



*Small Steps Towards
a Big Difference*

SOMETHING'S ON THE MOVE...

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



SPRING & SUMMER 2021

It's so wonderful, incredible, and exciting to be working with children and families in person again! Hooray for the reopening of our programs in person after a year of distance learning. What a relief! We are so happy to be out in the gardens and on the trails and farms with children again!

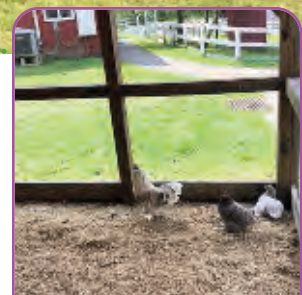
Throughout this past year of uncertainty, Something Good in the World has been flowing with the changes. We have kept our nonprofit, children's educational organization going thanks to the generosity of The Alpern Family Foundation, [St. Faith's House Foundation](#), the [Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation](#), and others who prefer to keep their support anonymous, but who have donated annually to help our programs flourish. Individual donors have also made a huge difference, especially those who gave to our [Blue Sky Fund](#) allowing us to grow our new Children's Peaceful Garden (Ka Mala Maluhia) in Hawai'i. There is no way to thank all of you enough for believing in Something Good in the World, as we enter our 20th year as a 501c3! This e-newsletter comes as a gift of gratitude to everyone who has helped us through their donations of time, energies, skills, and funding, and we hope you will enjoy this seasonal update full of photos...





The big news currently is that we are moving from our home base at [Kitchawan Farm](#) in Ossining, NY, which has been the host of the Children's Peaceful Garden since 2015. It has been the most perfect, peaceful environment for our programs, and we will miss being there every day, all year long. We thought you would like to know where everything is moving to:

★ Our beloved flock of free-ranging chickens is being adopted by [Green Chimneys](#), a farm-based educational organization that has been conducting programs for children with special needs since 1947. We have been searching for a like-minded organization to take our beloved hens and rooster, as well as our unique greenroof chicken coop and were so happy that Green Chimneys agreed to incorporate our feathery family into their educational programs. Here are photos of Earth School's favorite students (the chickens) at their new location where they are being cared for and loved by hundreds of new students, carrying on the "chicken school" tradition.



★ The Strawberry Garden, Bee Sanctuary Garden, and Woodland Garden plants from our [Children's Peaceful Garden](#), as well as the benches from our Garden of Resolve are all moving to the [Ossining High School](#)! You can read more about the amazing work we are doing with OHS Interactive Ecology students with their Sanctuary Garden a little further on in this e-news update.



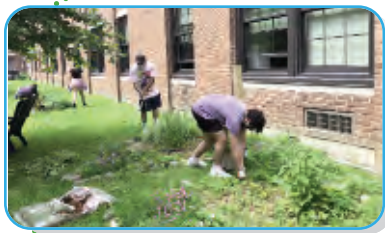
★ Our Earth School [Envira Pod](#) Mobile Educational Trailer, along with all of our alternative energy projects (seesaw pump, rain barrels, drip irrigation systems, low wind generator, and Pedal-a-Watt bicycle and blender) are all shipping to HAWAII! Thanks to the Friends of the [Volcano School of Arts and Sciences](#), Something Good in the World is able to donate the use of our educational projects and we will be able to continue to teach the VSAS students and families in Hawai'i about permaculture and sustainability! Have a look at this [video](#) to see more about this collaboration between SGITW and VSAS.



SGITW will continue to offer free garden-, farm-, and nature-based programs for students at the [Ossining High School](#) and the [Ossining Children's Center](#) (read more below), as well as the Abbott House shelter for refugee children – we are not leaving NY! We are simply returning to a nomadic lifestyle, where our home base is wherever we are, be it a farm, a school garden, a hiking trail, a nature center, or a classroom: it's the Earth as School. After all, the Envira Pod is on wheels!

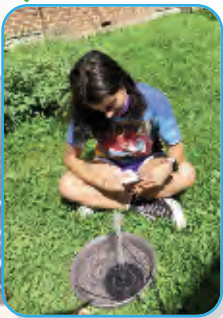
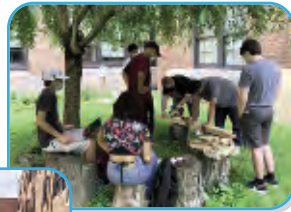
We hope you will continue to support our work whether it's in New York, Hawai'i, or Toronto (that's right – keep reading)! With the shift in virtual learning this past year, more relationships have opened up with more schools around the country and even around the world, allowing us to share the principles of permaculture and Hawaiian 'aina (earth)-based learning with everyone. Integrating education with the outdoors is a growing movement, and because SGITW has been on the forefront of that movement for over 20 years, we are happy to continue leading the way with your help.





