



Small Steps Towards
a Big Difference

SOMETHING THANKFUL!

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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This week, Something Good in the World received a phone call from [Glynwood Farm](#) saying, “We are just calling to say, ‘it’s thanks for giving day!’” It struck a chord, because at this time of year, there is a lot of energy devoted to giving thanks and at Something Good in the World, we have so much to be thankful for.

We are incredibly grateful for all the donations we receive from foundations, organizations, and individuals. It’s impossible to overstate the impact these contributions have, and that is one of the reasons we produce this seasonal e-newsletter – we need to show you, not just tell you, how much of a difference our donors make to each and every child, teacher, and family who encounters our programs. We extend this impact to the farmers too, not only in how grateful we are to the many family farms that host our programs, but we think that working with the children also enhances their experiences as farmers.

Glynwood, Kitchawan, and [Hemlock Hill Farm](#) have all told us repeatedly how much it means to them to be able to share the beauty of their farms with children of all ages and backgrounds. And if we could be so bold, we would like to suggest that the animals enjoy the children’s visits too – sometimes a horse, a donkey, a goat, a pig, chickens, even a turkey will reach out for food, petting, and communication.

We always say that Something Good in the World’s programs offer a win-win-win situation: for the children, the educators, the farms... but we think it goes even further in many ways. There is a ripple effect that is far reaching, extending to the fact that these children are the future world leaders who will care about the environment and understand that the choices they make now, impact our entire planet.

So we wish you a very happy “thanks for giving,” if we can borrow Glynwood’s turn of phrase, because what you are doing by giving to our farm-based education programs is helping us to train the stewards of this earth, as we take small steps towards the big difference that needs to happen to keep our environment healthy for all generations to come... 🌱





Just before Thanksgiving, our [Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy II](#) second graders said a very fond goodbye to the free-ranging turkeys at Glynwood Farm that we have witnessed growing up since they were chicks. The children said very sweetly, "Goodbye Friends," and the turkeys all gobbled in unison, in response. It made us all pause and smile, even shed some tears, because this is a very different relationship that is being created with one's food, a mindful process of choosing what to eat and what not to eat. The children wondered about the tradition of eating turkey at Thanksgiving, and just that moment of thinking about it was a powerful one.



Mindfulness about food choices is an integral part of the year's theme: "It doesn't matter what you eat, what matters is what you eat ate!" We have observed these Glynwood turkeys living a happy and healthy life, and this means that if one eats turkey on a day of giving thanks, then it really is appropriate to choose one from a farm where they have lived well. The children know that this will make their own bodies healthy too.



As part of the seasonal programs, we teach the children that they vote with their purchases. They may be too young at the moment to vote for elected officials, or to buy things themselves, but they do tell their parents what they want, and what they like, and in the long run, they will be the ones voting with their pocketbooks. There is a great power in knowing that what we buy tells the world what we need to produce, and if it's organic vegetables and free ranging animals, then that is what the world will create more of. The children get the idea that there is no point in making products no one will buy. So this is their strength, making healthy choices by their words, thoughts, and actions.



The [Earth School to Farm](#) programs are holistic, in that we experience the entire living system of the farm with all of our senses, including the animals and their products; the seasonal vegetables and herbs, as we grow and harvest and prepare them into healthy snacks; and extending this to the water and forests that surround the farm and keep the whole environment healthy.



Sometimes for children from urban settings, it can be scary to approach an animal, or to touch a caterpillar, or even to walk down a steep hill. This year, we invited some of our older Earth as Homeschoolers to help out and establish relationships with younger students who are mostly indoors year-round. It's been a great, winning combination of assistance again, where the PA2 scholars light up the older students from the local area, and the older children inspire the younger ones to overcome their fears. It's just one more thing we have to be thankful for this fall... 🦃



"Let us pray for a growing awareness of the fact that each one of us must do our part in creating a better world, for though the small choices we make each day - what we buy, what we eat, what we wear - may seem insignificant, the cumulative effect of billions of people making ethical choices, will start to heal the natural world."
 - Dr. Jane Goodall





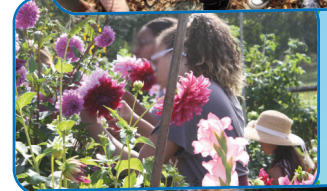
We are so grateful for collaborations in our community. This fall, Something Good in the World continued our partnership with A Maze in Pottery, run by Agi Shah, to bring the Hayden House shelter teens to make pottery in conjunction with our farm-based education programs. Inspired originally by a project called, "Empty Bowls," we created our own version, where the students paint a vase in the early fall season, and then harvest flowers under the guidance of Linsay Cochran at Kitchawan Farm, and learn the art of flower arranging. The feeling is so peaceful: getting one's hands in the paint one week and then in the dirt the next, picking the flowers and making an arrangement to beautify their rooms - the teenagers were really inspired.



