



Small Steps Towards
a Big Difference

SOMETHING GOOD IS HAPPENING...

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 INTO WINTER 2020

In the midst of feeling grateful at this time of year for all the good things that can happen and for all the light that can be generated, we want to thank you, our donors and supporters and volunteers, for keeping Something Good happening in the World!

As a registered 501c3, nonprofit, charitable, children’s educational organization in both New York and Hawai’i, Something Good in the World has been able to stretch its programs to reach children of all ages in both locations this year. It’s definitely been a struggle for us, just like all nonprofits at this time, to keep our free programs operational, and it’s because of your belief that we are still going strong.

For our programs in New York, we are so grateful to the Alpern Family Foundation, the [St. Faith’s House Foundation](#), and the [Jack DeVito Foundation](#), as well as to the generosity of the Cochran Family at [Kitchawan Farm](#), for understanding our situation and allowing us to continue to offer our farm-based educational classes on a virtual platform due to the restrictions created by the pandemic.

What’s lighting us up are the teams of SGITW volunteer families who have kept the [Children’s Peaceful Garden](#) weeded and watered, and our flock of free ranging chickens fed and well loved, and our honeybees thriving. We could not do this great work without you and your dedication!

This past fall, SGITW hosted a volunteer Children’s Peaceful Garden event and on the same day collaborated with [Second Chance Foods](#) at Kitchawan Farm to assist with food rescue, along with many other Earth School alumnae families. It’s amazing to reunite with students and parents to get such meaningful work done together.



In October, SGITW led virtual farm tours for the [Ossining Children's Center](#) Kindergartners and then continued to guide these little ones with weekly Zooms and cookshops – from the chickens and honeybees in New York to the tropical fruits in Hawai'i, 5 year old students have experienced hands-on cookshops with fresh fruit smoothies and learned the origins of their foods. Thank you to the adventurous OCC teachers and directors for this ongoing collaboration!

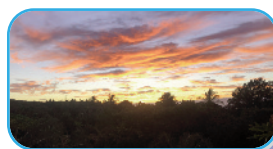
SGITW also guided a “pandemic pod” of mixed ages homeschoolers in person at Kitchawan Farm this fall, for a workshop on honeybees and healthy sweeteners, as well as a Zoomshop on how to make Worm Cake at home. It's been a strange mixed bag of live and online learning experiences – but we were SO grateful to have some children on the farm in person to experience the honey straight from the comb, to make beeswax candles, to feed the chickens (who really miss all of the children), and to honk the horn – making us all feel happy again.

It's been more of a challenge for SGITW's seasonal programs for NY schools and shelters due to the changes wrought by the pandemic. Our ongoing work with refugees at the [Abbott House](#) shelter came to a full stop this summer, as migrant children, unaccompanied minors seeking asylum, were turned away at the border and were not making it to the shelter in NY for legal resettlement with their families in the US. Our long planned show of the artwork and writings of refugee children from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala went virtual with the expert help of the [Ossining Public Library](#). Here's a link to see the show, which generates so much creative energy and light that it's really helped the SGITW and Abbott House teachers to keep up our spirits.

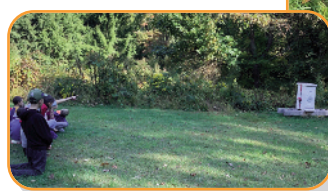
Virtual Art Show



Similarly, our programs and garden work with the [Mann Center](#) for traumatized teenage girls was brought to a halt by the pandemic. No educators were allowed onto their campus and they were not allowed to leave, so we had to content ourselves with FaceTiming all of our gardening instructions and texting garden photos and videos to help the teens maintain their Sanctuary Garden. The students had a brilliant harvest of the veggies and herbs they grew this year, and they were able to prepare delicious, healthy snacks together at their shelter – adding to the good things happening in the world!

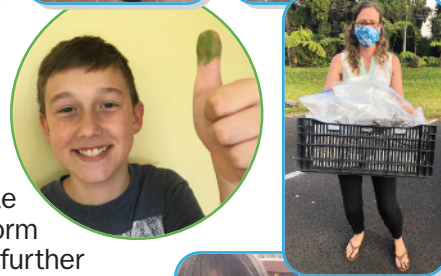


As the colder weather sets in, and our NY chickens and honeybees move indoors for the winter season, we are so fortunate to have programs thriving in Hawai'i at the same time. Thanks to our Blue Sky Fund and to individuals and corporations who believed in our [Something Aloha](#) projects, SGITW has been able to offer free projects and programs to the [Volcano School of Arts & Sciences](#). The mission of this Hawaiian-focused Title One charter school is aligned with that of SGITW: hands-on, experiential, place-based learning that teaches stewardship of the environment.