In June of 2021, SGITW hit the ground running with garden-based programs and workshops for the Ossining High School. Over the past 4 years, OHS Interactive Ecology students, led by teacher Danielle Jackson, have been designing, planting, growing, and expanding their Mindfulness Garden. Inspired by the Children's Peaceful Garden design at Kitchawan Farm, OHS students have planted native plants to attract pollinators, shade-loving woodland plants, perennial herb and bulb gardens. This summer, we installed birdfeeders and a solar-powered fountain, and with the addition of wind chimes and chairs under the trees, the Mindfulness Garden became the gathering space it was intended to be: a place where students could come in the middle of their school day, to do independent work, to talk, to relax, and to enjoy a little bit of nature. The biggest success was the creation of a greenroof garden, as a demonstration of water and energy conservation. SGITW educator Conrad de la Cruz guided students in designing and building the greenroof, while program director Barbara Sarbin helped them with the planting of the roof. Students also installed a composting system and learned how to make "worm cake" so they can use the weeds from their garden to become healthy soil and stop wasting their waste.

In the process of working in the Mindfulness Garden this summer, a few interesting phenomena occurred...one was that we discovered that several of the students had attended SGITW's Turtle Island Summer Camp 10 years earlier! Was it just a coincidence that these students had learned all the principles of sustainability and permaculture when they were 6 years old and now that they were 16 years old, they were actively choosing to participate in putting in the same kinds of systems to their school garden? We think that the impact of hands-on learning at young ages really does manifest later on, because the seeds of the ideas are planted and are bound to grow. It was a joyful occasion, listening to the students reminisce about their favorite Turtle Island activities, from Wilderness Skills with Vince Walsh, to their favorite chickens' names, to hiking in the woods, and building forts and fairy houses.

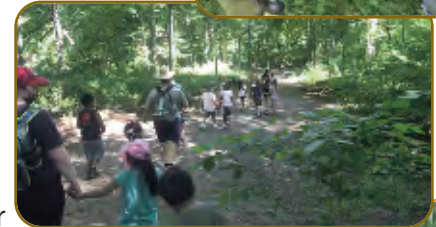


On the last day of school, an administrator entered the garden and said to us, "I didn't even know this was here!" After a tour of the Mindfulness Garden, he was completely inspired, and the next day, we discovered that the teacher had been given a budget to add more chairs for students and invitations were to be issued for classes to use the garden as an outdoor classroom. We are so happy and in awe when the work that we do inspires others to grow it further, and credit goes to Ms. Jackson for persisting and leading the way at OHS so this project could thrive.





The Ossining Children's Center attended summer programs with SGITW at Kitchawan Farm and along the trails of Kitchawan Preserve, the Hunterbrook Preserve, Croton Gorge Park, and the Croton River Landing. It was a marvelous experience for children who had been indoors a lot this past year and hadn't had a field trip in 18 months! For many of the OCC Kindergartners, this was their first time hiking in the woods. Of course, their favorite activity was riding the tire swing in our Children's Peaceful Garden. The educational focus was on our water systems and the children were so excited to follow the rainwater on its journey from the pond and streams to the Croton reservoir, to the Croton Dam and Croton River, and finally to the Hudson River. We had a lot of fun tracing the path of our drinking water and seeing how important it is to keep our watershed clear of litter, so the water is safe and clean for everyone. Click [HERE](#) to watch a 3 minute video of our adventures into the woods. We later discovered the importance of worms and honeybees in our ecosystems for decomposition and pollination, and everyone loved making "worm cake" and tasting honey!





SGITW was also thrilled that this summer we were able to reopen in-person programs for the refugee students from [Abbott House](#)! Teens from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, unaccompanied minors detained at the border and being legally resettled in the US, were finally able to come with us again to Hemlock Hill Farm for educational programs. SGITW facilitated bilingual farm tours so that students could learn how agriculture can be practiced in sustainable and organic ways in the US and can continue to do the same kinds of farming here as they had done in their home countries to promote food security for their families. One of the strengths of [Hemlock Hill Farm](#) has been in their adaptation to the needs of the community, and their recognition of cultural traditions that inform their food production. Farmer Trish spoke with the girls about how providing hens for the traditional Central American soup, “caldo de gallina,” has been a big part of their production in recent years. Farmer Oswaldo inspired the boys to grow their own food and all of the students took seeds back with them to plant their favorite vegetables in container gardens at Abbott House. Special extra thanks to Capelli New York for supplying our refugee students with boots for all our farm-based education programs!



