

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.

- Benjamin Franklin



EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION
OUTREACH BAHAMAS
BRINGING NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO CHILDREN
AND COMMUNITIES IN THE BAHAMIAN FAMILY ISLANDS

2021 - 2022 IMPACT REPORT

Exceptional Education Outreach (EEO) is a non-profit special education and literacy program that operates in the Bahamian Family Islands. EEO's mission is to partner with the Bahamian Ministry of Education to create a sustainable special education program for children across Eleuthera and Harbour Island.

EEOBahamas.org

OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS, EEO HAS COLLABORATED WITH THE BAHAMIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES IN NASSAU TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE FAMILY ISLANDS.



It has been a year. The consistent progress that EEO has made on Eleuthera and Harbour Island is a spectrum of little moments and great waves of change. The impact we are making is not only on our current 270 children but now undulating across the turquoise waters we hold so dear through replication of our model across the country. There are times when a teacher makes a breakthrough with a student and both their reading and self-confidence soar. A smile that may not have been as frequent in school before, a pride that may not have beamed as brightly. EEO has led that.

There are also those gains when decades of hard work and organization prove to be valuable in a big way and great strides for the entire country start to come into view. EEO has led that.

Exceptional Education Outreach is a combination of a lot of forces guided by a belief that our name encompasses. The teachers with daily access to learners are the heart of us, they share themselves daily for motivating individualized instruction and model a belief to children, families and colleagues in schools that all children can learn. The therapists, vision screenings and professional development offerings EEO provides all support the growth of each child as well through ongoing and purposeful interactions that show value of all aspects on individual paths of learner and teacher. Every path is distinct. EEO is designed to strengthen the paths.

EEO's vision, from the beginning under the shade tree at Harbour Island All-Age School, has been to create a sustainable model of servicing all learners for the Family Islands and now it is getting closer to reality as recent policies have been made across the Bahamas to ensure access to meaningful instruction. The Bahamian Ministry of Education has partnered with Exceptional Education Outreach towards these meaningful goals. The entire EEO community — from founder to board to teachers to donors to learners and families — carries the belief that this new path of national shared vision matters deeply for learners to come. Together we lead that.

We must keep the consistency and strength in what we do as we forge our way forward. I'm so grateful to share this school year's successes with this annual report and I am courageous, with YOUR continued support, in setting long-term goals to help impact the lives and future communities of Bahamian family islands.

With gratitude,

Lang

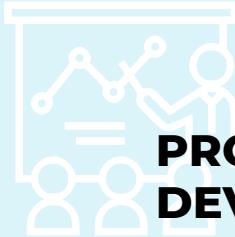


AREAS OF IMPACT



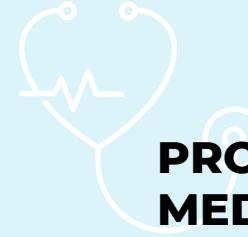
DAILY IN-SCHOOL LITERACY INSTRUCTION

In partnership with The Bahamian Ministry of Education, EEO teachers provide reading interventions and remediation to over 270 students across our 7 centers on Harbour Island and Eleuthera.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PARENT TRAINING

EEO provides training to our own teachers and parents in addition to teachers throughout the Family Islands. Topics range from new reading strategies, writing workshops, learning games, and also parenting strategies. Everyone--teachers, parents, caregivers, and the community at large--is invited to attend.



PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CARE

All students in the EEO program, as well as others with possible concerns, have their ears screened for hearing deficiencies. Other assessments if needed include neurological evaluations (and EEG if needed), vision screenings, psychological evaluations, testing by Occupational and Physical Therapists.

BY THE NUMBERS

2021 - 2022



272

**Students
Served**

44

**Students
Mainstreamed**

7

**Resource
Centers
in Operation**

7

**EEO
Teachers**

11

**Professional
Development
Workshops
Hosted**

200

**Students
Received
Online Reading
Support**

“ My mom was in EEO program when she was young. The teachers helped her so she could learn to read the way that her brain worked best. I am the same. I don’t give up and I read and write important things. My mom is proud of me and I love to learn.”

