

**WISCONSIN STATE CAPITOL HOSTS EXHIBIT
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The premier of SGI-USA's "Treasuring the Future: Children's Rights and Realities" exhibition in Madison, Wis., was a great success. After many hours of groundwork and preparation by the members of SGI-USA's Madison Chapter, the exhibition opened on June 1 in the beautiful State Capitol rotunda. Fred Zaitso, SGI-USA general director emeritus, and Malina Moore, SGI-USA exhibits coordinator, as well as local members and their families attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Two children, winners of SGI-USA Madison Chapter's essay contest, read their winning entries. Many members of the audience reported fighting back tears with the reading of the winning entry, "When I See What Some Kids Have and Some Don't" written by 4th-grader Ketan Ramakrishnan. The essay details his experiences interacting with other children while visiting his grandparents in India, a place he had never been to before.

"Whether in India, America, the Netherlands or Britain, it does not matter," he writes. "Kids all around the world should be equal in every respect. The poorest kids are as important as the richest kids, and maybe someday the world will acknowledge that."

Local musicians performed at the opening ceremony and the next day when the exhibition officially opened to the public. During the week, hundreds of school children stopped by during class tours of the Capitol. SGI-USA members had the opportunity to view the exhibition and staff the reception table. Some came from as far away as Iron Mountain, Mich., Milwaukee, Baraboo, Wis., and other parts of the state.

Reaction to the exhibition was tremendously positive. Mike Bennett, SGI member and master of ceremonies for the opening, said that the photo of a Rwandan child made him think back fondly to when he was the same age. A woman serving as a facilitator for a local youth leadership group remarked that the panels were outstanding and taught her kids a great deal.

The exhibition was also lauded by proclamations and letters of congratulation from Madison Mayor Susan Bauman, Wisconsin Governor Scott McCallum and Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk.

In his proclamation, Governor McCallum wrote: "I commend the SGI-USA and the U.N. Children's Fund for their dedication and commitment to educating others about the wonders of youth as well as the perils of abuse. Their generous contribution to children, families, the community and the world is truly an inspiration to all."