



Small Steps Towards
a Big Difference

SOMETHING GRATEFUL...

Our seasonal 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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www.somethinggoodintheworld.org

FALL 2019

At this time of year, minds turn to what we are thankful for: our planet and all that it gives us, our homes and families and friends, our access to fresh food and water and air, and the meaningful and purposeful work that we have. At Something Good in the World, the thankfulness that we experience for the [donations and contributions](#) our donors give, goes beyond words. In this issue of our seasonal e-newsletter, we share as many photos as possible with you, because the thanks that we receive from children, teachers and parents, is because of what you make possible...

This fall, we had an abundance of farm-based, garden-based, and nature-based education programs on two sides of the United States: New York and Hawai'i!...

The refugee students from [Abbott House](#) experienced workshops on sustainability, organic backyard and family farming, preparing healthy snacks and meals, as well as learning English. Ranging in ages from 6 – 17, Central American refugee children who are sheltered while seeking asylum and awaiting legal resettlement, had the opportunity to visit [Kitchawan Farm](#) and [Hemlock Hill Farm](#). They always tell us that being on the farms reminds them of their countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, and makes them feel like they are home again. The well being and peace that come from interactions with animals and nature are well documented in terms of the stabilizing effects this has on traumatized children. It has been an honor to offer the refugees this gift, thanks to the grants, donations, and in-kind gifts that SGITW receives specifically for these programs.

At Kitchawan Farm, the refugee students were delighted to gather eggs from the chickens, to make bike blender smoothies, to taste the honey from our beehive straight off the comb, and to learn sustainable methods of living in harmony with the land, indoors in our Envira Pod and outdoors in the [Children's Peaceful Garden](#). The highlight of the trip was a donation of “pupusas” from [Rincon Santaneco's](#) Salvadoran Restaurant in Mt. Kisco, thanks to the efforts of our volunteer translator, Rommy Urrutia. The

students were moved by a poem (left) published by the [Teachers and Writers Collaborative](#) that inspired the donation of pupusas, to try writing their own letters to their home countries...

Where I'm From

by Uriel Solis (age 15)

I still remember my house
back in El Salvador, like if I was there
Each room, each door, each brick,
each one of the roof tiles
I see the cows in the corral
los gallos singing to the sun every morning
cars raising dust through the streets
I can hear the kids running to the soccer
field every day after school, going to buy
pupusas y jugo de tamarindo
There is nothing like the cheese melting in the
grill y todos peleando por comerlo
I went to the river almost every day
swing and play in the fresh and clean
water. And when the clock got to 4:00pm
it was time to go and bring the cows back
And at the end of the day my grandma
waiting with the plate on the table,
tortillas, arroz y frijoles.

Dear Honduras,

I am proud to be catracha. The beautiful thing of my country is the flag. The 5 stars and the colors, the blue like the blue sea, and the white like the white clouds.

The things I miss the most is the Hondurian traditions. The food, the tandiles, December 24th and the parties. That is what I miss the most.

We are from a different world my country is catracha. - Elmer

*I went exploring to other lands,
I crossed paths, I crossed borders,
I walked, I walked wherever I wanted.
But I have brought,
the five stars of my flag as tattoos.*

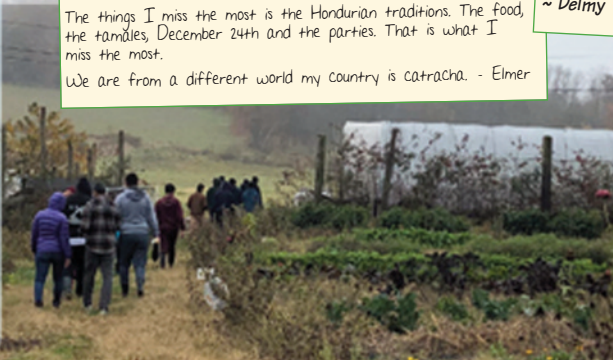
*Today is my peace, my whole life,
my joy, my spring.*

*If one day I die in another nation,
they will bury me in my country
and in those towns where I lived,
and met friends.*

*They will remember me as I was,
My family will pray for me...
and my soul will live where I was born.*

~ Delmy

Guatemala of my Heart
Dear Guatemala, you fill my life with inspiration and make with new passions, poems all the time in my heart. I miss people, the people who work in the fields, on the farm, the songs of animals, cars, buses, trees. Every time the rooster sings in the morning, the cries of the children, the games with my friends, the river that sings, the cries and cries of babies. You transformed my sad days into joy and my nights of loneliness were forgotten. The fire that burns, the trees, forests, the tortillas, cakes in the comals that my mother prepares for me. My work in the restaurants, etc... I miss my music team, my team of friends. The jokes between friends and the laughter that followed.
- Federico

