

Founder of Pocketful of Joy to Speak at Unitarian Universalist Church

SPRINGFIELD, VT – Charlotte S. Hunter, founder of Pocketful of Joy, will be the guest speaker at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Sunday, May 15.

Hunter will talk about her recent trip to Tanzania where she worked with local leaders to make Pocketful of Joy programs at three schools – Byeya, Ntoma and Nyakataare – more sustainable.

Pocketful of Joy is a non-profit 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. For example, throughout her nine trips to Tanzania, Hunter and Pocketful of Joy have initiated 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.

The organization aims 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, among many others. Programs Pocketful of Joy initiates look to stimulate these students' thirst for education.

Hunter, originally from Harlem, NY, first visited Tanzania in 2002. It was that first trip that captivated the Tolland, Conn. resident's heart, and upon her return to the U.S. she instituted a porridge program for kids at Byeya Primary School.

"It's been a dream of mine ever since I was a little girl to help children; this is part of my dream," Hunter said. "I love assisting the children with their health and education and helping to improve their environment."

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

The church is located at 21 Fairground Rd., Springfield, VT. Service begins at 10 a.m.

5/3/11



CUTLINE: Founder of Pocketful of Joy, Charlotte Hunter, plays with children at the Nyakataare Primary School in Tanzania. Pocketful of Joy is a nonprofit that works to implement programs to promote the health, education and well being of students at three schools in Tanzania.