



Small Steps Towards  
a Big Difference

# SOMETHING'S SWEET...

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](http://www.somethinggoodintheworld.org).

e-News Volume 7, Number 1

[www.somethinggoodintheworld.org](http://www.somethinggoodintheworld.org)

❄️ March 2018

It's been a looong winter, and every year, people always ask us how we are able to continue **Earth School** all year long, including the winter months? Mostly, folks assume that we close down our outdoor, farm-based education programs during the cold weather, but not a chance! Learning how to live in harmony with the earth includes all seasons. Luckily for us, our off-grid, solar-powered **Envira Pod** mobile educational trailer always has power, even when schools are closed and homes lose their electricity. The Envira Pod proves that it is possible to thrive in this part of the world without connecting to the grid. When the rest of the County was shut down, our Envira Pod was warm and toasty, with running water and a working fridge, plenty of light and lots of music, art, and creative learning happening within. Studies of global climate change and the new normal of super storms have taught us that we are part of the problem in how we live our lives, dependent on fossil fuels. But Earth School's environmental education programs also teach us in a hands-on, experiential way, that there are simple, immediate changes we can make right now.

So what do we do outdoors with children and families in the cold winter months? We focus on what's sustainable, local and seasonal, and everyone's favorite is: Maple sugaring! Nothing could be sweeter than tapping the trees and enjoying the healthy sap – full of vitamins and minerals; everyone loves to taste it right out of the tree. Whether sampling it raw, or boiling it on our solar-powered hotplate to make it even a little sweeter, our students can be found immersed in sap from February through March. We make our own syrup and cook up gluten-free pancakes with children of all ages, so they can taste test a variety of sweeteners, to learn how to make healthy choices. Our **Backyard Farmer** workshops teach adults how to set up an old-fashioned maple sugaring operation in their own backyard, with buckets and spiles. There is nothing more local or seasonal than that.

Winter is the perfect time for our teenage students from the local shelter to visit Agi Shah at **A Maze in Pottery** to paint their own cups, and to engage in a cookshop with Laurie Gershgorin at **Good Choice Kitchen** to make dairy-free hot chocolate from scratch to drink from their mugs, and warm apple crisp as a healthy snack. The shelter teens were also excited to help collect sap and make pancakes with fresh maple syrup, and they fell in love with the Envira Pod – every teenager wants one of their own, with a solar-powered sound system and a DVD player.





Winter is also just right for outdoor photography workshops! In January, well-known international photographer, [Mimo Khair](#), came to lead a photography funshop with our older students, including Earth as Homeschoolers and alumnae. The children learned how to play with their cameras to get unusual results. Mimo guided them in doing all the kinds of things we learn not to do with a camera, like face it into the sun, focus on shadows, get blurry shots, seek reflections, turn photos upside down, and frame the scenery in unusual ways. Even in the sub freezing temperatures, the children had the greatest time, especially chasing reflections on ice. The photos will be seen at the [Peekskill Coffee House](#) for our annual art show opening May 1!



Outdoors is perfect for theatre and teamwork exercises, and even on cold days, the children can be found outside doing warm-ups and playing games, rehearsing plays and choreographing dances. This year's production of "Shakespeare's Dreams," an original ensemble piece, played indoors at [New Era Creative Space](#) in Peekskill, but was rehearsed outdoors in the farm fields in the snow and mud and sunshine.



Every day in the winter requires work: taking care of the chickens is a year-round responsibility. Students shovel pathways for the chickens to be able to free range and find some grass and dirt for dust baths and foraging. They also feed the wild birds (thanks to donations of seed from [Feed the Birds](#)) and even the ducks that come to winter on [Kitchawan Pond](#). When wind and storms cause damage to the farm, the children, parents, and teachers, all pitch in to clean up the debris. It's real community service, and great fun to work together with all ages to get the job done.



