



Small Steps Towards
a Big Difference

SOMETHING ALOHA IN THE WORLD...



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

WINTER INTO SPRING 2020

“Aloha” is more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation. “Aloha” means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return. “Aloha” is the essence of relationships in which each person is important to every other person for collective existence. “Aloha” means to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen and to know the unknowable.

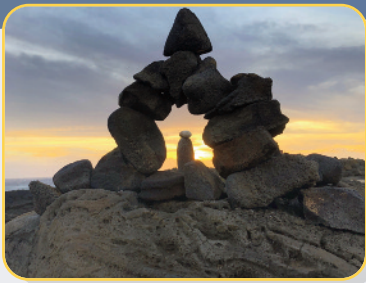
- Excerpted from Hawai'i Law of The Aloha Spirit, from Chapter 5 of Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Originally, we would have led into our Winter into Spring newsletter with descriptions of all the fantastic activities of the past few months, but we have to pause in the light of the world situation, to reflect not only on the successes, but also on what might be next. This is especially the case because our school gardens are suddenly on pause, our spring programs on hold, and everything taking a deep in-breath of unknown. Hands-on, farm-based, experiential, arts-integrated, natural education is not designed to be online. So, what now?

“We are now at a point where we must educate our children in what no one knew yesterday, and prepare our schools for what no one knows yet.”
~ Margaret Mead

As we enter a new time in education, Something Good in the World draws on the strengths of its 20-year history of pioneering new ways of bringing alive learning through all sensory approaches. The Golden Education Template (GET) system that forms the backbone of our educational philosophy and has always been the inspiration for our work, explores the integration of learning with nature, while helping to nurture children's natural genius in all that they do. In the GET system, the development of essential qualities that lead to ethically inclined world citizens combine with academic learning across a broad spectrum of reference for history, science, mathematics, literature, language, and all of the arts. We have watched the awe-inspiring growth of students since 2001, and now in 2020, we begin a new chapter...





Something Good in the World found itself establishing a satellite in Hawai'i over the past few years, and in the fall of 2019 began in earnest to collaborate with more and more charter schools, pre-schools, and public schools in the district of Ka'ū on the Big Island of Hawai'i. This area is very unique in many ways and a perfect place for SGITW.

"Ka'ū is the hinterland of the island. It has always been sparsely populated and poor. This is mostly because there are few sources of fresh water, because the district is downwind from the volcano, because the soil is rocky, the climate arid, and the oceans rough. It is a difficult place to make a living. Nevertheless, the people of this district, Ka'ū, are passionate about their land and fierce in their politics. Ka'ū is known as a land of rebels. We don't bend the knee."

- Michelle Galimba, Kuahiwi Ranch

Something Good in the World has always chosen to assist children, teachers, and families from a 360-degree radius of backgrounds. It has often been suggested that we just concentrate on one demographic to make it easier for the public to understand the purpose of our work. But at SGITW, we believe that all children need and deserve connection with nature, regardless of their economic circumstance or physical location. We have always served the populations that were at the greatest distance from being able to make these connections with farms and gardens, and that required financial assistance. SGITW has been incredibly fortunate that so many foundations, organizations, businesses, and individuals have understood and supported our educational programs with grants and donations. This year has been no different.

In the district of Ka'ū, at least 25% of the population lives below the poverty line. In our educational programs here, at least 10% of students are homeless and 1 in 4 families are food insecure. While Hawai'i is a land of tropical abundance, 90% of the food consumed by the 200,000 residents of the Big Island is imported from the mainland. Prior to colonization, 100% of the food was grown for the same population of 200,000. What went wrong here with the food system is not different to what went wrong on the mainland, but here there is a closeness to the traditional care and respect for the land and the history of its people that allows for an important understanding that the current situation needs to change.

The district of Ka'ū... is a very special place. It's a wild place. It's bigger than the entire island of Oahu but there's not a single stoplight or Starbucks in it. Instead of stores, highways, military bases, and hotels, we have what we used to call "archeology" but we now call "cultural resources," which is to say the powerful physical and spiritual presence of the past...

