

**SAN ANTONIO WELCOMES CHILDREN'S RIGHTS EXHIBIT
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The excited chatter and exuberant laughter of children filled the air Aug. 20 at the opening ceremony of the SGI-USA sponsored exhibition "Treasuring the Future: Children's Rights and Realities" at the beautiful North Star Mall in San Antonio, Texas.

Brightly colored costumes, singing, dancing, poetry recitals and magic tricks enchanted an enthusiastic audience both young and old. There were multicultural performances by, among others, the San Antonio Independent School District Mariachi Band and the SGI-USA San Antonio Chorus and Dancers, who performed a Nigerian folk song.

Children's Rights Exhibition Coordinator Malina Moore explained that the exhibition was created by the Youth Peace Committee of the SGI-USA in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), reflecting the philosophy of the Soka Gakkai's founders to respect the dignity of all human life. "In order to do that," Malina said, "we have to start with our children."

SGI-USA Executive Advisor Fred Zaitzu and San Antonio Area Leader Roy Duggan accepted proclamations from the City of San Antonio and County of Bexar, a resolution from the State of Texas and a letter to SGI President Ikeda from U.S. Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, which will be entered in the Congressional Record later this year. Bexar County Family Court Judge Peter Sakai and Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson spoke of the importance of nurturing our children as the future leaders of society.

Mr. Zaitzu also expressed his hope that the exhibition would become "a significant milestone to awaken people to the importance of children's rights." He added that "protecting children's rights has been a tradition of the SGI since the time of first president Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, the founder of our organization, who dedicated himself to educating children, especially those who were underprivileged." Mr. Zaitzu concluded by expressing his wish that the exhibition would spur dialogue, thereby "expanding the message of peace and hope in the wonderful community of San Antonio" and making the ideals expressed in the exhibition a reality.