



Small Steps Towards
a Big Difference

SOMETHING RESILIENT

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: somethinggoodintheworld.org.

E-News Volume 14, Number 1

somethinggoodintheworld.org

✿ SPRING into SUMMER 2025

At Something Good in the World, we are resilient. As many of our partner organizations are seeing their funding cut back, and losing their staff members, as well as their students, we are holding steadfast in the knowledge that we cannot give up. This is a time to work even harder to support our community. In the 23 years of our existence, we have never given in, though often under scrutiny by some who didn't understand the need to give access to nature-based education to all children equally. Luckily, if you are reading this, you do understand and you agree that arts-integrated, all-sensory, hands-on experiential education in nature's classroom is essential for all. The gardens we create with students and teachers, the farms and parks we visit, every moment spent climbing a tree or planting flower or rolling down a hill; all are precious and everyone deserves fresh air, healthy food, and the feeling of freedom. This issue of our e-newsletter shares photos and stories of the many acts of resilience that keep us going strong...😊

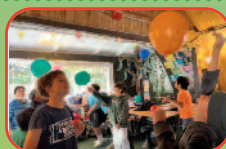


Throughout the winter, Something Good in the World's programs took place actively in Hawai'i. The [Volcano School of Arts & Sciences](#) experienced 6 months of garden-, farm-, and nature-based educational programs, thanks to the support of multiple organizations that SGITW partnered with for the 2024-2025 school year, including: [Native Skywatchers](#), [Atherton Family Foundation](#), [NOAA Ocean Guardian Schools](#), [Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation](#), [Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots](#), as well as generous individual donors and family foundations that prefer to remain anonymous.

Ka Mala Maluhia ([The Children's Peaceful Garden](#)) continues to grow and expand at the Volcano School, where PreK through Grade 8 classes steward their own teaching gardens each year. Whether planting seeds, drawing trees, digging, weeding, watering, or visiting farms, the students are always excited about their "mala" (garden) days.

This year, Middle School students were able to plant special raised beds with dye plants, and then worked with a local expert in the field, [Sasha Duerr](#), to learn how to dye their own clothing. This environmentally friendly method of making designs on cloth is an excellent alternative to chemical dyes. The flowers used for making dye also happen to be edible, in addition to beautifying the school grounds, thus serving multiple purposes. The students also grew fruit trees, which will last far into the future, feeding those who are yet to come.

A big part of Something Good in the World's work this year at the Volcano School was promoting 4th Grade students in doing the research and practice of growing native plants, and then teaching their own families and the local community about the value of these. Not only do native plants thrive without extra care, but they provide habitat and food for native insects and birds. These plants also hold the soil in place, preventing erosion, and take up excess minerals like nitrogen, filtering and preventing the by-products of agriculture and animal waste from making it to the ocean, where it can damage the coral reef. So many residents of Hawai'i depend on fishing for their livelihood and to feed their families, and protecting the coral reef through planting native species makes common sense for sustainable practices. The students also studied and presented to families about alternative energy sources, using the SGITW [Envirapod](#) mobile educational trailer as an example.



Students in the [Kula 'Amakihi](#) (community-based education) program were focused on the interconnectedness of all living things in the same way, through their work with Native Skywatchers. SGITW guided 40 students in Grades 3-8 with their families in discovering the connections between the stars, wayfinding, whales and all marine life, conservation of coral reefs, protection of water systems, native trees, birds, and plants, and what the issues are for these essential aspects of the Hawaiian environment. Identifying the human-made causes of the problems, from noise and light pollution, to overfishing and marine debris, to shipping channels and the runoff of human waste and chemicals, was a vital part of the research. Finding the solutions to these issues was the most important step: presenting to the public through the “Mahalo Sea and Stars” installation at the [Wailoa Art Center](#) in Hilo, a 360 degree experience of what we can all do in our own backyards to make a better situation for all. Solutions ranged from dimming streetlights to protect sea birds and sea turtles, to planting native species to prevent dangerous run-off, to slowing shipping traffic to protect whales. This exhibit attracted attention in the local news and brought audience members from all over the Big Island to experience the multimedia presentation of dance, soundscapes, sculptures, paintings, projections, books, and shadow puppets.