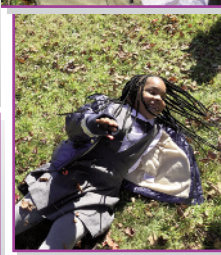
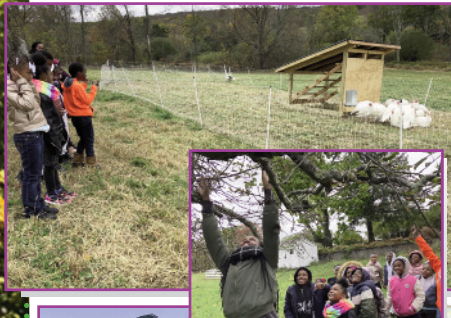
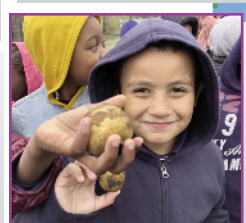
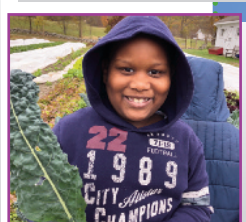




We are especially grateful to Hemlock Hill Farm's entire family operation, including Katie DeMaria, for leading the refugee students on a bilingual tour of the farm, and giving them the opportunity to prepare a traditional Central American style chicken soup, and a salsa, from scratch, using all organic materials grown on the farm. The students were also treated to empanadas, and fresh apples from the trees, a family-style meal in the farmhouse kitchen that they hadn't had the likes of for many months, since leaving their homes. All ages gathered, including the farm's baby and grandfather, sharing a warm family meal together – totally priceless.



This year, we were so grateful to [St. Faith's House Foundation](#), the Alpern Family Foundation, and the [Katie Svitek Memorial Foundation](#) as well as foundations that prefer to remain anonymous, for making our programs for refugees possible. These foundations, in addition to individual donors and in-kind gifts, also made it possible for us to continue to bring the [Harlem Children's Zone's Promise Academy II](#) First and Second Graders to Glynwood Farm. We cannot thank Glynwood enough for their generosity in allowing SGITW to use their indoor space and to bring the students into their gardens. A special shout out to Lauren Dellolio, for introducing the children to "Potato" the goat as an extraordinary hands-on experience! Students had the opportunity to meet the turkeys, make butter from cow's milk, harvest organic veggies and herbs they had planted last spring, pick fresh apples in the farm's orchard, and prepare all of this into a healthy snack. The only thing they loved more than eating the kale chips, apple spirals, stir fried potatoes, and crudité with dip, was feeding the pigs the veggie and food scraps from their cooking projects! Even better than all of this, of course, was rolling down the hill - their all time favorite activity at [Glynwood](#)! For children whose school has no windows, and no outdoor play space, the opportunity to spend the day out in the fresh air of Glynwood is indescribable. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible!

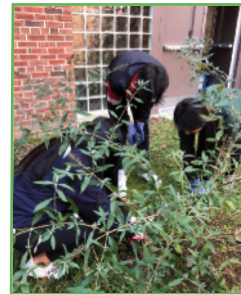




Because of the additional generosity of organizations like the [Jack DeVito Foundation](#), SGITW has been able to extend farm-based and garden-based programs to the [Sally & Anthony Mann Center](#) for traumatized youth. The students had the opportunity for the first time to visit the Children's Peaceful Garden at Kitchawan Farm, which was the template for their own Sanctuary Garden at the shelter. Thanks to the generosity of [Feed the Birds](#) of Croton-on-Hudson and the [Jane Goodall Roots & Shoots Mini-Grant](#), the students are now enthralled with the birdfeeders and wind chimes that bring new sights and sounds to their outdoor learning experience at the Mann Center.



It has been our goal in the past year to help children and teachers to create more and more gardens for their schools and shelters, so that they wouldn't be dependent on our farms for outdoor, hands-on experiences in nature. The Mann Center and the [Ossining High School](#) are the shining examples of how successful this can be. OHS students in the Interactive Ecology program are adding continually to their Mindfulness Garden, learning about the xeriscaping, drip irrigation, invasives, and pollinators, and are well on the path towards designing sustainable systems to augment what they have created in the past two years with assistance from SGITW. Both the Sanctuary Garden and the Mindfulness Garden will see new additions in the spring, but for now they are focusing on designing artful signs to help name and delineate these special places they have created.



