



Small Steps Towards  
a Big Difference

# "SOMETHING TELLS ME I'M INTO SOMETHING GOOD..."

In this spring issue of our e-newsletter, we want to share with all of our supporters and donors the wonderful news of how your gifts and contributions have been put to use over the past few months, and will continue to be of great service during the summer season... Please visit our website for more detailed information on all of our educational programs and projects: [www.somethinggoodintheworld.org](http://www.somethinggoodintheworld.org).

If you follow us on Facebook, you'll know that Something Good in the World has been into something good all over the place! From Hawaii to New York, our [Children's Peaceful Garden](#) design is taking off and our programs are expanding.

In addition to our ongoing farm-based education programs, Something Good in the World has been out in the local community hosting everything from poetry readings at [Good Choice Kitchen](#) in Ossining to author events at the [Field Library](#) in Peekskill. Seems like a great time to celebrate the arts and join in group discussions about our environment.

We also hosted visits at our [Envira Pod](#) mobile educational trailer, to demonstrate off-grid technologies and zero carbon footprint living to high school students who are interested in environmental science. The Briarcliff Manor "Treehuggers Club" came for a workshop in alternative energy and was thrilled to be included in our maple sugaring operation and discover the nutritional value in local, seasonal, fresh maple sap.

Something Good in the World's educational program director, Barbara Sarbin, led spring workshops and tours at [Glynwood Farm](#) for families and children of all ages, including spring programs for the [Ossining Children's Center](#) (thanks to generous support from the [St. Faith's House Foundation](#)).

As a "garden ambassador" for the [Jane Goodall Institute's](#) "Roots & Shoots" program, Barbara also led workshops in Hawaii this spring! Responding to a request for assistance from a small charter school in Ka'u, on the Big Island, Barbara helped the teacher, Audra Zook, to design a permaculture garden along the principles of the Children's Peaceful Garden in New York. Audra applied for and received a [Roots & Shoots](#) mini-grant, and with Something Good in the World as a volunteer partner, a new garden, "Ka Mala Maluhia," was born at the Ka'u Learning Academy! Click here to read an article in the [Jane Goodall Institute's](#) "Good For All News" about this collaboration.

An article also appeared this spring in the [Westchester Business Journal](#) about our Earth School approach to learning, and a blog post about our nature-based educational programs was posted on the [Project Wild Thing](#) website. Click here to read this wonderful piece that really does a great job representing our work.





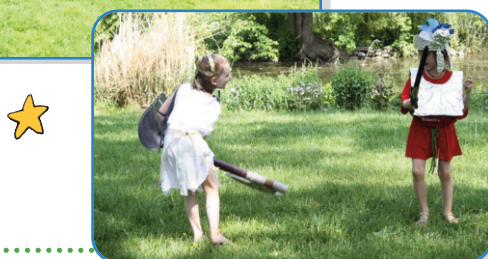
As a culminating success story for the year, one of our Earth School alumnae, Jared Foxhall, was chosen to do a TEDx talk about integrating nature with education. Jared had presented our Children's Peaceful Garden design at the United Nations General Assembly this past fall (representing SGITW for the Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots program), as part of the [UN International Day of Peace](#). For the TEDx presentation, he was able to expand on this vision and include many more stories and photos to illustrate the impact of his experience as a student growing up with a farm-based educational environment. To watch Jared's 10-minute TEDx talk, "[Reconnecting With Nature](#)," [click here](#).

Our programs continue to inspire others of like mind to join in with a grassroots effort to improve the situation of education, one child at a time. Local volunteering families from throughout the Westchester and Putnam area have been turning up for our Children's Peaceful Garden work days, and assisting us with chicken care on a weekly basis. Local businesses have helped to support our efforts with in-kind donations, such as [The UPS Store](#) in Croton contributing printing for our [Peekskill Coffee House](#) art show, and [Ben & Jerry's](#) in Mt. Kisco donating ice cream prizes to our students as a recognition for their community service projects.

Thanks to a [Whole Kids Foundation Grant](#), we have been able to improve upon our Children's Peaceful Garden at [Kitchawan Farm](#) by adding a pop-up Greenhouse to start our seedlings, and upgrade our "chicken tractor" (for free-ranging baby chicks), and replace old irrigation and alternative energy systems with better ones. [The Bedford Golf and Tennis Club](#), in conjunction with [Club Car](#), generously donated golf cart batteries so we could switch our wind system on and get it working again.

