

Small Steps Towards a Big Difference

SOMETHING'S EVEN BETTER...

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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www.somethinggoodintheworld.org



At Something Good in the World, we are so delighted to be able to offer summer farm-based education programs, tours, and workshops during the season when farms are at their best! This summer, we have been honored to lead sustainability and environmental education workshops for college students, family farm tours for all ages, pre-school programs, as well as mini-camps, at both Kitchawan Farm and Glynwood Farm.

Our "Turtle Island" summer programs in our Children's Peaceful Garden at Kitchawan Farm were filled to capacity with children ages 6 – 12, and teenage helpers ages 13 – 15. We want to thank the Deupree Foundation for making it possible for so many children to experience these fully outdoor programs this summer. Because of their generous donation, children who might otherwise have not been able to have access to nature, were able to enjoy art and music, theatre and dance, crafts and farming, 100% in the woods, streams, ponds, and fields of Kitchawan Farm.

We often try to explain why scholarship donations are such a huge win-win for everyone, and we hope to put it across here with a photo collage instead, because the children's happy faces really say much more than words. Essentially, when an individual or foundation makes a donation to our scholarship fund, it makes it possible for families in need to have access to our programs. This is often a situation for a child from an urban environment, who will benefit greatly from being in nature (as all children do), and who would not be able to join in otherwise. While making the program free for the child, or at greatly reduced cost, it also allows the donation to go straight into covering expenses for running the programs. Scholarship donations help us to be able to pay rent and insurance, to cover salaries and materials, all of which have to be in place to make the educational programs possible. When a donation is given to our scholarship fund, it works double time: a child gets to participate for free, and the funding covers all the expenses. We hope that more people will feel inspired to make a contribution of any amount to this fund, so their donation is working twice!

In-kind donations are another way for local businesses to help our students. We are so grateful to Ben & Jerry's of Mt. Kisco, for making the summer even brighter for our Earth as Homeschoolers, as they always kick off the season with a donation of ice cream as a recognition for the students' tremendous community service projects throughout the year. From September through June, regardless of the weather, our teachers and homeschoolers help to care for the Children's Peaceful Garden every day, which includes our famous flock of free-ranging chickens. We also clear trash from local trails, everywhere we go hiking. The children harvest veggies and make









Lastly, we want to share with you the success story of our new Sustainable Design program for high school and college students. This summer, as part of their studies in Global Environmentalism, students from Manhattanville College visited our Envira Pod and Children's Peaceful Garden at Kitchawan Farm, to learn about sustainable design. Our theory, supported by architect William McDonough and chemist Michael Braungart, is that the way we design our world – ranging from our homes to appliances to toys – needs to be thought of with the well being and future of our planet in mind. Inspired by concepts from the authors' books, "Cradle to Cradle" and "The Upcycle," as well as Alan Weisman's "Gaviotas," students in our workshop thought about what it means to design everything to be in harmony with the earth's living systems. After discovering our seesaw pump (which pumps water from a spring-fed pond into a rain barrel that goes to a drip irrigation system into our gardens), students realized that "kid-power" is the best renewable energy resource because it's so much fun! They felt the same way about making an organic smoothie, using local and seasonal fruits, on our "Pedal-a-Watt" bike blender – the result is delicious and nutritious, and the process is totally hands-on (or really, feet-on). Playing with Uncharted Play's "Soccket" and "Pulse," a soccer ball and a jump rope that each generate electricity, proved not only to be great exercise,

but had an immediate and practical application: one of the students' needed to recharge his cell phone and there was an easy way to solve that problem after jumping rope! Our solar-powered Envira Pod speaks for itself – it causes everyone to want their own "tiny house" on wheels; one that is completely off-grid, has a zero carbon footprint, and is made from eco-friendly materials.







The letters from the students who visited inspired us to keep doing this great work, because even if our impact is small, it has a ripple effect, and we honestly don't know how far reaching this can be in the long run...

Dear Ms. Sarbin,

Hello, I'm Daniel, a student in Dr. Papernik's Global Environmentalism class. We visited your garden on Friday and I just wanted to write to give you my feedback. I was honestly very impressed with the work you're doing. See, I come from the Dominican Republic, and in my country we have such amazing natural resources and land that goes completely to waste. The Dominican people lack the education to see the damage they are doing to the country, and for a good while I honestly didn't believe there could be a solution to a problem that has been brewing for decades. However, the way you manage to have a sustainable garden really shook me, as it is something that could easily be implemented in my country's more rural areas (which cover nearly 90% of the country) if just the right education was possible. Not only was the garden impressive, but also the energy-producing toys and the small, self-sustaining "cabin". After paying you a visit, I realized that living sustainably isn't as hard or uncomfortable as I previously believed, and I'm sure that if more people were brave enough to give the lifestyle you live a chance, the world would be way better off. All in all, I really enjoyed the visit and am looking forward to spreading the word once I go back home. So thank you for that!

Daniel Cortorreal

Dear Barbara,

Thank you so much for leading the Manhattanville Global Environmentalism class on a tour of the Children's Peaceful Garden and Envira Pod on Friday. It was wonderful for the students to experience sustainable living, especially as a counterbalance to the environmental challenges that are studying in this course. I love how you imbued the program with a sense of hope that solutions were possible, and I appreciated how you showcased low barrier solutions - anyone can grow a few vegetables in a grow bag to supplement their meals. I found it interesting how the small scale made the projects and gardens less daunting and more accessible. In addition, the calm, peaceful feel inside the Envira Pod and the fun of playing with the jump rope and soccer ball that converted kinetic energy into stored power (not to mention the seesaw water pump and bicycle-smoothie maker) made it clear that living sustainably does not have to be a life of austerity, but rather can still be filled with beauty and fun...

Best, Lísa Lisa Papernik, Ph.D. Adjunct Professor Manhattanville College Good afternoon Barbara. How are you?

This is Daniel, one of the students who went on the "school-trip" to visit the other day, and receive a very interesting, unique and wonderful explanation.

In fact, I cannot speak for other students (although I am very sure they enjoyed the visit and learned a lot too), but after the visit I can assure you that this is one of the best "school visits" that I ever made, even though I was in three different schools in my country (Mexico) and a single one in the United States of America before coming to the "Manhattanville College." However, I took my time to reflect and I realized that my major takeaway is not about the incredible "smoothies' maker bicycle," or the "ecologically friendly" rope and soccer-ball; it is that, in fact, I learned that there is too many things we can do as part of humanity to help out the planet (or to at least not damage it in brutal scales). The said things, as well as the recycled-paper and biodegradable books, and other things that were designed from the beginning wisely to accomplish a specific good purpose are just some of many examples of things that make the difference

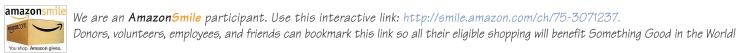
To end with, I wanted to finally thank you a lot, to you and to all of those individuals behind it; all of those that made possible, not only our visit, but this necessary, original, creative, innovative and incredible project. Consecutively, I wanted to wish you, your family and to everyone working for a better tomorrow a lot of success and best wishes. Hopefully many more people could contribute to give the steps you and few others have, in order to illuminate the way with hope and good intentions.

Thank you very much and best wishes once again; greetings, Daniel Silberstein Gurvich





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



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please get in touch... If you would like to

If you are interested in registering for our fall programs,

our scholarship fund, please click here...

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.