The Ossining Children's Center has also benefited from our generous donors and foundations, visiting Kitchawan Farm and the Children's Peaceful Garden each season. This is made possible by financial contributions that pay for transportation, which is an absolutely essential part of the process. SGITW is so lucky that there are foundations that understand that the cost of the bus is as important as the cost of materials and educators. Without the bus, no program is possible, and busing expenses far outweigh the rest. Thank you to all those who understand how much the kindergartners at OCC benefit from a day spent outdoors on the farm!

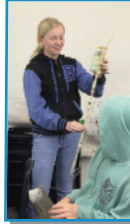




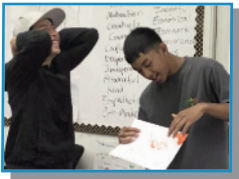
This fall, thanks to an unexpected and incredible Blue Sky Fund donation from an individual, which was then matched by Pfizer, SGITW has been able to continue its farm-based, nature-based, and garden-based educational programs in Hawai'i! The district of Ka'u on the Big Island, where the majority of our programs currently take place, experience high rates of poverty: nearly 25% of families are living at or below the poverty line. The Title One charter schools and organizations that SGITW is collaborating with offer all of their programs for free, and schools serve free healthy breakfasts and lunches to all of their students. It has been a total win-win-win situation for the children, the teachers, and the land, to be able to share the SGITW approach to environmental education, the principles of permaculture, and hands-on activities to inspire everyone to live sustainably.



The [Volcano School of Arts and Sciences](#) joined forces with Something Good in the World, thanks to our funding, to be able to bring their Community Based Education students and teachers to SGITW's new Children's Peaceful Tree Garden to learn about Pacific Island backyard agroforestry and sustainable bee-keeping. At VSAS, Pre-K students learned how to create and keep a worm bin, and 3rd and 4th graders had a Bee Day that included making crafts from beeswax, while 6th, 7th, and 8th graders were all treated to the "Think Out of Bounds" curriculum that SGITW developed with [Uncharted Play](#), to help them discover how to become social inventors and solve problems in their own communities as part of their Civics program. VSAS staff also collaborated with SGITW to look at ways to enhance their outdoor spaces and incorporate principles of the Children's Peaceful Garden design into their already existing gardens and play areas.



Homeschoolers from the Ocean View Co-op ([South Hawaii Homeschool Hui](#)) also fully enjoyed SGITW's workshops this fall, which includes learning about how to make healthy soil ("worm cake"), how to make "beeswrap" using beeswax and fabric, and how to identify tropical plants and trees in the food forest that can be grown at home to supplement family meals.

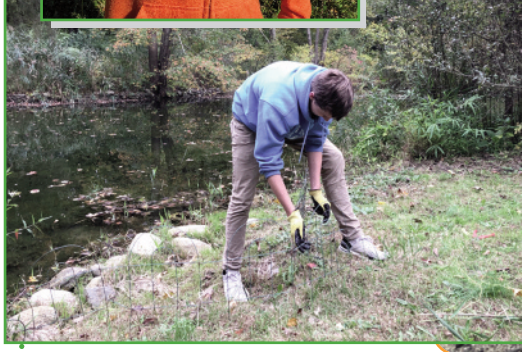


A real treat made possible by the Blue Sky Fund was a workshop for ages 2-4 at [Tutu and Me](#), a free, traveling preschool in Na'alehu. The worm bin made a trip to their outdoor space, and very young children had the chance to handle worms and help make "worm cake" for the first time. Because Tutu and Me is specifically for caregivers and young children working together, this meant that moms and grandmothers and aunts all had the opportunity to learn about making compost at home too. The ripple effect can be large, and we have learned at SGITW that it only takes small steps to make a big difference.





On both sides of the US, SGITW is continuing to make community service possible, from beach trash cleanups and restoration in Hawai'i, to chicken and garden care in New York. Though our gardens may be asleep for the winter in New York, they are ever abundant and growing in Hawai'i. That means your donations continue to work for children of all backgrounds, every day, all year round... ☺



PROJECT OF THE MONTH

Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots is honored to award this certificate to
SOMETHING GOOD IN THE WORLD
 for impressive impact on behalf of people, animals and the environment.

"Every individual's action
 Every individual's love
 Every individual's care
 Every individual's difference"
 - Dr. Jane Goodall

October 2016
 Date

the Jane Goodall Institute Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots

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:

- Layout & Design: Sherri Young
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- Editing: Elizabeth Colquhoun
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- Photography: Barbara Sarbin and Saskia Sarbin-de la Cruz
- 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, or by regular mail: Something Good in the World, Inc., 624 Croton Avenue, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567.