



Small Steps Towards
a Big Difference

SOMETHING PEACEFUL

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.

e-News Volume 12, Number 2

www.somethinggoodintheworld.org

FALL into WINTER 2023

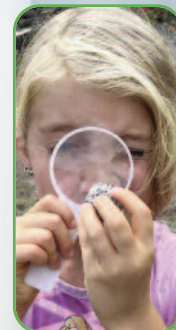
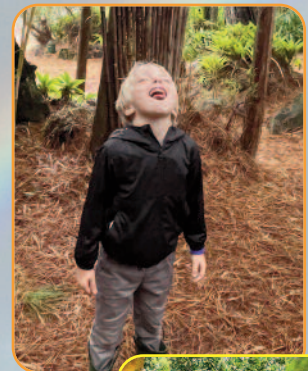
Something Good in the World has always stood for Peace: engaging children in creative and imaginative play in the [Children's Peaceful Garden](#); guiding with sustainability and ethics in our approach to environmental education; encouraging humane treatment of all living things; modeling humanity for children in interpersonal relationships and communication; and teaching the interrelatedness of nature's living systems. At this time, when it feels like the world is upside down, Something Good in the World continues to support peaceful initiatives, whether in New York, Hawai'i, or Kenya. We believe in educating children for the future that we want, and that children are the leaders of the now, and the ancestors of the future.

Sometimes it feels like our work is like a Band-Aid, or comfort in the meantime, and sometimes we discover that without realizing it, the work that we do is affecting young people in ways they can only describe to us later, as they incorporate nature-based learning into their lives. Just this week, an intern from our farm-based education programs back in 2011 wrote us to share this:

“My experience with Earth School really made a huge impact on me, and I could argue on the trajectory of my life. I was barely making it through college. I really needed to see what else was out there and other ways of engaging with community and our world. After working with you and writing my senior thesis, I was able to pull myself through until graduation, and then I immediately pursued working in environmental education and wilderness therapy, working with kids and teens in the White Mountains and educational farms for the rest of my twenties. This is what led me to realize I loved being a therapist and landed me where I am now, with my own practice.” — Laura Bete, LCSW, MSW.

We are so grateful to hear from alumnae students, parents, and interns. Thank you to so many of you who have participated in the work of Something Good in the World, and to all the individuals, farms, organizations and foundations who have believed in us and supported what we have been doing for 21 years, so that our programs continue to be free of charge for those in need.

Please read on to discover what SGITW has been doing throughout the fall, and as we enter into the long winter months, we promise to keep a light on in the darkness. We can't stop now, and with your help, so much good in the world is possible... ☺



If you've been keeping in touch with SGITW via email and Facebook, then you know that we had the honor to co-present our [Seeding the Future](#) project at COP28 in Dubai on December 4! Thanks to donations from individuals who believed in this pilot project, we have been able to fund the Sprout Farming project of the [Kalobeyei Initiative For Better Life](#) in the Kakuma refugee camp and Kalobeyei settlement in Kenya. You can watch the recording of the presentation, which was led with brilliant energy and inspiration by Espoir Kaposho from KI4BL. It was a total pleasure for SGITW to support and assist in this endeavor, and now that the second phase of the project is beginning, we have been delighted to send a second round of funding so that more refugees can be trained in farming sprouts to help feed this nutrient-dense food to their families. We are also proud to announce that the KI4BL team is being considered for a United Nations Innovation Fund grant to expand this project to include all 200,000 refugees at Kakuma. We are all holding the vision for this to one day become a template for other refugee camps.

[Click Here to see the COP28 presentation!](#)





**FOOD SYSTEMS
PAVILION | COP28 UAE
2023**

Invitation to Present:

Food Security and Drought Relief through Sprout Farming Initiative

Dear Espoirbin Kaposho,

The Food Systems Pavilion is honored to extend this personal invitation to you, acknowledging your significant contributions and leadership with the Food Security and Drought Relief through Sprout Farming Initiative. We would be delighted to have you lead this exciting session in person at the Food Systems Pavilion in Dubai.

Event: Food Security and Drought Relief through Sprout Farming Initiative

Date: December 4th

Time: 18:30 - 19:30

Location: Food Systems Pavilion, Thematic Arena 2

As the driving force behind this transformative project, we are eager to hear your insights and celebrate the strides you are making towards a more food-secure future for both the refugee and host communities.

Please join us for an evening of dialogue, where we will delve into the successes, challenges, and future pathways of sprout farming as a tool for empowerment and resilience. Your expertise and experiences are invaluable to this conversation, and we are looking forward to your participation.

Kindly confirm your attendance at your earliest convenience.

With warm regards,
The Food Systems Pavilion Team





This fall, SGITW received funding from [St. Faith's House Foundation](#), the [Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation](#), the [Alpern Family Foundation](#), and the [Jack DeVito Foundation](#) to continue our nature-based and garden-based educational programs at the [Ossining Children's Center](#), the [Ossining High School](#), and the [Abbott House](#) shelter for refugee youth from Central America.

The Ossining High School programs focused on the Mindfulness Garden, which is in its 7th year and showing marvelous and magical results! The special education Life Skills students have become the stewards of the many small gardens within the larger Children's Peaceful Garden style design. In October, they were harvesting vegetables, herbs, and even strawberries to prepare healthy snacks! They made their own kale chips, herbal tea, herb butter, and worm cake – although the worm cake was for compost, not for eating! The teachers have been thrilled with the results for the students, especially their plant-a-thon project with bulbs, as the teens practiced newfound skills that even they didn't realize they had. We are grateful to teachers Patricia Guerin and Danielle Jackson for their ongoing vision, guiding the children in keeping the Mindfulness Garden alive and well throughout the seasons.



