



Small Steps Towards  
a Big Difference

# SOMETHING OUT OF THE BLUE...

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 8, Number 1

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

Spring 2019

*“En el mundo no hay fronteras. Todos estamos bajo un mismo cielo.”*

*“In the world, there are no borders. We are all under the same sky.”*

Thanks to an unexpected series of fortunate events, including donations from organizations that were closing down and seeking like-minded charities to give their remaining donations to, Something Good in the World was able this year to open up a Blue Sky Fund. The SGITW Board of Directors had the special opportunity, for the first time, to have a meeting to envision what we could do with contributions that were for “Blue Sky” projects; programs that we had always wished we could get off the ground if we had the support, envisioning a future of expanding Something Good further into the world.

Throughout the past two years, ever since the Office of Refugee Resettlement’s program that was run by a local shelter was shut down suddenly in February 2017, SGITW has been seeking to offer its [Earth School-to-Farm programs](#) again to refugee children from Central America. The three years of SGITW’s programs from 2014 - 2017 with unaccompanied minors (who were detained crossing the border, children ages 6-18, from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador seeking asylum and legal resettlement in the United States) had come to an abrupt halt. It was impossibly painful for our educators to read of children being deported or detained, knowing full well what conditions they were facing.

Then, out of the blue, a shelter reached out to SGITW for programming, and in 2019 our free program was reborn, serving 50 refugee teens per month, teaching them sustainable agriculture and the principles of Permaculture on local farms that have opened their spaces to these children. We wrote about these first experiences in our “Digging in the Dirt” blog on our website: Click here to read [“Tell Me How It Ends”](#) and [“Walking on Water.”](#)



The letters we received from the students, following the first series of programs this winter, confirmed what we know about the effects of farm-based education for refugee children; that it reconnects them to the feeling of being back home in their countries, and allows them a sense of well being after an extremely traumatic journey to get here:

I thank you for having invited us to see Kitchawan farm, we thank you and I also loved playing in the snow and I really liked the syrup and the different types of honey. I really liked the farm because in my country we have things that you had there and I felt very happy because I felt like I was in my country.  
Mateo from Guatemala

Thank you for teaching me to learn new things, I felt so happy in that moment we shared. And also for teaching me to differentiate what is more natural for us.  
Thank you for everything.  
Estela Amaya

Thank you for having invited us to your farms they are very nice, I really loved the farm animals and the syrup that you produce and I learned how to save money using nature.  
God bless you always. - Joaquin A.R.

Thank you for having given us this opportunity to experience new things and for having invited us to your farm and for fighting for us the immigrants...  
Franklin Misael Diaz

Thank you for this new experience, in my life I haven't really had one like that, like the one you gave me. What I liked was seeing the cows because I love them, they remind me of the ones I had back home although the ones I saw here were better cared for and healthier, I really liked seeing them so well and also the experience of making butter. I had never done that before and what I really liked was knitting with my fingers because I liked how it came out and one day I will knit a sweater. Thank you very much.  
Apolonia Perez G.

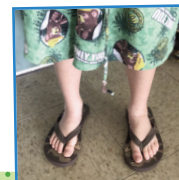
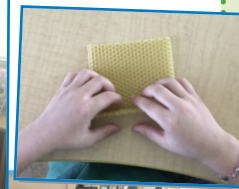
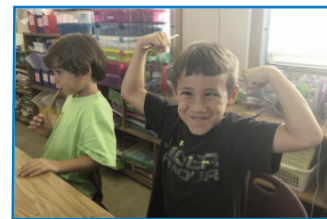
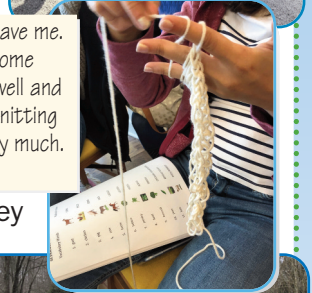
So many individuals in our area have been anxious to help the refugee children in any way they can, having heard of their plight extensively on the news and on social media. We always tell people that the best way to help is to [donate funding for programming](#) and for shelters, but for those who wish to have a more hands-on engagement, there are donations possible of food and clothing, of plants for the shelter garden, and of shoes and boots for farm-based education. One of our longest running donors of in-kind gifts, [Capelli New York](#), responded immediately to the need of 50 teens for warm socks and waterproof boots, and shipped these to Something Good in the World so the students could enjoy their time on the farm without suffering from cold, wet feet in the snow. There are also foster programs for refugee children (if anyone is interested in more information about how to foster a child who is awaiting resettlement in the U.S., please contact us).

