

'TREASURING THE FUTURE' EXHIBIT OPENS IN HOUSTON
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After several months of planning and preparation, 500 SGI-USA members and guests throughout Houston and neighboring communities gathered at Northwest Mall to celebrate the opening of SGI-USA's "Treasuring the Future: Children's Rights and Realities," a hands-on exhibition.

Houston marks the exhibition's 23rd stop since its inception in 1996, as it continues to expand awareness and impart knowledge and information regarding the atrocities that plague children the world over.

The opening ceremony began with Malina Moore, SGI-USA exhibition coordinator, thanking Northwest Mall for hosting the exhibition as well as congratulating all performers and SGI-USA Houston members who gave their support in bringing the exhibition to their community.

Marleen Pedroza, representing U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, read a congratulatory letter addressed to SGI President Ikeda. It read in part: "I was pleased to learn that the exhibition has included Houston in its worldwide tour with the intention of educating the public of certain basic human rights issues facing children around the world. I congratulate you for all you do to promote international understanding and peace through cultural and educational activities."

SGI-USA General Director Emeritus Fred Zaitso extended his heartfelt appreciation to the members of Houston on behalf of President Ikeda. He expressed that, "Children are the treasures of the future and we must strengthen our dialogue with children."

Steven Stewart, age 13, who performed for the opening, remarked: "The exhibition was very inspiring to me. It is terrible that children suffer so much. I believe children should stand up for their rights."

The exhibition was a phenomenal success and served to foster greater harmony and unity among the SGI-USA Houston membership. The members and friends of the SGI in Houston hope that their efforts will strengthen the foundation of their community through fostering, treasuring and protecting children.