The Ossining Children's Center had their October hike in the woods with a new class of Kindergartners, many of whom had never been in the forest before. This annual exploration hike introduces the young children to their environment, learning the names of the trees, plants, and birds, finding mushrooms and fallen leaves, and discovering their water source along the Hunterbrook trail. We will pick up with the same students in the spring to continue their nature-based experiential learning. 🍄





Working with the Central American refugee youth from Abbott House is always a pleasure, and this year we added to the delight of this experience by adding a brand new Peace Garden (Jardin de Paz) on the grounds of the shelter! This has been a long-term dream for Abbott House, to create an outdoor space that could be enjoyed by students, teachers, and administrators alike. Thanks to the hard work of the refugee students and their teachers, the Peace Garden is now in its beginning stages, with an herb garden, native plant garden, a bulb garden, a birdfeeder and birdbath, wind chimes, and several sitting areas. The best part was painting, beading, and hanging the new bilingual signs, thanks to Agi Shah at [A Maze In Pottery!](#)

The refugee youth also were treated to an October visit to [Longhaul Farm](#), where Farmers Jason and Jocelyn guided them in harvesting veggies and herbs to make a delicious, healthy snack (kale chips of course, and roasted squash). Students also had the opportunity to meet the turkeys and to learn the all-round systems of an organic, sustainable, family farm that helps to serve the needs of the local community. They inspired us greatly with their letters, reflecting on the experience:



Dear Jason and Jocelyn, I thank you for inviting us to your farm. It truly was a lovely outing and reminded me a lot of where I come from. I appreciated the attention you gave us. You are indeed a very kind couple. I enjoyed the care you put into your farm and its vegetables. They are delicious, healthy, and fresh. I learned new things, such as the importance of feeding the soil with leftovers to fertilize it before planting vegetables, making them more nutritious and delicious. Also, moving the chickens to new areas helps them eat different insects, making the eggs more nutritious and flavorful. Once again, thank you very much, and may God continue to bless you, your family, and your farm. - J.B.

Dear Jason and Jocelyn, first of all, thank you so everything. I'm happy to have had the opportunity to be on your beautiful farm and learn about the animals, fruits, and vegetables. Thanks for taking the time to explain everything. The vegetables you cooked were delicious, and the best part was that everything was 100% organic. Everything was beautiful, but what I especially liked were the strawberries, apples, and turkeys. Above all, thank you very much for your warm invitation. God blesses you. - C.A.

Dear Jason & Jocelyn, I wish you many blessings in everything you do each day, and may God continue to bless you. First, I want to thank you for the invitation; it was truly a beautiful experience for me. I liked how you worked the land, planting vegetables because it's healthy for the body. I also appreciated seeing the turkeys and chickens, knowing they are fed with healthy food. It's my dream to have my own farm, buy cows, and raise them. I would also like to have turkeys and chicks because my mom loved raising them. Thank you for the vegetables you shared with us; I liked and loved them because I had never tasted anything like that before. With this, I say goodbye. Thanks for everything. I wish you the best in everything you do each day, and may your farm thrive. - N.





Thanks to additional funding from the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation and individuals who support SGITW in Hawai'i, we have been able to continue to offer weekly [Something Aloha](#) programs for PreK through Grade 4 at the [Volcano School of Arts & Sciences](#). Ka Mala Maluhia (The Children's Peaceful Garden) is the outdoor classroom for PreK through Grade 4, and each grade meets weekly with SGITW educators to learn how to make and keep their own worm bin, to grow seeds into flowers, herbs, and veggies, to weed and water, and to harvest their produce to make healthy snacks. This year's 4th Grade has done a masterful job of maintaining their native plant garden and this includes the creation of bilingual (Hawaiian/English) signs for each plant, and adding to their own binder of research on the medicinal and traditional uses for the plants. These programs are fortunate to continue throughout the school year, and thanks to brand new grants for materials, Grade 5-8 will be adding raised beds with veggies, herbs, and plants for traditional dye-making, and high elevation and rain-loving fruit trees on the Middle School campus.



Our latest and most exciting project in Hawai'i is called Kula Honua ([Earth School](#)), which started very much the way it had begun in New York back in 1998, with a handful of homeschoolers! Children ages 4-7 and their parents have been delighted to engage in our [Golden Education Template](#)-inspired curriculum, which takes place by majority outdoors in nature. As always, the planet is our classroom and the scenes of children rolling down grassy hillsides and collecting eggs from chickens are reminding us a whole lot of the early days! Sure, it's a little different in Hawai'i, thanks to the kinds of fruits we can harvest, the beaches we can explore, and the rainforests we can play in, not to mention the volcanic landscape! But looking at the photos, we think you'll agree that it's starting to feel a lot like Earth School!





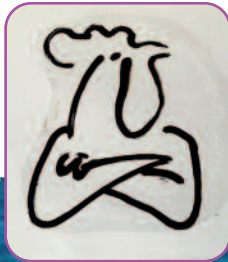
We want to mahalo (thank) the amazing individuals from the U.S. and the Netherlands, who have expressed their belief in this young GET Earth School by donating scholarships for students who wish to attend Kula Honua and require financial assistance. If you would like to contribute to any of our programs, [please donate](#) now and you can specify which project you wish to support in Hawai'i, New York, or Kenya. Yes, it is the time for end-of-year giving, but we appreciate your gifts any time of year! ☺



This issue of the *Something Good in the World* e-newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Ed Young, author and illustrator, who supported our educational programs for the past 15 years with workshops, book readings, and fundraisers. His "Rooster King" project will be forever cherished. Thank you Ed for your endless dedication to arts-integrated, nature-based education.



Ed Young
1931-2023
Illustrator & Writer
Tai Chi Teacher



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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Writing: Barbara Sarbin
Artwork: Mark Siegel

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.