- Clarika



CLARIKA

Shared Story: Miracle Baby Destiny Celebrates 10



Destiny Cartwright

Young Destiny Cartwright, a student at the Laura L. Anderson primary school, who celebrated her 10th birthday during July 2021, is dubbed by her mother, Monique John, as a 'miracle baby'. In recognition of her daughter's milestone birthday, her current challenges, and how much she has overcome, Ms. John was inspired to put pen to paper, and share her daughter's story of survival - expressing how thankful she is to have her daughter with her today.

Beginning with her birth, Ms. John shared, "What started as a relaxing off-day for me, quickly turned horrific. On July 7th, 2011, at 8:00 am, I suddenly went into active labor at 28 weeks. I was fearful, especially knowing that my baby might have only a slim chance of survival. I thought, 'we are on an island that does not have the means or equipment to provide quality care, around-the-clock service to my premature infant'. Premature babies are more likely to have chronic health issues and problems along the way.

"At approximately 8:45 am, my little miracle graced this earth so radiant and peaceful. I then began to panic. I didn't hear a cry, and I was worried she had died already. I started to question myself - 'what have I done wrong? Did I overwork myself? Why - was I not being so careful?' My little

angel tipped the scale at just 1205 grams (just over two-and-a-half pounds), but she was a fighter and a mighty fighter at that.

"During that time, Dr. Ajero was the attending medical physician. He stated that because my baby was born a bit early, she might not make it (tears flooded, and my emotions were everywhere). Nurse Scavella came over and comforted me, saying, 'My dear, there is nothing too big for God; just pray and don't blame yourself for this; things happen.' Dr. Ajero then began to pace the floor nervously, stating, 'She is not going to make it; she is too young. We need to get this baby out of here now!' Nurse Cambridge, Nurse Colebrook, Nurse Scavella, and Nurse Asana were my baby's heroes. They took turns with the pediatric ambulance and slowly gave her oxygen to help her breathe. Her lungs were not fully developed. To this day, I applaud these hard-working nurses. They did not panic one bit; their aim was to help keep my daughter alive, and they did just that.

"The emergency flight was called, and I was told the flight was en route to Abaco to retrieve a patient first and that we would receive notice when they were on the way to Eleuthera. The Nurses continued resuscitative measures helping my baby breathe and live. At noon, Nurse Colebrook asked, 'Where is this flight, man? It's been too long now.' They reached out to the airline again; this time, we were told the baby is too young and might not make it. We were told that they were en route to pick up another patient. I managed to sit up a little and glanced over at my tiny pink baby struggling to breathe and thought, 'hold on, baby girl'. We all waited to receive the call that help was on the way. At 2:00 pm, Nurse Scavella then called the flight again. She said frantically, 'If you don't come to pick up my baby, I will see that you and your company be reported. This child was born at 8:45 am, and we are doing the best we can. She needs to get to the hospital now!' At about 3:30pm, the ambulance finally arrived at the Hatchet Bay clinic with Dr. Thomas and his team. She was then re-assessed and placed in an incu-

bator for transport. I cried as she left and prayed she would make it after such a long wait.

"When we arrived at the hospital in New Providence later that day, she was placed in the Maude Stevenson Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. She was critical but resting comfortably. Tubes were everywhere, and she was placed on a breathing ventilator which she relied on for 100 days. As a result of her fighting to breathe, she developed a major bleed in the brain. As time went on, she developed chronic lung disease and neonatal seizures. To this given day, however, she is free from all medications.

"My little miracle was given the name Destiny. She was hospitalized from July 7th, 2011, and finally released on November 12th, of that same year. This process was not easy, and I did it all along with God by my side. Never once did I give up hope.

"To this date, Destiny is a very happy child. She enjoys singing and writing. Some days she has her challenges, but with God's help, we get through them. She must have regular follow-ups with the neurologist, CT scans, and electroencephalograms (EEG) done to detect any abnormalities with the brain's electrical activity. She is currently enrolled at the Laura L. Anderson Primary School. Ideally, she needs to be placed in a school to meet her special needs. Special needs schools are founded to help students with behavioral problems, learning disabilities, and physical disabilities get a good quality education.