Within the scope of our Blue Sky projects this year, we also had on our wish list to expand the design of the [Children's Peaceful Garden](#) into more locations. Our CPG at Kitchawan Farm is a template for creating peaceful and sustainable, outdoor education play spaces that nurture creative, arts-integrated, and imaginative play and mindful activities. Since our official recognition from the [Jane Goodall Institute](#) and the United Nations in 2016, we have continually sought to share this award-winning design of Peace and Sustainability into locations that need a garden that can serve as a refuge, a sanctuary for children and wildlife. This year, we have continued to see this vision expand further into local shelters for youth-at-risk, as well as local public schools, and even into distant locations such as Hawaii, wherever teachers and students are looking to create a garden dedicated to peace, well being, and living in harmony with the environment. For children who have experienced great trauma, including human trafficking, abuse, neglect, and bullying, working in the garden can have incredibly powerful effects.

The use of gardens as a therapeutic tool is not new information. Recently featured in the New York Times, famed neurologist Oliver Sacks has written about [The Healing Power of Gardens](#):

*"I cannot say exactly how nature exerts its calming and organizing effects on our brains, but I have seen in my patients the restorative and healing powers of nature and gardens, even for those who are deeply disabled neurologically. In many cases, gardens and nature are more powerful than any medication."*

With this kind of understanding in mind, Something Good expanded into rural Hawaii, with director Barbara Sabin serving as a volunteer Garden Ambassador for the Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots program (in which more than 50% of their projects are gardens). Thanks to the Blue Sky Fund, the Na'alehu Elementary School kindergarten has enjoyed a series of farm-based education workshops, serving a great need for marginalized students living in a "Food Desert," in a school district that has been deemed the lowest performing in the United States. Poverty has often been linked to low performance in schools, with lack of health and adequate nutrition playing a great part. Responding to the students' immediate need for shoes, SGITW was able to donate crocs and flip-flops from Capelli New York, so that children could now play and walk safely, allowing for a better learning opportunity when basic needs are met.



Our Blue Sky fund also made it possible this year for children from the Harlem Children's Zone to receive busing to and from our farm-based education programs at [Glynwood](#). So often our free programs cannot continue without transportation money – outlining the situation where children whose school building has no windows, who are bused to and from school, who have no outdoor play space, cannot have a day out on the farm unless they have a way to get there. We want to thank the Clear Mind School for the “out of the blue” donation that is making it possible for 200 children from Promise Academy II to experience spring and summer programs outdoors in nature this year.

At SGITW, we agree with Oliver Sacks: *“Clearly, nature calls to something very deep in us. Biophilia, the love of nature and living things, is an essential part of the human condition. Hortophilia, the desire to interact with, manage and tend nature, is also deeply instilled in us. The role that nature plays in health and healing becomes even more critical for people working long days in windowless offices, for those living in city neighborhoods without access to green spaces, for children in city schools or for those in institutional settings such as nursing homes. The effects of nature’s qualities on health are not only spiritual and emotional but physical and neurological. I have no doubt that they reflect deep changes in the brain’s physiology, and perhaps even its structure.”*

This spring it has been a total pleasure to consult with nursing homes as well as shelters, such as [The Country House](#), where we have had a long standing relationship and a wish for more intergenerational projects. Our homeschooling students assisted the elderly residents by digging up and moving plants to a new location, to make way for a raised bed for vegetables. We look forward to returning to the home, to work alongside the residents to plant their garden.