As most of you know, throughout the pandemic year, SGITW was operating programs remotely for schools in New York, and even in Canada! While students were required to stay home, we did our best to provide farm- and nature-based workshops on Zoom, including for the [B.E.N. GET School](#) in Toronto. Across North America, students from Kindergarten through High School met with us live online for Virtual Hawai'i, Sustainability and Permaculture workshops. Whether we were making worm terrariums, eggshell plantings, or fruit smoothies, teachers thanked us for bringing some excitement into the virtual classroom. We were often given the reflection that our online programs had the highest rate of attendance, and we think it's because it's always fully hands-on and experiential. Of course, all learning is better in person, but since nature is actually all around us, it is possible to inspire children about what's in their own backyards, especially when they are stuck at home full time. Let's hope those days are behind us now, but we did make the very best of the situation.

We want to spotlight our Something Good in the World intern for this past year... every year, we welcome at least one high school or college intern and this year it was another one of our Turtle Island alumni: Nicole Ross! Nicole is a student at Westchester Community College, studying environmental science, and was looking for an internship to help her to garner volunteer hours in order to be able to apply to the Peace Corps after college. She approached SGITW and we were more than happy to have her help with the Children's Peaceful Garden and the chickens. In addition to being one of our assistants at Turtle Island Summer Camp, Nicole has much experience with animal care and children's education, having worked at the Cimarron Ranch assisting with therapeutic riding. She continues to do a fantastic job and we couldn't be more thankful!

Special thanks also go to our SGITW volunteering families who not only took care of the gardens and chickens this past year, but who came to help us pack up our Children's Peaceful Garden, the chickens and the chicken coop, not to mention the Envira Pod, for moving to new locations. It hasn't been easy, and we won't pretend that it's not sad to leave Kitchawan Farm, but we want to acknowledge the amazing people who have made Earth School such a huge success for the past 20 years – too many to name here. You know who you are!



Dear Barbara,

As we approach the end of the school year, I want you to know that the exchanges, lessons, experiences you offered to the children at the BEN are invaluable. It's been such a tough year and being transported to Hawaii and experiencing, through your hands and care, some of the 'fruits' of that land, helped bring some joy and relief to both the children and the teachers.

Thank you sincerely. You are a bright, connected teacher and the transference that happened continues to grow.

Sending you much warmth and gratitude,
Ilaria

Dear Barbara,

What a gift the chickens were to the girls and to our family. Not sure that I can really convey how much it helped us these last 5 months or so. It felt so good for the girls to have that sense of purpose and responsibility. And to see them take ownership and run to those chickens every single time made my heart so happy.

They were so proud of their connection to the chickens and the farm. Thank you for giving them that opportunity and for making them feel so special.

We would love to have some chickens of our own some day.
- Lauren

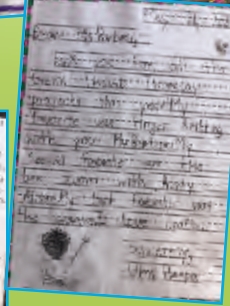
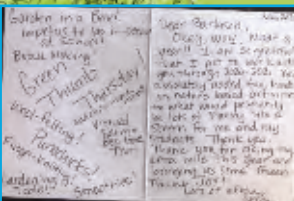
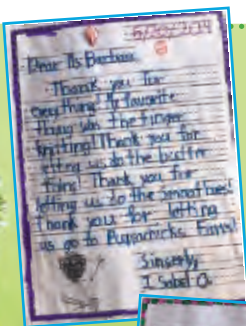
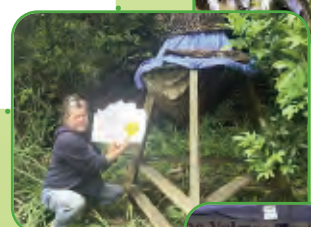
On a sadder note, SGITW said farewell to the [Sally & Anthony Mann Center](#), as it is closing its doors. This shelter for traumatized teens had been the home of the Sanctuary Garden, modeled after the Children's Peaceful Garden, and many hours had been spent enjoying the veggies, herbs, flowers, and native plants that the students had planted there. One of their favorite activities had been watching the birds at their birdfeeders, and everyone was grateful for the years of garden-based learning that had taken place with SGITW's assistance. The shelter and the garden will no longer exist, but the learning experiences we all had will last forever. We want to acknowledge Xiomara Zea for leading the way with the Sanctuary Garden, and for creating a real sanctuary for children for 21 years.