"However, she is a part of the EEO Outreach Program that helps her tremendously. It is imperative that we have specialists on the island to help children such as my daughter. It would be difficult having to relocate to a city where you don't have family or help. Parents should never have to feel ashamed because of having a special needs child. I love my daughter, and I wouldn't change her for the world. She is slowly progressing, and I am really proud of her accomplishments this far despite her delayed development and autism.

"Please help me wish my miracle baby, a VERY Happy 10th Birthday! I give God all the thanks and a tremendous, special thank you to the nurses who fought to keep her alive to see this day. Thank you, thank you, thank you! God Bless my Destiny Cartwright!"

"...[Destiny] is part of the EEO Outreach Program that helps her tremendously. It is imperative that we have specialists on the island to help children such as my daughter. It would be difficult having to relocate to a city where you don't have family or help. Parents should never have to feel ashamed because of having a special needs child. I love my daughter, and I wouldn't change her for the world. She is slowly progressing, and I am really proud of her accomplishments this far despite her delayed development and autism."

Dear Mrs. Lang,

I would like to thank you and your team for being such and awesome group of directors. Your support and suggestions have helped me grow and make my future bright. You have made me look forward to my future professional life in Doctoring at Galilee College.

With EEO's help, I got the encouragement to move forward to my next level in life. You have made me learn a lot of new things and develop my mind to focus on my career path.

Thank you for all your support and encouragement. I look to paying it forward in the future. Thanking you once again for your hard work on me.