- Michelle Galimba, The Ka'ū Calendar, November 2019

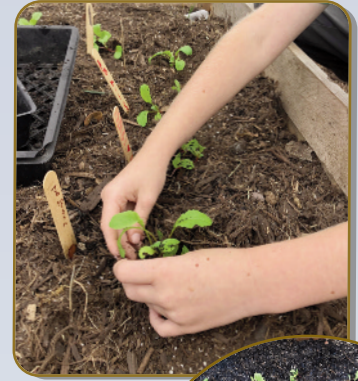




During the winter months, while the gardens and farms were resting in New York, Something Good in the World expanded its nature-based learning programs in Hawai'i. Collaborating with Tutu and Me Traveling Pre-School, with the Food Corps program at Pāhala Elementary School, and with the Volcano School of Arts & Sciences, and the South Island Homeschool Hui, SGITW brought its "Earth School" workshops into outdoor classrooms. From lessons on "worm cake" and worm terrariums to make healthy soil, to eggshell plantings and eggperimental mosaics to learn how nutrients make plants healthy so that we too become healthy, to honeybee workshops to discover the magic of these pollinating heroes and the wonder of their products, SGITW led children, families and teachers into new knowledge and experience. Teaming up with local farm-to-fork chefs and "beegan" foodies, SGITW facilitated cookshops for all ages to discover more ways to live and eat sustainably, using what grows in their own backyards and how to benefit from community-based agroforestry.

Inside of this outdoor dynamic, SGITW was thrilled to receive an in-kind donation from Capelli New York of rainboots for children who needed a way to keep their feet dry, so they could enjoy working in nature, in rain, shine, or mud. We were delighted that Seed Savers Exchange gave us a donation of heirloom seeds for children to be able to plant a diverse range of veggies, herbs, and flowers in their school gardens. And even more extraordinary, was the first grant from a foundation in Hawai'i for a collaborative project in Hawai'i: The Kokua Hawaii Foundation donated to the "Ka Mala Maluhia" project (The Children's Peaceful Garden) at the Volcano School of Arts & Sciences. Thanks to this grant, SGITW has been able to help teachers and students to start to design and plant their smaller teaching gardens and outdoor classrooms and imaginative play spaces that form up the larger overall garden plan for the entire Elementary School campus. The Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots Program also supported the Ka Mala Maluhia project with a mini-grant this year, helping SGITW and VSAS to acquire much needed garden supplies. To add to the whole garden-to-cafeteria experience, Wonderbag.org made a donation of a wonderbag for SGITW's programs in Hawai'i, which we used with VSAS students as an example of social invention: cooking food (in this case applesauce) without the need for fossil fuels. And for value-added fun, First Second Books donated a whole series of Science Comics to the VSAS library, to assist us with teaching outdoor education in Hawai'i. Thank you to all of these organizations and businesses for such generous support!





Though everything in New York and in Hawaii is in a holding pattern at the moment, nature continues to grow and expand. First Graders who planted a Radish Heart Garden at the Volcano School have been delighted to see photos in their Google Classroom of how their radishes are growing even though they aren't there to watch them. What will it be like when we are able to gather together again, to harvest the radishes, wash and slice them, and make a vegan dressing for tasting them with? Won't it be amazing when we can be in the same place at the same time again?

For now, we wait. But we don't disconnect. At SGITW, we continue to find new ways to work with the students and families and teachers in Hawai'i, to help keep their connections to what is already here...

In Ka'ū, the presence of the native Hawaiian past is a deep undercurrent that you don't have to be native by blood to experience. The presence of the past and the land itself, in all its wildness, evokes an elusive but distinct feeling of participating in something larger than ourselves. We have memories and stories and whispers on the wind. We are connected to what the Muskogee poet Joy Harjo called "the breathing beneath our breathing." This is something that we value deeply in Ka'ū, this connection to the living presence of the land and ocean.

- Michelle Galimba, The Ka'ū Calendar, November 2019



Our programs in New York wait too, for schools and shelters and day care centers to reopen their physical doors and for the farms to be able to welcome children again. But time in nature does not need to wait. In this era of necessary physical distancing, Something Good in the World calls for nature closing. As the traffic goes quiet, and the CO2 levels decrease, as the skies and the waters become clear, so can human genius arise. During times of plague and social distancing, William Shakespeare wrote “King Lear” and Isaac Newton developed the theory of gravity. What are humans capable of discovering and creating during this time?



“Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.” ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

We will see you in New York as soon as we can, and in Hawai’i too. We miss all of you, but it won’t be long before we are together again. We have lots of exciting plans for the summer and fall, and thanks to the very generous support of the Alpern Family Foundation, our Children’s Peaceful Garden at Kitchawan Farm will be open for farm-based education programs. We promise to stay close in touch with news of what’s coming up soon at farms, schools, shelters, day centers, and gardens from one side of the USA to the other... ☺



It is
not hope
that moves me
Like the young bird
To the edge
of what
I've known



But a trust in these wings

And in the mystery
to hold
me
Flying.

~ Doug DeCandia



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.