



Small Steps Towards  
a Big Difference

# SOMETHING VERSATILE...

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

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

☀️ SPRING INTO SUMMER 2020

In the face of obstacles, Something Good in the World teaches students to become versatile. The essential quality or “vitamin” of Versatility is about developing the mindset that makes one immune to self-doubt. Inside of a Golden Education Template (GET) inspired school model, SGITW needed to heed its own advice this spring. Distance learning is antithetical to experiential education – we want everything to be hands-on. But the need to change temporarily to meet new requirements is causing all of us to stretch our minds and hearts, and work at being versatile. Amidst the frustrations of a world on lockdown, SGITW needed to view online education as a new proposition, and approach the situation with a willingness to try to develop new ways. Computers should never replace natural education, but for now, they can help with communication, and with the discovery of inspiring new ideas to get closer to nature with our own families.

Doing farm-based and garden-based education on a virtual platform felt impossible. Luckily, SGITW has a longstanding relationship with the Farm-Based Education Network and the FBEN stepped in immediately to help educators on farms nationwide through online Zoom conferences and webinars. Unlike much larger farm-based organizations, with full time staff to maintain their online presence, SGITW needed to recognize that as a tiny nonprofit, the only way to move forward was with small steps. If you were following us on Facebook or receiving our email communications, you know that we were posting weekly Permaculture Prompts for families at home, offering Virtual Permaculture and Sustainability workshops for high school students, leading weekly garden-based education for preschoolers and kindergartners on Zoom, consulting with shelters and schools via FaceTime to assist them with their Sanctuary and Mindfulness gardens, and leading Virtual Field Trips to Hawai’i for all ages! It hasn’t been easy, and we deeply miss being in person with the children and teachers and parents, but in the end it has been inspiring and fun. We are together, we are learning, and we are all giving it our best.








One of our Permaculture Prompts taught families how to use grey water in the garden for making fruit trees happy...



So while our e-news updates are usually filled this time of year with photos of children harvesting at the farms, holding baby animals, doing art and crafts projects, singing, dancing, and hiking in nature, this issue contains photos of this all happening online. Strange, and not the way we would ever have wanted it to be, but definitely necessary, and ultimately successful.

What's coming up next for Something Good in the World? Instead of our planned live, in-person art show at the Ossining Public Library in July, we will be mounting a Virtual Art Show this summer! Featuring the artwork and creative writings of Central American refugee students from the past year, we are planning an interactive page where you can click on slideshows of their artwork, read their personal writings, see photographs of their farm-based experiences, and links to the story behind their work (such as this one in the Teachers and Writers Magazine). As a collaboration between SGITW, the Ossining Public Library and Abbott House, this virtual event has many possibilities, such as hosting a live event to talk about the refugee students and their stories, with a Q&A, to learn more about the lives of these young writers and artists seeking asylum in the United States at this time.



What will happen in the fall? Something Good in the World will continue to maintain a virtual presence for schools and shelters, and lead in-person farm and garden-based programs wherever possible, in both New York and Hawai'i. No matter what, class sizes will be smaller, and that can only be good for education. Days of attending school in person will diminish, and that also has its positives: resting in between school days can be very helpful for children. More time at home can mean more free play, eating more slowly, drinking water more often, and accessing the bathroom as needed. Using outdoor classrooms and learning in the open air has become a more widely acceptable concept now. Maybe children will end up being healthier overall? Learning outdoors in nature, keeping indoor classrooms cleaner, being more mindful about space between students so they are not crowded - all of this is actually the way Earth School always has been! Economic demands caused class sizes to grow, buses to be filled, outdoor play to be diminished, and cleaning was considered someone else's job. Maybe now all schools will become a little bit more like Earth School?... 



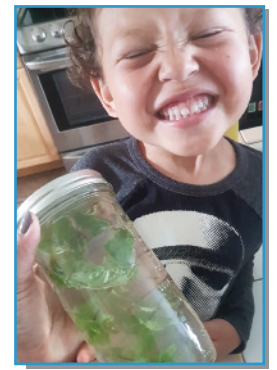
Another one of our Permaculture Prompts taught children how to make "seed bombs" for open and wild spaces



We want to thank the foundations and donors who support our work with annual grants and contributions, for understanding that we could not complete our school year on farms and in gardens this spring. Thank you to the Alpern Family Foundation, St. Faith's House Foundation, and the Jack DeVito Foundation, for allowing us to be versatile, by expanding the parameters of the gifts. Donations for the work of SGITW, both in NY and HI, are gratefully accepted year round ([click here to give now](#)).







## Permaculture Prompt - Sun Tea!

You can make Sun Tea wherever you are in the world, with whatever ingredients you have in your garden: mint, lavender, lemon balm, jasmine flowers, rosemary, holy basil, etc., whatever you like the taste of best:

Step One: Harvest your favorite tasting herbs for tea.

Step Two: Wash them off.

Step Three: Put them in a clean glass jar filled with fresh drinking water.

Step Four: Add some honey if you like for sweetener.

Step Five: Place in a sunny spot for a few hours.

Step Six: Pour your Sun Tea into a glass, filtering out the leaves and flowers.

Step Seven: Enjoy it warm or iced!



If you'd like to try out some of our other backyard Permaculture Prompts at home, [click here](#) for step by step organic fertilizer ideas that lead to Citrus Spritzers, Noni Juice, Fruit Smoothies, Worm Cake, and Seed "Bombs"

Thank you to our Yorktown High School Civic Intern Eric Reutter, the Cochran, Siller, Edelman, Pavelek/Ross, Cioffi and Gardner Families for looking after our beloved chickens and our Children's Peaceful Garden, and to Rodney Dow for tending the thriving honeybees! Volunteer families are welcome to participate in our "Chicken Summer Camp" – just let us know if you want to help out this summer (one family per day): [somethinggooditw@aol.com](mailto:somethinggooditw@aol.com)





Shout out to the creative minds that engaged with Something Good in the World online this spring and summer: the Ossining High School Interactive Ecology class with Danielle Jackson, the Ossining Children's Center Kindergarten with Claudia Weger and Rebekah Shactel, the Birch School with Alison Jolicoeur and Zen Seiler, the Sally & Anthony Mann Center with Xiomara Zea, Abbott House with Noeli Dominguez and Kristina Papa, and the Tutu and Me Traveling Preschool in Na'alehu, HI.

Thank you for thinking outside – no box required!



Zen Seiler, Birch School



Dear Barbara,

Just a quick summer update on the gardens that we have at our Mann Center Campus. We are here trying to keep with all the beautiful things you left and taught us. The youth are doing an amazing job in nurturing their crops so that we may be able to enjoy it soon. This year they have planted various kinds of vegetables like tomato, peppers, zucchini, corn, carrots and much more. The herb garden is full of cilantro, parsley, oregano, sage, basil and mint. One big thing is all the amazing birds that visit. I must say it's the most beautiful sight to sit outside and chat alongside our sanctuary area and have all of nature surrounding us. A big shout out to those who helped us build all of our garden space to look beautiful while creating a safe environment.

Thank you for gifting and teaching us about Mother Nature .

Love  
Xiomara Zea



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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Anne Siller, Alina Gardner, Peg Cioffi, Xiomara Zea

**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.