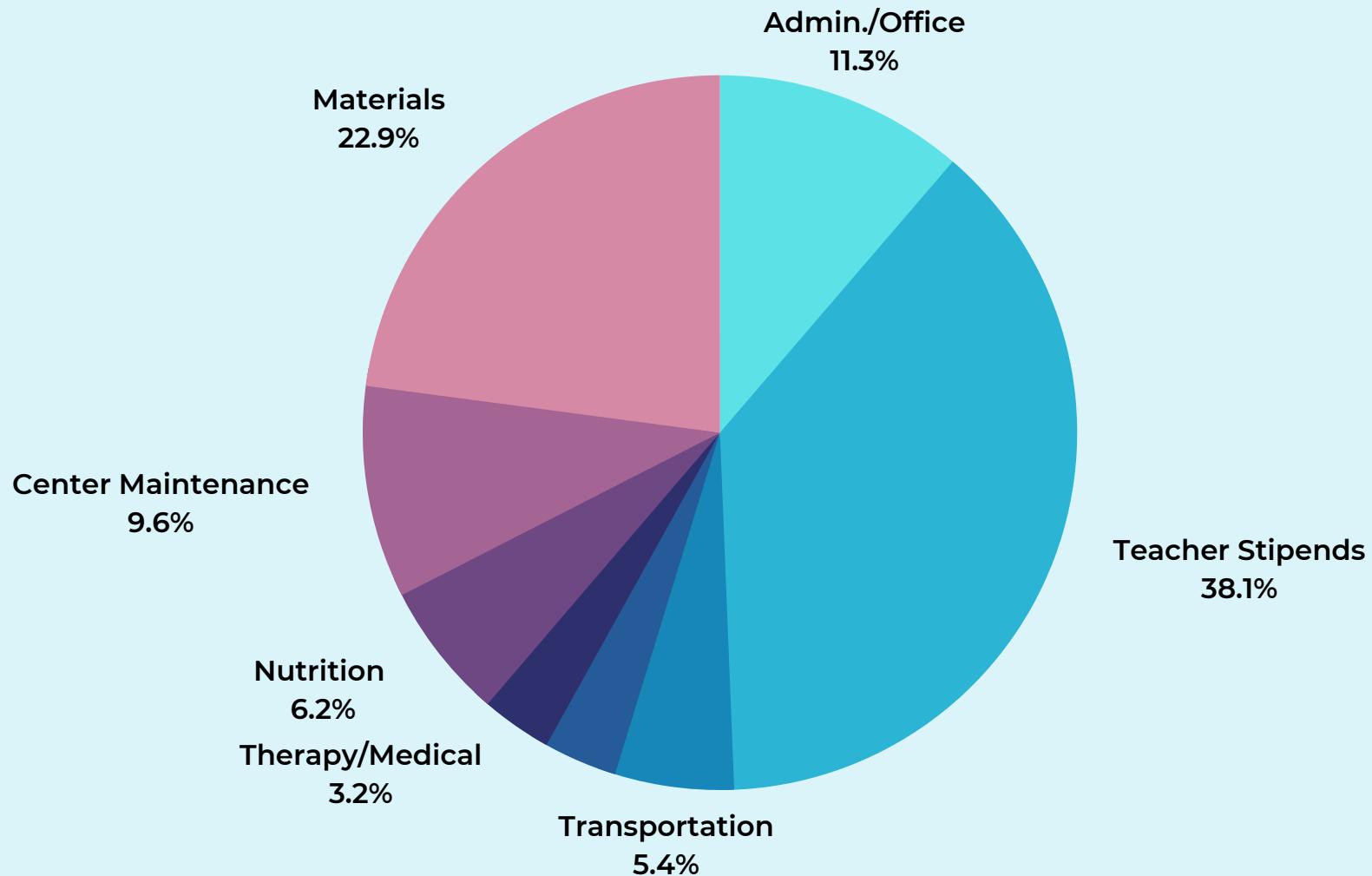
Kevens



KEVENS

SCHOOL YEAR EXPENSES

2021 - 2022



TEACHER LOCATIONS

LAST YEAR

Harbour Island

Crystal Lawson, Samantha Hamilton

North Eleuthera High

Kathy Brown

Laura Anderson Primary

Jennie Charles

PA Gibson Primary

Regina John

Emily G Petty Primary

Maureen Keo

Emma Cooper Primary

Jennie Butler

Volunteer

Nancy Hudepohl



SINCE 2000, EEO SERVED STUDENTS IN THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS:

Gregory Town Primary School

North Eleuthera Primary School (*Bluff*)

Harbour Island All Age School (*High School and Primary*)

Laura Anderson Primary School

James Cistern Primary School

Rock Sound Primary School

Emily G. Petty Primary School (*Governors Harbour*)

Emma Cooper Primary School (*Palmetto Point*)

PA Gibson Primary School (*Hatchet Bay*)

Tarpum Bay Primary School

Weymss Bight Primary School

Guy Pinder All Age School

Other Private schools on Harbour Island and Eleuthera

Centre for Exceptional Learners, Governors Harbour*

(*Staffed by Ministry of Education)



SEMINARS

EEO invites educational consultants from other islands or abroad to present important information on teaching tools for special needs students. Topics range from new reading strategies, writing workshops, learning games, and also parenting strategies. Everyone — teachers, parents, caregivers and the community at large — is invited to attend.

Art and Literature Connection

Family Therapist Professional Development

Learning Through Movement

Music to Inspire Literacy

Differentiated Instruction to Support a Variety of Learners



WAYS TO GIVE TO EEO

GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

Monetary donations and multi-year commitments help us continue our daily in-person literacy instruction, expand our vision and hearing screenings, maintain our existing centers, and professionally train and retain teachers.

HELP US EXPAND

Our vision is to collaborate with the Ministry of Education to ensure that children with special needs have access to innovative educational programs. In order to achieve this, we need the resources to expand our services to all of the Family Islands.

ADD US ON SMILE

You can bring a smile to our student's faces by adding EEO as your preferred charity on Amazon Smile.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WORK PLEASE VISIT EEOBAHAMAS.ORG