The small but always very special Kula Honua ([Earth School](#)) programs continued in Hawai'i this year, for ages 5-8, in the same GET ([Golden Education Template](#)) inspired tradition as always. Children followed the curriculum for academics integrated with nature and the arts, and parents enjoyed learning, assisting, and guiding the students at the same time. The Earth as Homeschool motif continues to help children feel free, happy, grounded, safe, and connected to their natural genius.



Now that spring has taken hold in the Northeast, Something Good in the World has sprung back into action with children and teachers. [The Ossining Children's Center](#), [Ossining High School](#), and the [Abbott House](#) shelter's TRC program are all receiving free educational workshops, garden supplies, and field trips thanks to: [Alpern Family Foundation](#), [St. Faith's House Foundation](#), Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, [Jack DeVito Foundation](#), along with the many individual donors who generously support our programs and projects.

The Ossining High School Special Education (SPED) "Life Skills" class continues to steward the Mindfulness Garden, now in its 9th year! You can tell that the gardens have been growing for 9 years, because they are so beautiful, have so few weeds, and are full with the plants that are intended to be there. Students and teachers collect the trash that others leave behind, they make sure that the birds and plants have everything they need, and they work hard to weed and prune, to compost and mulch. Now that it's springtime, annuals are being planted in the Rainbow Garden and veggies, herbs, and strawberries are being added, for harvesting soon. These programs and projects will continue throughout the summer months.



Stay tuned for news about the Ossining Children's Center and the Abbott House TRC (Transitional Children's Resources) program for refugee youth, whose workshops, gardens, and field trips with SGITW will run throughout the summer and into the early fall! We also look forward to sharing updates with you soon on two upcoming Indigenous Astronomy conferences in Hilo, Hawai'i and Melbourne, Australia that Something Good in the World has been invited to present our educational work at in collaboration with Native Skywatchers!...





As you may already know, Something Good in the World not only offers nature-based educational programs in NY and HI, but we also partner with the **Kalobeyei Initiative for Better Life (KI4BLi)** in Kenya. This community based, refugee led organization leads the Seeding the Future program that was initiated and continues to be supported by SGITW. Now training hundreds of high school students in the Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Settlement, the KI4BLi facilitators are reporting huge success. In addition to the students becoming sprout farmers, results are being recorded that show evidence of improved health in children who were previously suffering from starvation and malnutrition, thanks to the nutrient-dense content of the sprouts. Below follows a special thank you letter to all of our supporters who donated to the "Seeding the Future" project, from the Director of KI4BLi in Kenya...



If you would like a copy of the full report from KI4BLi about the Seeding the Future sprout farming project, please contact us at: somethinggooditw@aol.com and we would be happy to email it to you.

"I want to send very huge thanks to the entire Something Good in the World family, starting from trustees, volunteers, supporters, everyone. Everyone who is involved, even the children who believe and who participate in the programs, who support; their impacts enhance and influence the decisions, the resource mobilization, the policies and so on. I want to share our gratitude to everyone, and only that we might not be able to come and tell them face to face thank you. But please let them know that we value their contribution. They are changing lives. They are saving lives. They're building hope back to individuals here. And may God bless them to continue in these difficult moments in both US and in Africa. We hope to be together into a joint effort, prayers, everything that we can to ensure that everything is restored, and to show our support as well to each and every one. So thank you so much for supporting us, supporting our communities and trusting in Kalobeyei Initiative."

-Samuel Binja
Founder and Director

ki4bli.org



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

Writing: Barbara Sarbin

Editing: Elizabeth Colquhoun

Artwork: Mark Siegel

Photography: Barbara Sarbin, Tavia LaFollette, Patricia Guerin, Danielle Jackson

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.