

'Treasuring the Future' Exhibit Opens in New Jersey
By DAVID SHADOVITZ, Philadelphia Bureau Chief
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"Treasuring the Future: Children's Rights and Realities," an interactive exhibit featuring photos, art and information about the rights and realities of children around the world, opened a three-week showing at the Walt Whitman Culture Arts Center today.

More than 100 members and guests attended the exhibit's ribbon-cutting and opening reception. "We can make all the policies we want, but children are the ones who will take our place and someday run the world," said Dr. Terra Thomas, a pediatric psychologist with the Children Seashore House in Atlantic City and a consultant to the United Nations.

After having a chance to walk around, visitors said they were extremely impressed by what they saw. "It helps people become more aware of what children are experiencing today," said visitor Greg Kaspin. "It made me reflect on how important it is to improve the conditions of the environment where children live."

In addition to hosting the event, the Walt Whitman Culture Arts Center served as one of nine cosponsors. Others were the Camden Empowerment Zone, Educating Children for Parenting, Intercultural Family Services, Inc., the Museum of the American Arts of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the school district of Philadelphia, the office of the associate provost of Rutgers University and the Women's Christian Alliance.

Many classes from area schools are scheduled to visit the exhibition before it closes on Nov. 2. Created and sponsored by the SGI-USA, the exhibit first opened in June 1996 in New York. It is slated to tour 15 cities.

With reporting by Wanda Peacock Flowers, Pat Daniels and Claude Lomden.