If you have been to the Peekskill Coffee House lately, you might have seen some of the environmentally friendly art projects on the walls that we created this spring. Our Earth School students were invited to display their natural art for the entire month of June, during the [Peekskill Open Studios](#) event. Now, with added assistance from [The Deupree Family Foundation](#) and a grant from the Croton-Cortlandt Center for the Arts, we are able to offer summer "[Turtle Island](#)" farm-based arts programs and scholarships to create more eco-friendly arts and handicrafts.

So it seems like you can find Something Good in the World just about everywhere these days. If you haven't had a chance yet to visit us at Kitchawan Farm or Glynwood Farm or to enjoy our free public events at the Peekskill Coffee House or Good Choice Kitchen or the Field Library, join our email list and follow us on [Facebook](#) – we'd love to include you!... ©





Something Good in the World has been collaborating with the [Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy II](#) for nearly ten years, and it has been an enormous service for Glynwood Farm to have hosted these farm-based education programs since 2011. In early spring and early summer, the first and second graders experienced two seasonal visits at Glynwood. This is part of a cycle that begins in first grade with becoming "vegetable farmers" and learning all the aspects of making healthy soil, composting, planting seeds in the greenhouse, transplanting in the garden, weeding and watering and mulching, and finally harvesting to eat. In second grade, the students continue their education by becoming "animal farmers" and discovering how to feed and care for farm animals in a humane way, as well as how to use the products from these animals respectfully and safely. By the end of the two-year process, the 7-8 year old students know more about sustainability and organic agriculture than most people who are much older. They understand the symbiotic relationship and interconnectedness of all living things in a farm setting, and the impact that humans have on their environment every minute. Whether learning about bees and their honey, or chickens and their eggs, or sheep and their wool, every season is a complete, sensory, holistic experience of why it matters that what you eat is healthy.



We are very grateful to the HCZ PAIL for their commitment to healthy living and eating slow food that is farm-fresh and organic, and seeing this as a strength and power for their students in direct connection with academic learning (would that all schools had this dedication). Huge thanks go to [Atlantic Philanthropies](#) Director/Employee Designated Gift Fund, the [Alpern Family Foundation](#) and [St. Faith's House Foundation](#), without whom these programs and transportation from Harlem would not have the funding to be able to continue. Enormous recognition goes to Glynwood for offering their space to these students, whose day out on the farm in the fresh air once every season is a breath of life, and one that goes a long way toward impacting the children as leaders of our future. As the saying goes, "The world becomes what we teach."



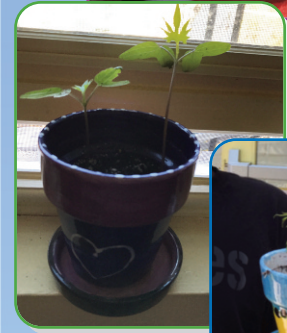
Something Good in the World is now in its tenth year of working with the Hayden House shelter for abused teens, and it has been a powerful learning experience for everyone. Because of the generosity of organizations like the St. Faith's House Foundation, the Alpern Family Foundation, the [Jack DeVito Foundation](#), [Child Advocacy 360](#), and others who prefer to remain anonymous, we have been able to increase our farm-based education programs with these children.

The Hayden House students attend school in the shelter, and are often housed there for 3-6 months. This gives us the opportunity to meet with them every other week, at local farms and art centers, to bring alive the message of how to eat healthy, local and seasonal.

Each season, we have worked with Agi Shah of [A Maze In Pottery](#) in Briarcliff Manor, where Agi donates time and materials to the students to help them create projects that are relevant to our studies. When it was fall, we made bowls, which then became our containers for soup made from scratch, guided by Laurie Gershgorn of Good Choice Kitchen, using veggies we harvested at [Hemlock Hill Farm](#) with Trish Vasta. In the winter, the students made mugs, which they took with them to [First Village Coffee](#) in Ossining, where Luis Corena treated them to delicious hot chocolate. In early spring, they made pots for plants, and using a generous donation of heritage seeds from [Seed Savers Exchange](#), the students planted seeds that have now grown into flowers, veggies and herbs for their rooms at the shelter. Finally, in early summer, students made their own plates, and with help from Linsay Cochran at Kitchawan Farm, harvested lettuces, edible flowers, berries and herbs to make a delicious salad.

