthen BCVI's long-term financial sustainability while significantly improving access to comprehensive eye care for Belizeans.

BCVI's Rehabilitation and Education Programme continues to provide services, training, assistive devices, and specialized equipment free of charge to the more than 1,400 individuals registered on our Blind Register. Revenue generated through our clinical services helps to sustain this vital programme. In 2026, BCVI will further strengthen these services through the recruitment of an additional Rehabilitation Field Officer (RFO) and a new partnership with an international organization to expand specialized training and capacity.

LOOKING FORWARD



As BCVI enters 2026, the organization remains focused on strengthening Belize's eye health and rehabilitation services through strategic partnerships, workforce development, innovation, and expanded access to care.

A major milestone will be the launch of the WHO SPECS 2030 Initiative in Belize, providing a national framework to improve access to quality eye care services, strengthen human resource capacity, increase public awareness, and reduce avoidable vision impairment throughout the country.

BCVI also looks forward to the continued integration of Belize's first full-time Belizean surgical ophthalmologist, Dr. Kiria Mayen, whose presence will significantly expand access to specialized eye care and surgical services for Belizeans. Building on the success of the Belize Retinal Group partnership and the introduction of vitrectomy services, BCVI will pursue new collaborations with glaucoma specialists in the United States to further advance glaucoma diagnosis, treatment, and management in Belize.

In addition, BCVI will continue strengthening its partnership with the International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF) of Taiwan to expand diabetic retinopathy screening services through the acquisition and deployment of additional retinal imaging cameras. These investments will enhance early detection efforts, improve access to screening in underserved communities, and support Belize's growing diabetic eye care programme.

Investment in staff development will remain a priority. Planned initiatives include specialized rehabilitation training with ProCiegos in Guatemala for Rehabilitation Field Officers, continued clinical and technical training opportunities across departments, and a renewed focus on employee wellness. Recognizing that a strong and healthy team is essential to delivering quality care, BCVI will expand staff support initiatives, including mental health and wellness programmes designed to promote resilience, professional growth, and overall wellbeing.

Through these efforts, BCVI remains committed to building a stronger, more accessible, and sustainable eye health system for all Belizeans while ensuring that no one is left behind due to preventable blindness or vision impairment.



THANK YOU!

Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW)
Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and
Technology (MOECST)
Ministry of Human Development
Adarsh Charitable Foundation Inc.
Lions Clubs of Belize
Lions Club International Foundation
Belize Red Cross
Rotary Club of Belize
National Health Insurance (NHI)
ICDF Taiwan
Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan)
BCVI Foundation
Musa & Balderamos
Alcon
SEE International
Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)
Storm Eye Institute (SEI)
World Pediatrics & World Pediatrics Belize
Benevolent Missions International (BMI)
Dr Baxter McLendon & Susan McLendon
Dr David Boes & Boes Eye Care
Thomas Angell
Fabrigas Belize Ltd.
McNab Visual
Nemo
NICH
Belize Electricity Ltd.
Belize Mills Ltd.
Belize Medical Associates
Puma Energy/ Pablo & Martha Guerra
RF&G Insurance
Nazarene Church & Nazarene High School

A&R Enterprises
ACCO
Belize Marketing and Development Corporation
Belize Port Authority
Belize Tourism Board
Belize ZOO
Belize Defence Force
Bowen & Bowen
Caribbean Chicken
Caribbean Tires
Campos Meats
Circle R
Golden Bay Co. Ltd.
Grace Kennedy Ltd
Habet & Habet Ltd/ Special Events
Jusco
Image Factory Foundation
La Popular Bakery
Marie Sharp's Fine Food Ltd.
Premier Charters & Tours
Price Premier Products Ltd.
Prosser Fertilizers Agrotec Co. Ltd.
Save - U Supermarket
Centaur
Simon Quan & Co. Ltd.
Southside Meats
Sugar Fix Bakery
The Great House
Three Star's Quality Chicken
Tutsi Ideal
Zeta Corporation
Isis Yesenia
Vino tinto/Golden Bay Hotel
Local Donation
J & L Imports
Progressive cane farmers association
123 supermarket
La inmaculada Credit Union
BRC Printing
Cahal Pech
St Martins Credit Union
Darios Meat Pie

Thank
you



BCVI Contact Information

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