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**Swing with the Sweet Adelines in Salisbury**  
**April 16 Performance Benefits “Raising Sudan”**  
*Sudan Rowan Teams with Mothering Across Continents<sup>sm</sup> and Lost Boys*  
*to Build Schools*

**SALISBURY** – At 8 p.m. , April 16, as part of Downtown Salisbury’s 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Night Out, event goers will enjoy a first-ever Salisbury performance by the award winning Queen Charlotte Chorus of Sweet Adelines International, appearing at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 200 W. Innes St., Salisbury, NC.

Committed to the musical art of barbershop harmony, the chorus features approximately 40 women singers, spectacular costumes, choreography and a touch of comedy. Every year, the chorus competes regionally against as many as 25 choruses, consistently placing in the top three. The group has competed internationally.

The “Sweet Adelines in Salisbury” event is organized by Rowan County-based non-profit 501c3 Sudan Rowan with support from Carolinas-based non-profit 501c3 Mothering Across Continents. The two organizations are partnering in an initiative called “Raising Sudan,” the first multi-state effort to build multiple schools in conjunction with the Lost Boys of Sudan. Two Lost Boys and their friends will perform a Sudanese song or two at the concert.

About 30,000 young men were dubbed the Lost Boys when, as children, they were displaced or orphaned by government troops attacking villages in Africa’s southern Sudan during the Second Sudanese Civil War. They escaped and began epic walking journeys across borders into refugee camps. About 3,800 arrived in North America, sponsored primarily by churches, community groups and the US and Canadian governments.

“This will be a night of musical fun in a beautiful architectural setting – the St. John’s sanctuary,” says Karen Puckett, an original founder of Sudan Rowan, and guiding coalition member of Mothering Across Continents. “The evening also has a very special purpose. After the concert, Lost Boys Lubo “James” Mijak and Ngor Kur Mayol will share their stories and dreams for educating Sudanese children.”

“There is such great need,” says Mijak, who graduated from UNC Charlotte, became an American citizen and now works as a financial services assistant analyst and healthcare technician in Charlotte. “From education comes wisdom, and with wisdom perhaps there will not be war.”

Adds Puckett, a media specialist at Isenberg Elementary School in Salisbury, “In southern Sudan, education really does represent dreams. Education is critical to raising a generation of leaders who can rebuild.”

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The idea that the Rowan County community can help build schools halfway around the world in southern Sudan stretches back to March 2007, when St. John's Lutheran Church hosted the film, *"The Lost Boys of Sudan,"* and Mayol was a guest speaker. Moved by his story, Puckett helped form Sudan Rowan and led a trip to Mayol's home village, Aliap, in Ruweng County, in March 2009. The group delivered school supplies and began plans for a school in the area, including securing land and approval from local community leaders.

The current goal is to raise \$300,000 by Mother's Day to build at least two schools in 2010.

Admission to the Queen Charlotte Chorus of Sweet Adelines International in Salisbury is free. Tax-deductible donations for the "Raising Sudan" effort will be accepted at the concert, and through the Mothering Across Continents website: [www.motheringacrosscontinents.org](http://www.motheringacrosscontinents.org)

The performance will take place at St. John's Lutheran Church, 200 W. Innes St., Salisbury, NC. There will be a trolley stop at St. John's. For further details, contact Karen Puckett, 704.279.7428. Preceding the concert, at 7 p.m., church tours and an art exhibit will be open to attendees.

Sponsor support for the event is provided by Bragg Financial Advisors, a registered investment advisor located in Charlotte, NC, providing wealth management services to individuals, families, and institutions. Website: [www.braggfinancial.com](http://www.braggfinancial.com)

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