



Blossoms of
Guyana

IMPACT REPORT



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Happy Summer!

We are excited to share our first impact report with you. Each year we send our annual report which showcases our accomplishments for the year. For this report we wanted to highlight four programs at three of our partner schools. The goal of this report is to highlight the outcomes and the impact of our work on the schools and students we support. To determine the impact of our work we conducted interviews of teachers and staff on how the various programs supported by Blossoms impacts students' outcomes. In this report, we share our findings.



Counseling Program:

Kuru Kururu Primary School

Like many students here in the US, the effects of school closings due to the pandemic had outsized impacts on the emotional well-being of students in Guyana. Students facing emotional challenges not only affected their own learning, but also impeded the learning of others in the classroom. As a result of these challenges, the teachers at Kuru Kururu Primary School sought to create a program to help address the emotional well-being of selected students in the school. Beginning in May 2023, we started a counseling program to support student learning. The goal of the program was to uncover the personal challenges each student faced that drove their behavior. The sessions sought to accomplish three primary objectives. 1. To improve discipline among disruptive students. 2 To assist with coping mechanisms to deal with abuse and 3. Find possible solutions for learners with related issues. The goal is to address these underlying issues so that students can refocus on learning.

Over the course of eight weeks, a certified counselor, Ms. Matana Sage, worked with students in grades one through nine which were exhibiting disruptive behaviors. Approximately four hours were spent counseling 9-10 students each week over the course of the eight weeks.

The results show that the counseling program has a significant impact on student behavior and academic performance. Ms. Sage worked alongside the class teacher to track the progress of each student to see if the sessions benefited the students and how they can correct the current challenges the students face. Because of these counseling sessions, in-class participation increased as students were able to regulate their emotions to socialize and collaborate in group work. Although Ms. Sage is faced with setbacks including unwilling participation and behavioral relapse, she continues to counsel them to improve their behaviors, academic performance, and self-image.

Counseling Program Star Student

Due to confidentiality reasons, we cannot share the names of students, but would like to share the outcome of a student we call M. Reid. “The counseling sessions allowed M. Reid, who struggled with low self-esteem and bullying because of his appearance, now stands up for himself independently and helps him build his self-esteem.”



Nutrition Program:

Kuru Kururu Primary School

We began the nutrition program during the 2022/2023 academic year and thanks to the generous support of the A.B. Register Foundation, we were able to increase the program by 30% in 2023. Since the beginning of the school year, we have provided over 1,300 hot meals, impacting over 100 students, helping to curb the loss of learning caused by hunger, leading to improved student outcomes.

Our reporting has indicated that the nutrition program improves the students' behavior, academic performance, and attendance. Teachers have indicated an increase in attendance and student engagement because of the nutrition program. Because of those provided meals, the students' reading ability and attentiveness have improved as well. Psychologically, students in the nutrition program develop higher self-esteem and improved behavior.. Most parents of those students cannot afford to provide meals for their children, and teachers would sometimes pay for their student's meals. Overall, the nutrition program significantly helps the students, but there still is a dire need to increase funding to help the rest of the students outside of the program who struggle with food insecurity.



Tutoring Program:

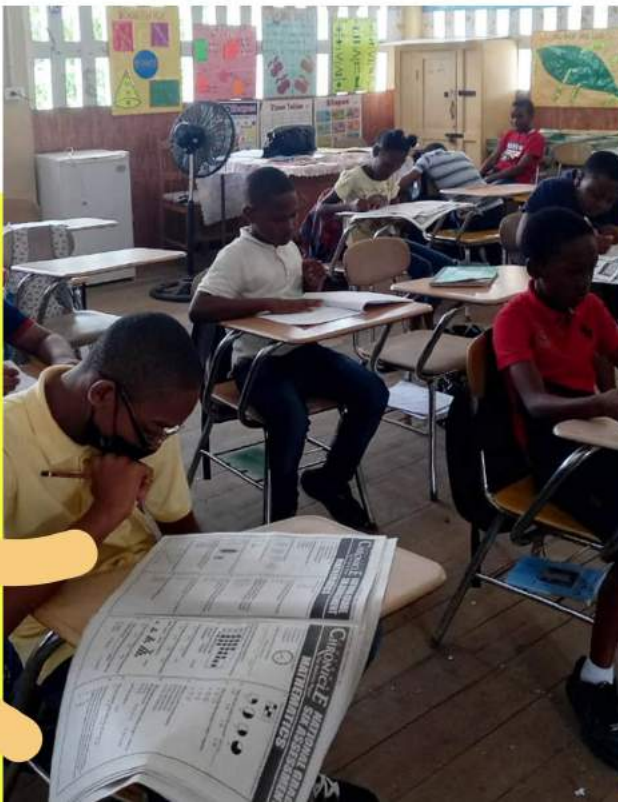
St. Thomas Moore Primary School

Each year grade six students in Guyana take the National Grade Six Exam. This exam is used to determine which secondary school students attend. To score well on the exam and attend the best high schools, students often require additional tutoring and study sessions. These opportunities are often only provided to students who come from families with the means to pay for tutors, leaving lower-income students behind. Beginning in September 2022, Blossoms' volunteer, Nathalie Moore, started tutoring grade six students at St. Thomas Moore Primary School. Every Saturday from 9 am to noon, Nathalie works with 10 grade six students that need additional support to help them prepare for the grade six exam.

The Tutoring program significantly improves the students' preparation for the Grade 6 Exam. To ensure a cohesive and comprehensive approach to Grade 6 Exam preparation, tutors work alongside the teachers to reinforce the content learned in class. The tutoring program supplies students with the materials needed and motivates the students to participate. Students chosen for the tutoring program tend to come from poor backgrounds and lack confidence in their cognitive abilities. From the tutoring session in the past, students who were tutored outperform students on the Grade 6 Exam, who did not take the tutoring sessions. Based on the 2 exams taken in May and June of 2023, students in the tutoring program are more confident in their learning ability and have performed better on their tests. Looking ahead, Ms. Moore pushes for more hours of tutoring sessions and recommends the students receive the tutoring sessions earlier to prepare themselves for the Grade 6 Exam better.

Nathalie Moore: "I'm going to work with these children, and I must find a few in the group that I can push to achieve and excel."

"When I attended primary school, my Headmistress took the worst of the worst students and got them into the top schools, and I believe I can do it."



Internet Resource: Supply Primary School

Like many schools in Guyana, Supply Primary School lacks access to technology and internet services. To help bridge the technology divide, Blossoms has been funding the school's internet services.

Providing the Internet resource significantly improves the way students learn as well as what they learn. Students who participate often are more engaged with lessons that incorporate content-related videos. Teachers can now leverage online teaching aids to help supplement in-class learning. Because of internet availability, students develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaborative skills, especially during group work activities. The current textbooks of Supply Primary School remain obsolete as the internet provides newly updated material. Because of the content accessed online, internet availability changed the overall curriculum of Supply Primary School.

