

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Contact:**

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### **Local Non-Profit Leader Releases Book to Help Educators Understand Poverty in the Classroom**

*Beth Lindsay Templeton's Book Sensitizes Educators to  
Cultural and Socioeconomic Differences*

Greenville, SC (June 3, 2011) – Our public schools are seeing a greater number of students living in poverty...students who approach life differently than those who have adequate basic resources. Many educators see the world through their middle-class worldview and may misinterpret behavior they see and ascribe negative connotations to how their students are reacting. Their assumptions can affect the quality of both the teaching and the learning that occurs. Most teachers have real passion for educating their students, but their experiences limit how they relate to the challenges some of their students face daily.

Rev. Beth Templeton is a former math teacher who has educated people with resources about the realities and struggles of poverty throughout her 28 years of service at United Ministries, and in recent years, through the agency's poverty education program, Our Eyes Were Opened. She put her life's lessons and eye-opening experiences to good use with *Understanding Poverty in the Classroom*, a resource that helps educators fathom (and appropriately respond to) a child who hoards crackers to take home or who talks loudly and interrupts the class.

Frank Holleman, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education, gives his endorsement, stating, "America will live up to its aspirations for public education only if students in poverty excel to high expectations. Beth Lindsay Templeton has worked for years to understand, address, and explain the issues faced by families in poverty. Anyone interested in America's future and the future of America's communities will benefit from her wisdom and insights."

- more -

*Understanding Poverty in the Classroom:*

- \* Identifies perceptual differences
- \* Teaches strategies to address the special needs of children from poverty
- \* Encourages teachers to learn about the neighborhoods where their students live and what to look for in those areas
- \* Confronts myths about poverty and reinforces learning with specific illustrations

*Understanding Poverty in the Classroom* (ISBN 9781610483650) is interactive with exercises that increase the reader's learning and provides specific tools to improve the educational process for teachers, students, and parents. Published by Rowman & Littlefield Education, the book is available in paperback and e-book format at [www.rowmaneducation.com](http://www.rowmaneducation.com) and [www.borders.com](http://www.borders.com).

### **Book Signing**

A celebration and book signing event is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2011 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm in the Templeton Conference Room at United Ministries, 606 Pendleton Street, Greenville, SC 29601. The public is invited to drop in to meet the author and have their book signed.

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### **About Our Eyes Were Opened**

Our Eyes Were Opened ([oewo.squarespace.com](http://oewo.squarespace.com)) is a poverty education program of United Ministries that provides poverty simulations, tours of blighted neighborhood conditions in Greenville, and workshops and talks concerning the struggles of poor people. Additional resources produced by Our Eyes Were Opened include the book, *Loving Our Neighbor: A Thoughtful Approach to Helping People in Poverty* and five-part DVD series, “Servant or Sucker.”