

Good afternoon, my name is Jared Foxhall and it is an honor to represent the Roots and Shoots Program and Something Good In the World. Thank you to the Jane Goodall Institute, the Roots and Shoots Program and to the United Nations for the honor and recognition to Something Good in the World by inviting us to present our Children's Peaceful Garden project as part of this year's International Day of Peace.

Creating a peaceful world begins with fostering peace within oneself. When someone is at peace with themselves, they are at peace with others. What we specialize in at Something Good in the World is sustainability integrated with children's education and peaceful play. The Children's Peaceful Garden is a beautiful physical embodiment of these two things and re-envision the way we view nature: it recognizes the potential nature has to be a powerful space of personal development.

The Children's Peaceful Garden design takes a large open space in nature, and transforms it into a collection of small, intimate spaces catering to various modes of creativity and learning, using the principles of Permaculture. An example of this is the Garden of Resolve, where conflict resolution through peaceful consultation occurs amidst native perennial plants that show us how to live in harmony.

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The key is that these gardens are *student* driven. The students plant all of the gardens, they maintain them, they forage inside of them. And in the process, they learn about the plants they grow and how each affects the surrounding environment, attracts pollinators, deters pests, conserves water, using only renewable resources: children learn the fundamentals of an ecosystem and the interconnectedness of all living things. What this promotes is a sense of place, of where you are in your community and where you are in the whole world.

When children are learning in hands-on, experiential ways, the retention of information is much higher. They develop a personal responsibility for the environment literally built through their work. By interacting with nature and learning how to cultivate the connection between themselves and the earth, they grow a consciousness for the world that carries on later in life.

I've been told, that as a child I was quite troublesome and rowdy, and my untamed energy had few outlets. In the time I spent helping to build and play in the Garden I felt more in touch with myself and with others than anywhere else. The kid that was at one moment yelling and screaming... in the gardens was at peace, and doing anything from weeding to writing poetry. The trust I now have in nature as a place for me to unwind and be myself, and the intrinsic

concern for the planet's well being I now feel comes from being involved with this project at a very young age.

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Thousands of children have been a part of this initiative, including at-risk youth, refugees, and homeless children.... When children participate in creating a Children's Peaceful Garden, they not only contribute to the healing effect that the garden has on themselves but also on those less fortunate, thus reinforcing a sense peace within human synergy.

The best part is that the Children's Peaceful Garden design is so easy to replicate, and can begin with something as simple as growing organic vegetables in one's own backyard, or building a seesaw that pumps water for a school garden, or planting bee-friendly flowers in a community garden.

It could mean rethinking the outdoors as the best place for learning and promoting non-competitive, play spaces for children. Something Good in the World encourages that as we as a human family examine ways to promote peace and sustainability throughout the world, we begin by helping children find peace within themselves through nature.

Special thanks to the founder, Barbara Sarbin, of Something Good in the World for her incredible vision, and her ability to make the Children's Peaceful Garden a reality for so many.

Thank you.