As the spring approaches, our fall Plant-a-thon is bearing fruit, as bulbs begin to push up out of the ground, and despite the cold, we see the crocuses and snowdrops appearing. Soon the sap will stop flowing, and we will be able to shed our snow gear. Then it will be time for our [Blue Star Youth Movement](#) to be cleaning up trash around the reservoir as we do every year, and planting in our [Children's Peaceful Garden](#) on our Open Day. Soon we will be getting our seeds sprouting in our pop-up greenhouse, and visiting the baby animals in the [Glynwood Farm](#) barns (thanks to funding from St. Faith's House Foundation and the Alpern Family Foundation), watching our hens hatch their chicks and transplanting our seedlings into [Woolly Pockets](#), all made possible by our [Whole Kids Foundation](#) garden grant. We can't wait to install new beehives with our Jane Goodall [Roots and Shoots](#) Mini-Grant, and before we know it, June will arrive and we'll be sailing aboard the Sloop [Clearwater](#) on the Hudson. [Turtle Island](#) summer mini-camp programs are just around the corner.



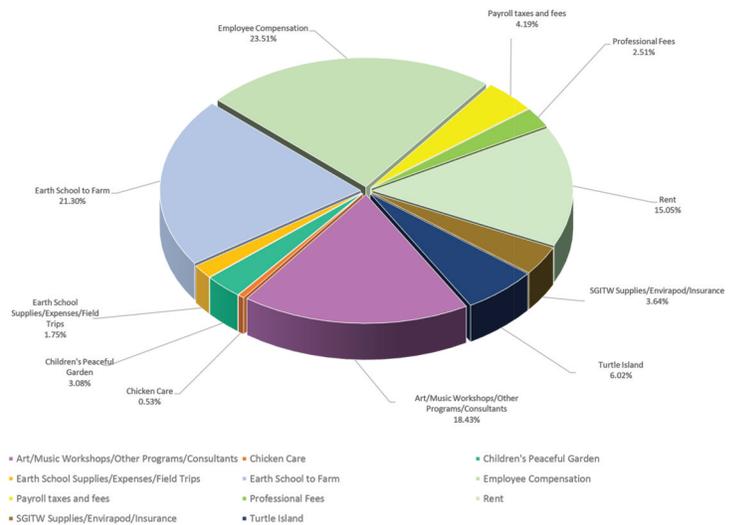
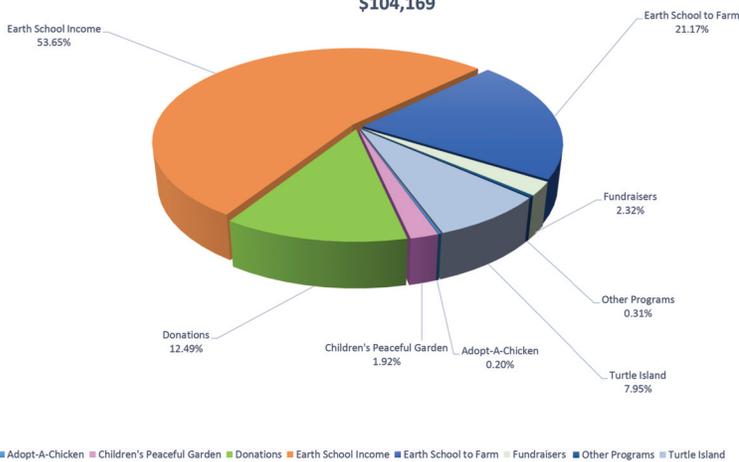
Till then, we will keep working outdoors whatever the temperature might be. Our students don't mind what's happening in the forecast, they just want to be outside in it, enjoying nature – and they all know the Earth School motto: "There's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing." Here's to being part of the solution... ☺





SOMETHING GOOD IN THE WORLD, INC.  
EXPENSES - 2017  
\$119,600

SOMETHING GOOD IN THE WORLD, INC.  
INCOME - 2017  
\$104,169



(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 2017 is often designated to cover expenses through June 2018.)



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, Mimo Khair, Helena Steger and Ari



**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.