



Small Steps Towards
a Big Difference

SOMETHING HONORABLE...

Our monthly e-news updates are designed to share our current success stories that your donations have helped to make possible, because at Something Good in the World we believe that “small is beautiful, but beautiful is not small...” Please visit our website for more detailed information on all of our educational programs and projects: www.somethinggoodintheworld.org.

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www.somethinggoodintheworld.org

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In this issue of our e-newsletter, we want to thank the donors who have stepped forward in the past few months to make sure that our programming and projects will continue into the future. Because of an unexpected increase in **donations** from individuals, businesses and foundations since November, our free, farm-based education programs for children from underserved areas and disadvantaged situations will be able to persist throughout 2017. This year marks 15 years since the inception of Something Good in the World – even we never guessed we’d make it this far! Because of your generosity, we not only made it, we are pressing forward, and because of your belief, we will not give up on nature-based and arts-integrated education for children from all walks of life.

The distressing news is that one of the programs that has meant so much to us over the past three years has been prevented from continuing as of February 1, 2017. **The United States Office of Refugee Resettlement** did not renew the contract for the local shelter that housed, clothed, fed, and educated children from Central America who were seeking asylum in this country. These were unaccompanied minors, from age 6 to 17, who were detained crossing the border after traveling from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. These children were alone, without an adult, sometimes with siblings or cousins, all fleeing gang violence and human trafficking in their countries. For Something Good in the World, it was our privilege to welcome these children to the United States for legal resettlement. We collaborated monthly and sometimes even weekly, to help educate these very young refugees about health and nutrition at **Kitchawan Farm**, **Glynwood Farm**, **Hemlock Hill Farm**, and **Faraway Farm Alpacas**. We partnered with **A Maze In Pottery**, **First Village Coffee** and **Good Choice Kitchen** to bring the children into contact with local business owners, many of whom originally came here as immigrants and had achieved their dreams.

We are sad to report that because the federal funding has been suddenly cut for these programs, the children who were in the care of the shelter, are no longer here. These “other refugees,” who aren’t written of in the newspaper, have been a huge inspiration to all of us who had the chance to know them. This issue of our e-news is dedicated to their bravery and strength, because we know firsthand that these children endured experiences that no child should ever have to live through. We are proud to have educated hundreds of these incredibly bright young people, and to have had the honor of guiding them into the practice of healthy and sustainable living as they settle legally in the United States. We are deeply grateful to all the foundations and individuals and farmers and chefs and artists and teachers who understood that these are children first, and that all children deserve to be safe.





This winter, Agi Shah, the owner of A Maze in Pottery in Briarcliff Manor, welcomed the shelter children, including both teens rescued from abusive situations and the refugees from Central America, to enjoy painting their own pottery in her store. Each child decorated a hot chocolate mug, and as always when engaging in art projects, our educators find that the children really enjoy the calming process of an hour of painting. There are often very poignant designs: a mug that is dedicated to a child's mother, or with the flag of a refugee's country, or one that celebrates the power of family. The words and colors on the mugs speak volumes.

One week after the workshop with Agi, the same group of teens and refugees had the treat of taking their finished mugs with them to visit Luis Corena, the owner of First Village Coffee in Ossining. Because Luis is originally from El Salvador, he was able to speak to the children in both Spanish and English. He described his life's dream of having his own coffee shop, how hard he worked to achieve his goal, and how wonderful it is for him to be able to serve coffee from his home country. The students could really relate to his story about what it was like to come to the United States at age 14, and all gathered over mugs of steaming hot chocolate to talk about their experiences. It was also very eye opening for the youth from the United States, to discover that the situation for children in Central America is as difficult as they'd heard. The entire experience was warming and strengthening for everyone, and it was the last day we were all together.

Following are just a few of the most recent letters from refugees who attended our programs this winter (translated from Spanish):

Miss Barbara, It was such a pleasure to meet you. You treated us so nice and I thank you for sharing with us. I wish you many blessings. R. R.

Miss Barbara, Thank you for the time you shared with us and for giving us your smile. You are really beautiful and I wish you and your family a sea of blessings. J.M.

Miss Barbara, Thanks for everything you did with us. It was a pleasure to meet you. You are a really kind and great person. God bless you today, tomorrow and always. D. V.

Miss Laurie, I want to thank you a lot for what you taught me and my friends. It was so nice to be able to share with you because you showed us each step and how we should do the entire process and the soup came out so good. You are such a good cook. Thank you for your patience and kindness. God bless you and blessings for your family. Thank you for everything. J.G.

Miss Laurie, First I just want to thank you for everything. It was an excellent day and I had the best time. Thank you for the soup, it was delicious. You are really kind and you are a great lady. Thank you for teaching us to cook. Everything was the best and I thank you with all of my heart. Good luck with your work and take care of your health. May God bless you. D.V.

