



Students helping schools in Africa

March 23, 2009

AMHERST – Six students from Souhegan High School are stepping up to send 22,000 books across the world to Sierra Leone, Africa, to schools in need.

Ethics Forum members Kristin Leffler, Grace Stover, Molly Mirhashem, Ali Carlson, Justin DeWaele and Marissa Ashcraft are the latest Venture Team launched through Youth Venture’s partnership with United Way of Greater Nashua and Nashua Community College.

Ethics Forum selects a local, national or global issue each year for which to raise awareness and funds. This year, the team has selected Schools for Salone, an educational initiative that establishes schools in Sierra Leone. They hope to raise enough money to send 22,000 books to Schools for Salone.

The team was inspired during a presentation by Schools for Salone, when they learned about Sierra Leone’s grim history. Team members began to engage in ethical discussions about child soldiers and knew they wanted to help.

“Education is the foundation to rebuilding an impoverished country, and we think it is extremely important to support Schools for Salone,” said Leffler, team leader.

Ethics Forum will raise awareness through informational nights and money through fundraisers, including a benefit concert to be held June 5 at The Hampshire Hills Dome in Milford, which donated space for the event. New Hampshire bands The Retakes and Silent Distortion are scheduled to perform at the event.

Ethics Forum formally presented their idea before a selection panel of community volunteers at United Way of Greater Nashua. Approved United Way Youth Venture Teams are awarded seed grants of up to \$1,000 to launch their sustainable projects.

For more information, visit www.unitedwaynashua.org/html/youthventure.htm.