SGITW's [Something Aloha](#) project and programs were in full bloom this spring in Hawai'i and we are so grateful that to the Volcano School of Arts & Sciences and principal Kalima Kinney, for fully welcoming the Children's Peaceful Garden design (Ka Mala Maluhia in Hawaiian) on their elementary school campus. Children from Pre-K through Grade 8 participated in garden-based learning and the practices of permaculture, each class meeting every week in-person this spring with program director Barbara Sarbin. There were endless magical moments that will continue far into the future, including an outdoor classroom for the Kindergarten surrounding their Butterfly Garden, a storytelling circle and activity stations for the Pre-K, an Herb Garden for Grade 1, a Veggie Garden and composting system for Grade 2, a Bee Sanctuary Garden for Grades 3-4, and all of the Middle School Grades contributing to the creation of these gardens as well as the Greenhouse Garden, Aquaponics Garden, Native Plant Garden, and Tree Garden. In many ways, this project has only just begun, and it will be amazing to see how Ka Mala Maluhia grows and expands in the years to come. We are very grateful to the Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation, the Budding Botanist Grant (KidsGardening.org), Whole Kids Foundation, and Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Program, for contributing to this collaborative garden project between Something Good in the World and the Volcano School.

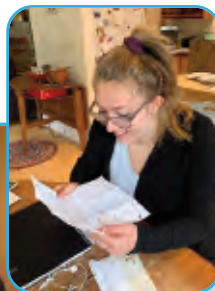
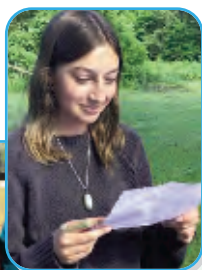
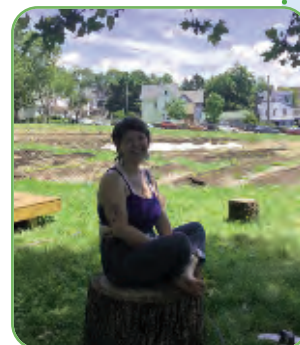
SGITW was also proud to donate towards the 8th Grade Global Run Project at VSAS, to help students create Farm-in-a-Box kits to give away free to local residents at the Na'alehu Farmer's Market. Students studied the United Nations Sustainable Development goals, held a Hunger Banquet, and raised funding by wearing pedometers for which SGITW donated \$1 for every mile that students ran, walked, or danced. The organic seeds, soil, fertilizer, pots and instructions that were part of the kits were given away to promote food sovereignty on Hawai'i Island (the Big Island), in a district where more than half of residents live below the poverty line. Rather than importing 80% of its food from the mainland at highly inflated costs, or supporting giant superstores and conglomerates, students educated the public of Ka'ū about growing their own food at home. SGITW will continue to support food sovereignty efforts in Hawai'i as part of its

Something Aloha project – if you would like to contribute to this essential work, please visit the donation page of our website and [DONATE NOW!](#)



We often receive letters from students, teachers and parents, but this summer, we mailed letters to Earth School students from 10 years ago! That's right, as a creative writing exercise, Earth Schoolers wrote letters to themselves 10 years in the future, to predict what they thought they'd be doing, where they'd be living, what they'd be like. The letters were adorable, and often illegible, so it was great fun to watch 18-19 year olds open their letters written at ages 8-9 and laugh at their own handwriting that they couldn't read! We are so proud of our Earth School alumni who are doing amazing work all over the world, including Maeve McGee who now manages the Peekskill Regeneration Farm. We stopped by to visit Maeve at her educational, community garden and were awe inspired by how she has taken what she learned at Earth School. Now as a graduate from SUNY Binghamton with a degree in Environmental Studies, Maeve is applying all her knowledge and skills to teaching children how to do backyard farming. It's incredible to see our students moving forward by taking the seeds that were planted in their own lives, growing those, and planting new seeds in other young lives. Now that is something good in the world. ☺

"This is our work, to discover what we can give. Isn't this the purpose of education, to learn the nature of your own gifts and how to use them for good in the world?"
- Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass*



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.