



Small Steps Towards
a Big Difference

SOMETHING'S GROWING UP...

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.

e-News Volume 7, Number 4

www.somethinggoodintheworld.org

Autumn 2018

“My classmates and I were educated in a way that expanded far beyond numbers and grammar. We were taught how to think, not what to think. We were taught to care - for ourselves, for others, and for our shared planet. We were given the time and space to learn at our own pace, and we grew in confidence because of it. We learned that the world’s problems are many, but can be solved with determination and hard work.”

-Samuel Corena, age 18

One of the most heartening aspects about Something Good in the World having been in operation as a nonprofit for 16 years now, is that our original students are all growing up! Starting in 1998, **Earth School** programs began teaching children and families how to live sustainably and in harmony with the land, and how to connect with nature in meaningful and experiential ways that integrate with academic learning. Since 2006, SGITW’s Earth School has been a farm-based education program for all ages, reaching further into the area to offer free workshops and courses for impoverished and underserved communities. Thanks to foundations and organizations that understood our motivation, SGITW has been supported by a range of grants that have allowed us to continue to grow and expand our vision to include culturally and linguistically diverse populations.

“Something Good in the World’s Earth School was designed and delivered to be a wholly immersive experience centered on the principle that the Earth is essentially one inter-connected system of symbiotic relationships; that the planet and everything on it – the Earth itself, and all of nature, and we as humans – are all part of one larger unified whole; that our individual and collective actions (and inaction) all matter, and can, and do have lasting impacts; that each of us is an integral part of the larger Organism that has led to our existence, and which, through an exquisitely delicate balance of interdependency, sustains us; and which it is our responsibility to protect, nurture and care for.” -Josh Rosenblum, age 16



Now, in our 20th year of nature-based programming, we are starting to see the fruits of our efforts. Our students are beginning to reconnect with SGITW as interns and journalists, as videographers and environmentalists. They send us their college essays, their applications for outdoor education experiences, and the articles they write for university papers, and we get to see that they not only understood what we were teaching all these years, but they are carrying it forward. Many of our alumni are now training in government, law, environmental science, engineering, policy-making, and journalism, and it makes us smile, as educators, to see and hear that all our hard work and belief and passion has translated into action in these young adults.

“At Earth School one of our mottos was ‘we learn best by doing,’ so everything I learned was taught in a hands-on experiential way. History was acted out – never just read – with kids enthusiastically playing Julius Caesar, Harriet Tubman, King Tut, and Attila the Hun. We learned how societies rise and fall through protest, and how people have always stood up against injustice no matter what the odds. We learned that we aren’t just individuals. We’re global citizens, each with unique talents and a responsibility to use those talents to make the world a better place.”

-Samuel Corena, Age 18

We hope that you will choose to continue to support the work of Something Good in the World now and into the future. Please read on to discover the many kinds of programs that we offer for children and families, and find out how you can get involved...



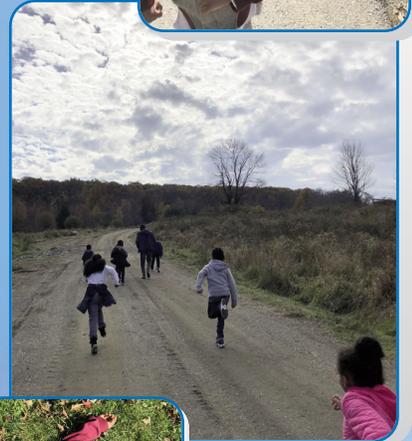
Earth as Homeschool programs are specifically designed for homeschooled children, as supplemental, farm-based education programs, that integrate reading, writing, math, science, art, music, and theatre with the outdoors. So often, educational environments will separate out the learning process into compartments, but at Earth School we believe that learning happens all the time, even when you are not expecting it. The motive behind Earth School has always been that the planet is the best classroom, and nature is the best teacher.

The Earth as Homeschoolers range in ages from 3 to 13, and they find themselves helping with harvesting, planting, composting, chicken care, and other farm chores on a daily basis as part of their learning process. Even the youngest children love that their “Generating Options” (GO) activities are in the great outdoors, and that what they are doing genuinely helps the whole farm. Place-based education is a high priority, helping the community through service and volunteering, while learning from experts in the field, whether these are chefs, farmers, artists, writers, or musicians.

All ages love to cook, and as part of learning what is organic, local and seasonal (and therefore freshest, healthiest, and best for the environment), we harvest from our own gardens to prepare delicious snacks, and we glean from larger farms to make food for the homeless and hungry in our community. We are honored to partner with [Kitchawan Farm](#), [Hemlock Hill Farm](#), Glynwood Farm, and Good Choice Kitchen to make all of these projects possible.

Whether students are learning about Native American and Colonial traditions, or the global principles upon which civic duty first arose as a concept, the message is clear that it is our responsibility as world citizens to take care of those who have less than we do. Students participate in forming partnerships with farmers and making direct connections with the sources of their foods, and then carrying these understandings forward into their families and communities by sharing what they know. There is no limit to what is possible, when children have the opportunity to show how much they care...





This is the tenth year of Something Good in the World's partnership with the [Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy II](#), and it has been a total honor to work with their first and second graders every season, year after year. We have continually witnessed how children who do not have daily access to nature are transformed by their experiences at [Glynwood Farm](#). Out in nature, they have the opportunity to face their fears, whether it's petting or feeding an animal, or hiking through the wetlands or crossing a narrow bridge, or standing still while a bee or butterfly or ladybug lands on them. This is a powerful experience, impactful because it's hands on, and therefore will always be remembered.

We are so grateful to the support we received this year from the [Saint Faith's House Foundation](#), the [Alpern Family Foundation](#), the [Deupree Family Foundation](#), and other anonymous family foundations, for making it possible for these programs to continue year round. We also thank the Harlem Children's Zone for their long-term commitment to the understanding that academic success is connected to good health and nutrition....



We are delighted to be in continual partnership with the [Cardinal McCloskey Hayden House](#) and the [Ossining Children's Center](#), as members of our local Ossining community, dedicated to seeing that children get to connect with nature on a seasonal basis, to understand the origins of their foods and how to make healthy choices.

Thanks to local business owners like Agi Shah at [A Maze in Pottery](#) and Laurie Gershgorin from [Good Choice Kitchen](#), and with guidance from Trish Vasta at Hemlock Hill Farm and Jarret Nelson at Glynwood Farm, children of all ages from high needs circumstances, have the opportunity to have workshops that engage them in the art of food preparation from the ground up. We are so grateful to [The Jack DeVito Foundation](#) and St. Faith's House Foundation for making these programs possible.

Hayden House students have a monthly trip to A Maze in Pottery to paint bowls, plates, cups, and vases, to use for their soups, salads, beverages, and flowers. In a follow up workshop on a local farm, they create their healthy snacks with the produce from the farms, learning what is local and seasonal, and therefore fresh and nutritious, but also how to use best practices for growing these.

There are fears and tears surrounding the bees and insects, and exposure to new environments is key in terms of fostering respect for the planet and its creatures, by encountering them first hand. Once a child has tasted honey from the beehive, there is a much greater sense of awe about the bee that made that honey, and a much better chance of developing a care for what one grows in the garden, or at the very least, why to do no harm.

Whether children are 5 years old or 17 years old, everyone deserves a clear path forward, and it is our great honor to provide an outdoor educational environment within which children of all ages can stay connected to nature and discover what really matters...



Project of the Month:

<https://www.rootsandshoots.org/projectofthemonth2016>



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.