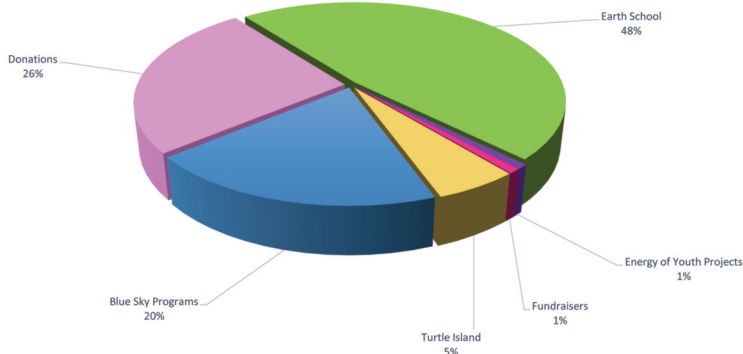
Something Good in the World also received a wonderful recognition this spring from the [Whole Kids Foundation](#), who [featured our Children’s Peaceful Garden as a success story and a template for school gardens everywhere](#). It is a total honor to share our experiences with their audience, and to have received a grant from their organization to keep our garden at Kitchawan Farm open and available to the local community. Health, nutrition, sustainability, organic agriculture, permaculture, living in harmony with the environment, alternative energy systems, and sanctuaries for wildlife, creative and imaginative play, arts integration – it all becomes possible with support.

Without the Children’s Peaceful Garden, there is no home base for all of Something Good in the World’s programs, including: [Earth School for Homeschoolers](#) which meets year round, as well as for one-day Sustainable Design programs for the [Ossining High School](#) students studying interactive ecology, or for the free seasonal Earth School-to-Farm programs for the [Ossining Children’s Center](#) day care children, or for all of the monthly refugee and shelter programs. We are so grateful that so many foundations and organizations, individuals and businesses get what we do and support Something Good in the World happening, not only to keep it going, but also to help us expand our vision and gain an even further reach, where only the sky’s the limit...

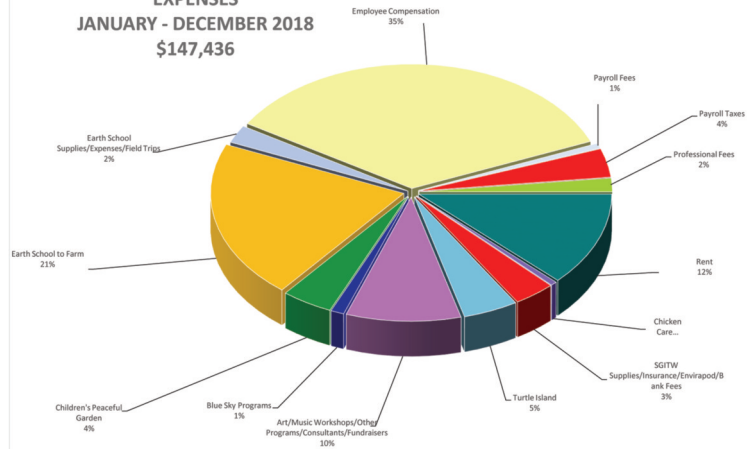


Every year at this time, we like to share our financial picture with our donors and supporters. Please keep in mind that these income and expenses reflect the calendar year, while our actual income and expenses affect the running of the school year. Therefore these charts can be a bit misleading, as income from 2018 has to continue to cover expenses in 2019...

**SOMETHING GOOD IN THE WORLD, INC.  
INCOME  
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2018  
\$154,374**



**SOMETHING GOOD IN THE WORLD, INC.  
EXPENSES  
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2018  
\$147,436**



**Save the date:**  
Saturday, June 1, from 3-6 p.m., join us in The Children's Peaceful Garden at Kitchawan Farm for a benefit celebrating the 20th anniversary of Earth School! Live music and a potluck picnic for all ages. \$25 suggested donation for adults, \$10 for students, \$5 for children. **RSVP.**



**Thank You...**

For ongoing support and program funding: Alpern Family Foundation, St. Faith's House Foundation, Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, Jack DeVito Foundation, Deupree Family Foundation, and others who prefer to remain anonymous.  
For "Blue Sky" donations: Child Advocacy 360, Croton-Cortlandt Center for the Arts, and Clear Mind School.



Project of the Month:  
<https://www.rootsandshoots.org/projectofthemonth2016>



We are an Amazon Smile 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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Photography: Barbara Sarbin and Natascha Sabert  
Spanish/English Translation: Rommy Urrutia

**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.