Later in the fall season, the teens visited A Maze in Pottery again, to create bowls for soup. A week later, they gleaned veggies that would otherwise go to compost, under the leadership of Trish Vasta at Hemlock Hill Farm. There is a great strength in knowing that just-picked fresh, organic vegetables will not be wasted and can be made into a delicious and healthy soup, straight from farm to table – literally! We took the veggies directly to Good Choice Kitchen, where chef Laurie Gershgorin taught the teens how to prepare these into an amazing vegetable soup that could be eaten within the hour. After a freezing cold morning of harvesting on the farm, there was nothing better than a bowl of hot soup made with your own hands, totally from scratch. Some of the teens were especially happy to learn how to cook, having never had the opportunity before.



Hayden House students also visited Glynwood Farm in the fall, and harvested veggies to make into salad and kale chips – yum! We then had the opportunity to work together at their school to plant perennial bulbs that will bloom in the spring. This is a way that the students currently housed at the shelter can "pay it forward" for the next teenagers to come – they might not ever know each other, but the next students can appreciate those who came before them, who thought to plant beautiful flowers to enhance their environment.



Another group who benefits from seasonal Earth School-to-Farm programs is the Ossining Children's Center. Their 5-year-old students had their first fall visit of the school year to our Children's Peaceful Garden at Kitchawan Farm, where they totally fell in love with the chickens, the seesaw pump, and the tire swing. Their favorite thing was hiking in the woods, as some of the children had never taken a walk in the forest before.



We are so grateful to the St. Faith's House Foundation and the Jack DeVito Foundation for making the Hayden House programs possible. Funding for our free Earth School-to-Farm programs for the Ossining Children's Center and the Harlem Children's Zone also comes from the Alpern Family Foundation, Child Advocacy 360, and a family foundation that prefers to remain anonymous. Huge thanks also go to Glynwood Farm, Hemlock Hill Farm, and Kitchawan Farm for their generous sharing of their space, their organic produce, and their farming expertise to guide children of all backgrounds towards health, nutrition, and sustainable living. 🍃



This fall, the [Earth as Homeschool](#) programs have expanded! We are delighted to announce that the farm-based education programs now include a class for ages 3-4, as well as ages 11-13, in addition to the ongoing program for ages 6-10. Enormous thanks go to Kitchawan Farm for housing our Children's Peaceful Garden and [Envira Pod](#) mobile educational trailer, so that homeschoolers of all ages can now experience weekly hands-on learning and organic agriculture with the GET ([Golden Education Template](#)) approach.

One of the most important aspects of the GET Earth as Homeschool program is the inclusion of community service. Based in our community mapping project, as outlined by the Jane Goodall Institute's Root's and Shoots mini-grant we received, we look to see how we can impact our local community in the first place, as we reach out further and discover how to help solve wider world issues.

One of our annual fall projects is to visit organic farms in our area, and glean vegetables that are in danger of freezing. Our oldest students learned about food waste, and partnered this year with [Second Chance Foods](#), under the guidance of Martha Elder, to prepare gleaned vegetables from Glynwood Farm for packaging to distribute to local food pantries. Our elementary age students worked at Hemlock Hill Farm with Trish Vasta to glean veggies for making a delicious, hot soup, which we made under the leadership of Laurie Gershgorin at Good Choice Kitchen. Then on the coldest day of the year, our students delivered the healthy soup to the [Jan Peek House](#), a shelter for the homeless in Peekskill. The shelter residents were so thrilled to receive a gift of hot soup on such a cold day, especially one that was prepared by such young and happy children. Talk about win-win-win: every farm, organization, teacher and student donated their time, energies, and produce to make this possible.

Another exciting study for our students this fall has been teaming up with [Uncharted Play](#) of NYC, to work through their Think Out of Bounds curriculum, which guides children through the all round experience of social invention. Solving local community problems with alternative energy projects that are fun and interactive is the focus of this project, which is filled with teamwork games and exercises to get us all thinking outside (no box required) and anticipating the needs of others. We explored a myriad of inventions that were designed to assist impoverished people throughout the world, and discovered one that works as perfectly in our Envira Pod as it does in a remote African village: the [Wonderbag](#)! Donated by SGITW supporter Joan Dalton, the Wonderbag solved one of our very own problems, which is that the Envira Pod doesn't have an oven and our induction hotplate wastes too much solar power. The insulated Wonderbag cooks food slowly that has been brought to a boil, thus diminishing the need for power or fuel. Whether making applesauce or rice, this gift totally inspired our students!

Thanks to all the individuals, families, farms, businesses and organizations, like [Whole Kids Foundation](#) and [Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots](#), for supporting our Children's Peaceful Garden and Earth as Homeschool projects to keep children learning in nature and living in harmony with the planet, indoors and out!...



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/donate/>

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.](#)