In collaboration with the Pre-K through Grade 2 teachers at VSAS, SGITW has been able to implement a “Garden-in-a-Box” program throughout the fall. Partnering with [McCall’s Farm](#) in Volcano, and [Mana’o Farm](#) and [Paradise Meadows Farm](#) in Na’alehu, every child in the early elementary grades received a kit delivered to their home that included a pot, potting soil, organic fertilizer, and seeds or seedlings to plant. Each week, the classes Zoom in with SGITW for a “Green Thumb” class, to learn how to grow their plants and seeds, create healthy soil, identify the parts of a plant that we eat, and how to transplant, harvest and create healthy snacks with their veggies and herbs. From Sun Tea to Fruit Smoothies, from Worm Cake to Compost Lasagna, all ages have engaged in a weekly hands-on, live activity to further their knowledge of permaculture and sustainability. We are very grateful for the work of the Edible Schoolyard Project and Farm to Keiki, for inspiring us to keep our programs going live on Zoom, with hands-on learning through kits, projects, and cookshops at home. It can be done!



Older students at VSAS have assisted the early elementary grades with creating the new Children’s Peaceful Garden (Ka Mala Maluhia in Hawaiian) at their school this fall. Applying the principles of permaculture, agroecology and indigenous wisdom, Middle Schoolers are learning in hands-on ways at home via Zoom, and in small groups in person in the school garden.



Food Justice and Food Sovereignty have been a huge topic in both Hawai’i and New York for our older students, from Grade 6 – 10. SGITW has been helping to create a curriculum for the [Walkabout Bronx High School](#), and Zooming in at sunrise from Hawai’i, to teach these concepts in a live and experiential fashion. When field trips are allowed again (fingers crossed for the spring and summer months), the WBS students will be able to visit our partner farms in New York in person, for hands-on experiences to learn the origins of their foods, and how to make healthy choices. Until then, they are enjoying learning about Permaculture and Sustainable Design with us online.



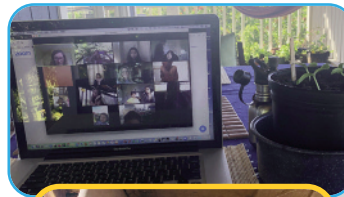
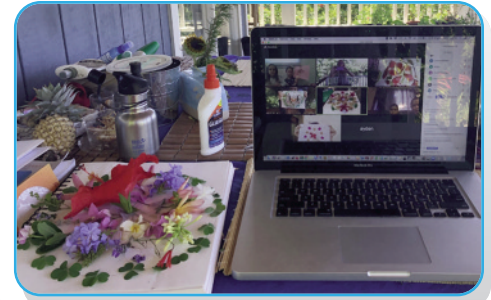
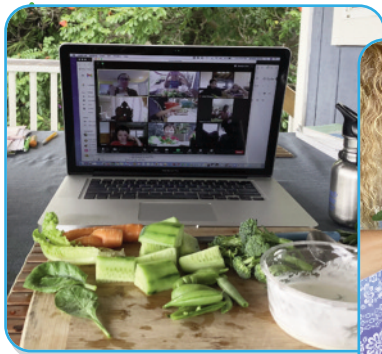
SGITW has also been collaborating with the Food Corps and Vibrant Hawai’i, thanks to a CARES Act grant from the County of Hawai’i, to help activate a Resilience Hub designed to deliver community assistance in response to Covid-19. Students and families have joined together to assist by packing fresh veggies, fruits, herbs and honey from local farmers, and helping to distribute 50 food bags a week as part of the “[Nourish Pahala](#)” initiative. This project has been a great way for our students to get a visceral experience of the disparities that have led to food insecurity and health issues, and to seek to balance the situation through making local, seasonal food more accessible to families of all backgrounds.





Whether in NY or HI, in person or online, SGITW continues to make something good happen. For an all around picture of our work during this pandemic year, watch our interview with [Change Food](#) founder Diane Hatz, which aired on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) on December 2. Our conversation about Food Justice and children's education was totally inspiring, and exemplified the collaborations with experts in the field that we love so much.

Thank you all for giving to Something Good in the World – we so value and appreciate and need your support to keep teaching children, teachers, and parents more about how and why to eat healthy and to recognize the interconnectedness of all living things in our environment, and to see our responsibility (our *kuleana* to *malama* the 'aina, in Hawaiian) to take care of our earth... ☺



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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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.