We would also like to share with you a few of the emails from supporters, educators, and colleagues, that arrived immediately upon hearing that the funding for these children's education and safe housing had been cut:

I must say that this is an event that no one saw coming. Even though in the back of our minds we thought that it might have been a possibility that the program may close. For most of us change is difficult however I know that this program was placed before us because we were the best qualified to deal with this particular population of children and the struggles and hardships they were bringing with them. I could not have asked for a better group of people to work with. It truly was life changing for myself as well as for all of us.

The memories that we shared will last a lifetime. Thank you to all of you for everything you have taught me. Words cannot quite describe how I feel.

Forever grateful,
J.T.

If nothing else, I hope that the children we served saw that there were lots of good people in the world that are willing to help and you were one of them. One child at a time. We won't forget them and they won't forget us. Thank you for the lessons and the love you have given to all of our children.

J.F.

I again cannot believe what happened, I shared about it on my personal Facebook because I just am floored by people who consider what is happening "not a big deal."

I hope at some point some of the refugees who have gone through your program can see that dedication in the garden, and realize how valued and a part of your work and life they have been/are.

Thank you for being lovely, and never stop!

A.S.

This is deeply heartbreaking and horrifying... I guess I didn't think it would happen so soon. I have a couple of clients who are mid reunification process with their children... we still don't even know what will happen with the children who have already been reunited with relatives here... just so horribly sad, can't help but cry.

The work you did with those kids was amazing, you were like a bright shining beacon for them and I know you touched every single one of them. At least they know that there is love for them here and not all Americans are like that... It is shameful... I wish there was something more we could do...

In tears with you,
R.U.

I am speechless. You express our loss, their loss, your loss and our communal and national loss, and your personal heartbroken despair so achingly well.

We are with you in mourning.

Hugs, M.B.

Just reading it in tears remembering those beautiful kids, painting the mugs. I had tears of joy in my eyes when you sent me the pictures from the cafe a few days ago, and now...

They were trying so hard to learn English words, they just want to have a semblance of normality in their life...

A.S.



In this issue of our e-newsletter, we'd like to honor the passing of a beloved friend of Something Good in the World, who was part of our flock of free-ranging chickens since 2007: Glinda the good rooster. Many of our students and families knew Glinda well. There was never a visitor who didn't take a picture of him, he was the best rooster ever, a true classic, with a dignity and a bearing that made him the pride of our farms, and with a crow that never failed to inspire a smile from a child. He defended his flock for 10 years, and fathered all of their chicks. Though we miss him terribly, we are happy to report that his son, Moses, has taken up the leading of the flock, and while Glinda is irreplaceable, we are glad the hens have a rooster. Thank you to so many of you for "adopting" our chickens over the years by donating for their maintenance. Glinda was the "adopted" rooster of many a child and adult, and we know you will remember him forever – we surely will.



*Farewell Glinda!
Thank you for your grand, fiery presence!
Thank you for masterful hen husbandry over the years.
Thank you for being my first chicken love; for teaching me how to engage with you and all the girls I have come to know and love since I met you.
I'm proud to have been part of your coop.*

*Blessings on your way, dear one.
You are a shiny, gallant thread woven into this human's tapestry of living.
Thank you.*

*And then...
Welcome Moses!
Hooray!*

*All love, and grubs,
Carla G.*



Thank you to [Grubbly Farms](#) for an in-kind donation of two cases of local, sustainable "grubbies" (dried grubs raised on post-consumer food waste) to help keep our chickens healthy throughout the winter months.



Because children are the hope of our future, [Earth School](#) will continue to guide young lives in the understanding that nature is the best classroom and our planet is the best teacher. We will close off this issue of our e-news with a collage of photos of the hope and inspiration that keeps us going...