One of the long-term successes of this program, is helping the teenagers to change the way they eat, and in so doing, to impact their families, friends, and even their teachers. Thanks to the many grants SGITW has received, we have been able to assist the Hayden House children and teachers to plant their own garden at the school, using seeds cultivated at Glynwood Farm's greenhouse. Understanding the origins of their foods leads students to realize that being a consumer is a powerful thing, because they can choose what they buy and what they boycott. Knowing that "it doesn't matter what you eat, what matters is what you eat ate," allows a choice to purchase organic, free-range meats from animals that were raised humanely, or even to choose vegetarian or vegan options. Knowledge builds confidence and strength, and there is a sense of responsibility that comes with the discoveries we make in our workshops together.

We notice in every program, whether we are at Glynwood, Kitchawan, or [Faraway Farm Alpacas](#), part of the beauty of the workshops is connected to the animals that we interact with. It's not only the health and nutrition that is important, it is also the comforting nature of feeding and caring for animals that allows for a calming and uplifting feeling in the students who are temporarily housed away from their homes and families. There is a therapeutic aspect of working with plants, as well as doing art and craft projects, and there is a pervasive warmth felt in working with animals, which together make a big difference in the way of comfort. One smile that sneaks out while holding a baby animal, can make everyone feel better. One success in overcoming fear to pet and feed a large animal, can lead to a sense of well-being and accomplishment. We are very grateful for all the assistance and support and collaborations that are allowing a better chance for these children.



**Earth as Homeschool** is one of our most popular programs, and is now entering its 20th year! Homeschoolers ages 6 – 11 spent 3 days a week attending farm-based education programs this spring, with activities ranging from winter animal tracking with one of our favorite educators, Vince Walsh of **Kawing Crow Awareness Center**, to in-depth maple sugaring using backyard technology the old-fashioned, hands-on way. Every aspect of this learning environment is designed to be experiential. Whether studying the Hudson River sailing on the **Clearwater** or gathering dried flowers for crafting arrangements, Earth School demonstrates that the planet is the best classroom and mother nature is the best teacher....



*Letters From Earth School Parents, Students, and Teachers:*

Dear Barbara,  
As always, wonderful! You inspire me! I am grateful that, this year because of Earth School, I've had the opportunity to be the parent in new ways, and not a teacher so much of the time. I think it has been very healthy. I am also particularly grateful for your work on the vitamin of identity; I've seen wonderful changes in Helen and I'm so pleased with the ways she's begun to see herself (the poster was a wonderful gift, not just for Helen, but for me, with a few delightful surprises in it). She's a happy little girl who loves her school, her friends and her teachers! With so much gratefulness,  
Karen

Dear Earth School,

WOW what an amazing year. You learned about ancient civilizations, made cave paintings, sang for the elderly, planted, weeded, cared for the chickens, danced, performed, tracked animals, made music, did pond studies, were truly sustainable... and most important, learned how to love and care for your self and our little family of earth schoolers and our big family of earth roamers (aka all people and animals of you and look forward to seeing your journey. Keep shining...

Extremely  
Awesome,  
Really  
Thoughtful,  
Heart-warming  
Students.  
Caring  
Homeschoolers  
Of  
Overwhelming  
Love

Xo Jaime

Dear Barbara,

How can I possibly express my gratitude for 5 amazing years of Earth School? I enrolled William with the hope that he would truly find who he is as an individual. I think we succeeded! You have helped nurture him into the connected, kind, curious, if free to be me! kid that he is. I am so grateful that he'll get to continue as a once a week student! I also so appreciate the new friendships and connections we have made as a family. This has truly been a life altering experience.

**THANK YOU BARBARA!**

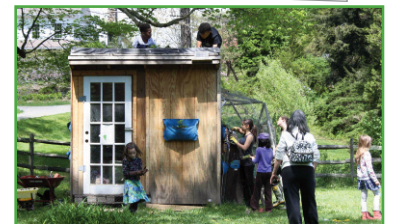
Much love,  
Martha

Dear Barbara,

Thank you for helping me when I don't understand. I liked learning about Romans, and the field trips. I liked going to Ben & Jerry's! I want to stay in Earth School for the next 10 years. Will you still be my teacher?  
Love, Isolda, age 6



Dear Barbara,  
I cannot thank you enough for the best five years of my life that I can remember! And I'm so glad that I can do the one day a week next year.  
Sososo much love,  
William, age 11



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:**

Layout & Design: Sherri Young    Writing: Barbara Sarbin  
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Photography: Barbara Sarbin & Jaime Posa



**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](mailto:somethinggooditw@aol.com), or by regular mail: Something Good in the World, Inc., 624 Croton Avenue, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567.**