

**ATLANTA HOSTS CHILDREN'S RIGHTS EXHIBITION  
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The opening ceremony of the "Treasuring the Future: Children's Rights and Realities" exhibition in Atlanta was hosted by Morehouse College and held Jan. 18 at the school's Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel. Atlanta was the exhibition's first stop this year and 22nd overall since its debut in 1996.

The event was attended by more than 150 people, including Morehouse College President Walter E. Massey, Chapel Dean Lawrence E. Carter, SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima and many Morehouse students, SGI-USA members and friends of both.

Dr. Marian Wright Edelman gave the ceremony's keynote address. As the founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, she has become one of the nation's strongest voices for children and families. She reminded the audience that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. taught that our choice is not between violence and nonviolence, but nonviolence and nonexistence.

She cited the technological advances of the 20th century, but noted a missing element. "Our scientific and military progress haven't been accompanied by comparable moral progress, especially in raising children," she said. "Don't have children until you're ready to support them emotionally and financially for a lifetime."

Referencing the importance of the exhibition's message in his remarks, Dean Carter said: "If we are to anchor heaven on earth, we have to care for children. If we can't care for children, we can't be heavenly."

Barron Segar, Southeastern director of UNICEF, praised the exhibition and urged the audience to do even more. "UNICEF works with the poorest children in the poorest countries," he explained. "One of the most pressing current needs is to care for more than 28 million children orphaned by AIDS."

Talia Witherspoon, a senior in early childhood education at Clark College, said of the exhibition: "It's very creative and inventive. What stands out to me the most are the children's quotes. It makes you think about what's going on in the world concerning children, especially in the United States. We have great emphasis on education and quality of schools, but we are failing to address such basic needs as the importance of nutrition in schools."

The exhibition ran at Morehouse College through Feb. 3. Its next stop will be Houston in May. For more information on the history of the exhibition, visit the exhibition's Web site at [www.kidsrights.org](http://www.kidsrights.org).