

Pocketful of Joy Founder Receives Soroptimists' Ruby Award

MANCHESTER, Conn. – Pocketful of Joy founder Charlotte S. Hunter was recently honored with the Ruby Award from the Northeastern Soroptimists.

The award goes to an individual who has worked to benefit women and girls through their personal or professional activities.

Pocketful of Joy is a nonprofit that assists in implementing and sustaining programs that address the health, education and well-being of children in Tanzania, without compromising their way of life. As the founder, Hunter, a **Storrs** resident, has helped initiate a garden program so school children can grow their own food, a sewing program so students can make their own uniforms and a healthcare program that provides kids with medicated soap to treat ringworm and other topical fungal infections.

“My group of women were very excited and impressed with Charlotte when she came to the meeting,” Northeastern Soroptimist President Leslie Wilper said.

As an organization, Soroptimists work to improve the lives of women and girls.

“Once they met her and saw her energy and passion” selecting Hunter to receive the Ruby Award was a clear choice, Wilper said.

As part of her speaking tour, Hunter attended a Soroptimist meeting in **Manchester** on May 2 and spoke about her recent trip to Tanzania, where she visited the three schools, Byeya, Ntoma and Nyakataare, which are affiliated with Pocketful of Joy.

Throughout her nine trips to Tanzania, Hunter has fine-tuned her “organic” approach to working with the local community. Part of the nonprofit’s goal is to teach students to nurture their own self-confidence so they realize their potential. The children at Byeya, Ntoma and Nyakataare schools have ambitions of being doctors, lawyers and police officers, so Hunter and Pocketful of Joy work to stimulate these students’ thirst for education.

Hunter thanked the Northeastern Soroptimists for selecting her as their Ruby Award recipient.

“It’s feels great to be recognized for Pocketful of Joy’s work that’s been going on in Tanzania,” Hunter said. “It was an honor to receive the Ruby Award.”

For more information about Pocketful of Joy, visit pocketfulofjoy.org.