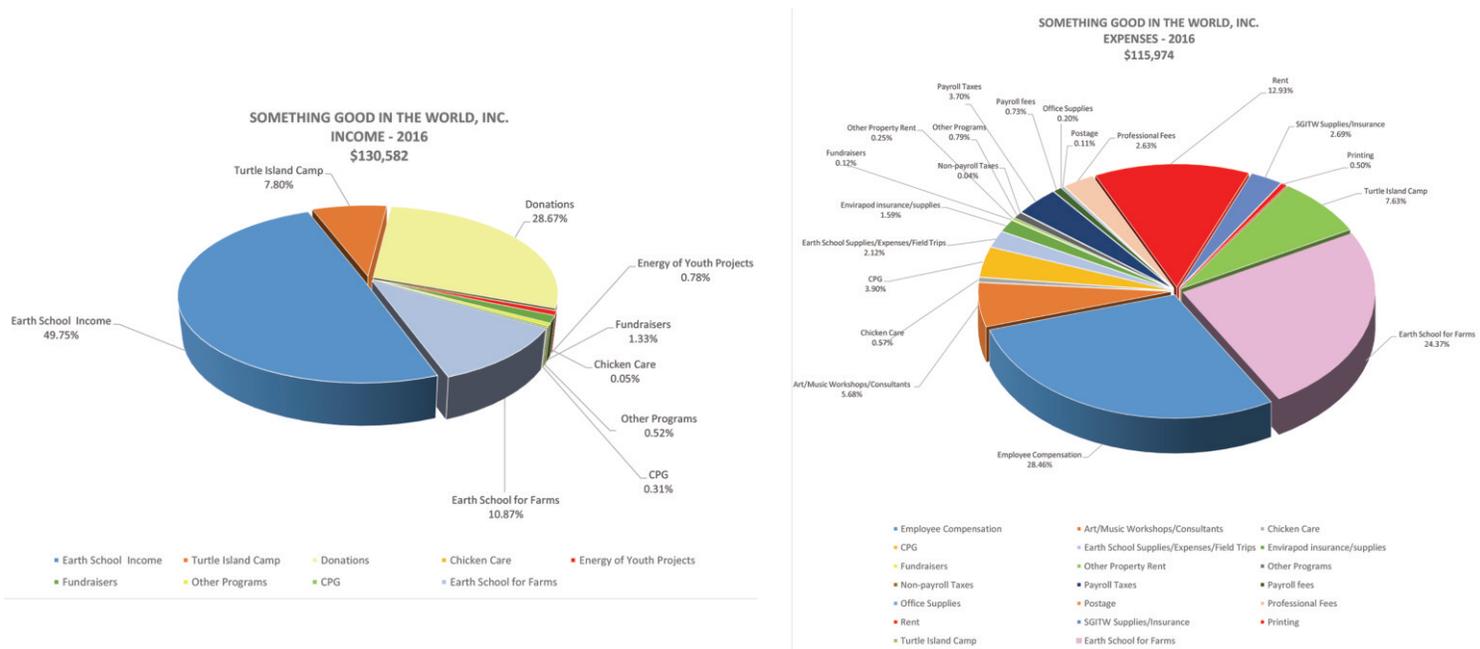


Thank you to the many foundations and organizations for donating to Something Good in the World this winter, to help keep all of our farm-based education programs and projects continuing throughout 2017, including the Alpern Family Foundation, Croton-Cortlandt Center for the Arts, [Atlantic Philanthropies](#) Director/Employee Designated Gift Fund, [Whole Kids Foundation](#) and the Sobecki Foundation.

Thank you to all those who chose Something Good in the World as part of your end-of-year giving, including our [Barnraiser](#) donors.

Thank you to Melanie Ryan, who facilitated the “Finding Peace in Chaos” Day in Silence on January 22, 2017 at the [Center for Health and Healing](#) in Mt. Kisco. Melanie wanted to donate 50% of the proceeds to an environmental organization and chose Something Good in the World.

We can honestly say that we have never received such an outpouring of support in such a short time frame, and we asked one of our donors, John Perrone (owner of [The UPS Store](#) in Croton), why he chose to give at this time, and his response echoed that of many others: “Because this is one thing that I CAN do something about.”



(Please note that these charts reflect the calendar year, but SGITW's programs and budget follow the school year. Income received in the fall of 2016 is often designated to cover expenses through June 2017.)

Recent Recognition for SGITW:

Chosen by Barnraiser as “One of 25 People Who Inspire Us!” SGITW was thrilled to be included in their impressive and inspiring national roster of “[2016 Good Food Heroes](#).”

Published as part of “What’s New, What’s Good,” in the Jane Goodall Institute’s “Good For All News” on Feb. 2, 2017: “[Finding Peace in a Time of Uncertainty](#)”



We are an **AmazonSmile** participant. Use this interactive link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-3071237>.

Donors, volunteers, employees, and friends can bookmark this link so all their eligible shopping will benefit Something Good in the World!



You can also follow all of the current news and events of Something Good in the World on Facebook!

To Donate Visit: <http://www.somethinggoodintheworld.org/page.php?id=5>

The following people donated their time, energy, and creative skills to the production of this newsletter:

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MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of Something Good in the World is to provide a safe and enhancing environment wherein children may be promoted to achieve their highest potential in learning and development, and to prepare them toward becoming responsible human beings ready to take on the challenges of life.

We are committed to upholding a genuine value for humanity, and are steadfast in our dedication towards creating a new and better template for education in the 21st century, that integrates nature, the environment, and the practices of sustainable living.



We welcome your letters and responses! Please feel free to write to us any time by e-mail: somethinggooditw@aol.com, or by regular mail: Something Good in the World, Inc., 624 Croton Avenue, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567.