WHAT OUR SUPPORTERS MAKE POSSIBLE

**Hearing and
Vision
Screenings**

Neurologist Visits
For 10 students, EEO
pays 80% of costs

**Comprehensive
Assessments**
to diagnose and
pinpoint learning
challenges

Speech, OT, PT, and Other Support Services

**Nutrition
Program**
Food provided for
sessions

**Individualized and
Small Group
Intervention Support**
3 - 5 Days a Week

Reading Eggs
Literacy enrichment
support program
online for 200 +
students

Internet Boxes
Access for over 70
families

**School Supplies and
Materials**

**Summer
Programs**
8 weeks in different
settlements

GOALS

2021 - 2022

COMPLETED

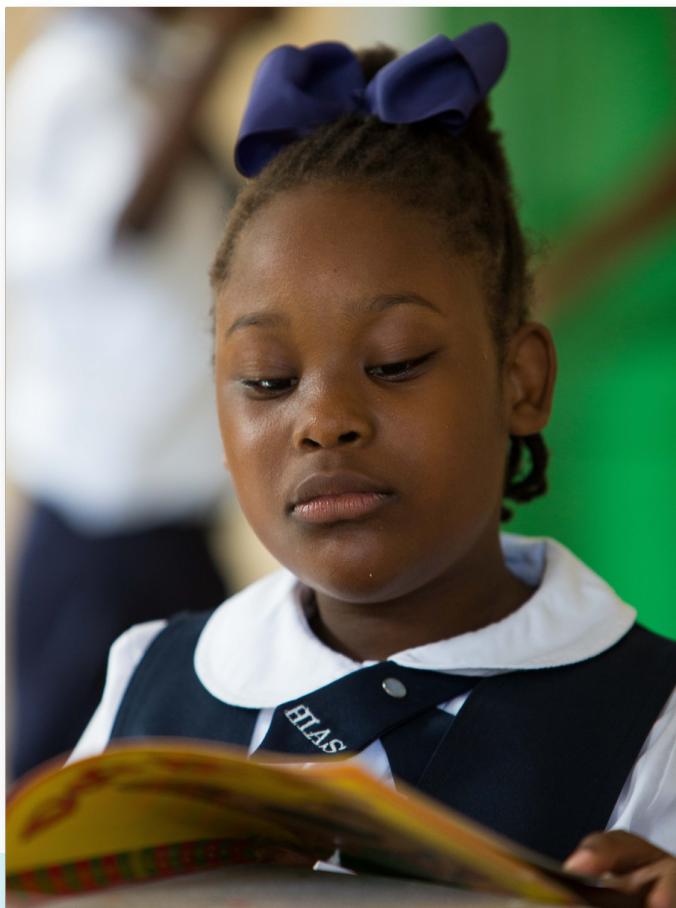
- Developed Nutrition Program for students in need that incorporates lunch support and collaboration on health education workshops.
- Highschool literacy support for EEO students graduated into North Eleuthera Highschool.
- Constructed EEO resource room at Palmetto Point's Emma Cooper Primary School.

UPCOMING

- Expand auditory and visual testing of students across all 3 districts of Eleuthera and increased support for follow- up care with doctors.
- Integrate an Environmental Literacy Program in collaboration with Bahamas Plastic Movement, newly-established Green School and BREEF to empower a pro-active youth that guards the Bahamas' fragile ecosystem.
- Return of high caliber seminar presenters to build differentiated instruction skills of teachers for mainstreamed students with an extended audience from EEO ambassadors in other Family Islands.
- Increase parent workshops and incentives to drive participation and engagement at home.
- Integration of technology into EEO centers with individualized programs focusing on Learning Disabled students while mainstreamed in the form of learning centers.
- Establishment of an endowment to support the next 10 years of EEO programs on Eleuthera

WHERE YOUR SUPPORT GOES

Annual cost of one EEO Resource Room established within a Bahamian Public School for operation 5 days a week, for one complete academic year...



Educational Materials: \$2,500

Center Maintenance: \$1,500

Teacher Stipend: \$20,000

Transportation: \$2,500

Seminars/Parent Workshops/Professional Development: \$2,500

Therapist/Medical Specialist Visits: \$5,500

Classroom Nutrition: \$5,000

After School and Summer Program: \$3,500

Online Literacy Support/Assessments: \$4,000

Administration Costs: \$4,000

**\$50,000/Year
Per EEO Resource Room**

LEARN MORE

Thank you for investing in EEO
and the future of the children of
Harbour Island and Eleuthera.



EEOBahamas.org



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