

# GREENWICH POST

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## Sekolo gets grant from Red Ribbon for AIDS/HIV education in Africa

Sekolo Projects Inc. received a \$5,000 grant from the Red Ribbon Foundation of Greenwich in May 2005. The grant money helped support the pilot phase of Sekolo's HIV education program in Namibia, southern Africa. Sekolo Projects is a non-religious, non-profit corporation that trains African teachers in HIV and AIDS prevention, and the related issues of stigma, treatment and care for people living with HIV and AIDS. Its primary function is running the national "Our HIV ABC teacher-training project" in Namibia. Sekolo's founding president, Elizabeth Robinson of Greenwich, working alternatively in Namibia and Connecticut, leads workshops overseas and fund raising in-state. Over 10 years, Namibia's life expectancy has fallen from 70 years to under 50. The United Nations predicts it will be 34 by 2010. With the arrival and spread of HIV, orphaned children are now leading households and the country faces economic devastation. HIV is preventable, but half of Namibia's new infections are in young people, 15 to 24 years old. As prevention is the only cure for these young people, Sekolo works with Namibia's Ministry of Education to help train and equip their teachers. Workshops provide vital information and teaching materials through a national network of school cluster groups. Through these workshops the integrated "ABC" of abstinence, faithfulness and consistent and correct condom use is taught. Sekolo builds on the ABC framework and goes further to deal with gender



Red Ribbon Board Member Steven B. Fox meets with Elizabeth Robinson of Greenwich, who runs an HIV charity for school teachers in Namibia. Red Ribbon presented her with a grant of \$5,000 toward her work. The adult infection rate in Namibia is 22.5%.

— Joanne Bouknight photo

issues, stigma, testing, treatment and care for people living with HIV and AIDS. Sekolo's pilot phase of training workshops was completed in July through the support of groups like the Red Ribbon Foundation of Greenwich, Christ Church of Greenwich, the Round Hill Community Church, the 1919 Foundation, the United Nations Federal Credit Union, UNESCO, and individuals donating \$150 to support a school. Sekolo Projects is currently fund raising to expand this program to a national level, aiming to reach all of Namibia's

secondary schools by the end of 2006. Visit [www.sekoloprojects.org](http://www.sekoloprojects.org) for more information. Ms. Robinson has spoken for the Retired Men's Association of Greenwich and the Round Hill Community Church. On Oct. 20 she will speak at 7:30 p.m. at the Cos Cob Library to the Association of American University Women, the National Organization of Women and the League of Women Voters. For other speaking arrangements call Ms. Robinson at 559-9926 or e-mail her at [sekoloprojects@yahoo.com](mailto:sekoloprojects@yahoo.com).

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## Red Ribbon fights AIDS at local level

Greenwich-based Red Ribbon joined the challenge grant program of the National AIDS Fund, one of America's largest philanthropic organizations dedicated to eliminating AIDS as a major health and social problem. Red Ribbon's \$100,000 contribution to the challenge grant program will be channeled to community-based organizations fighting AIDS at the local level. Specific funding partners will qualify to receive Red Ribbon funding by raising local matching funds. "The National AIDS

Fund is proud to announce our new relationship with the Red Ribbon Foundation," said Kandy Ferree, president and CEO of the National AIDS Fund. "At a time of decreased and more restrictive funding, collaborations like this one are critical. This collaboration draws on the strengths of both organizations — the Red Ribbon Foundation has been a catalyst for effective fund raising and the National AIDS Fund has the only national network of 29 community partnerships that reach nearly

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## Red Ribbon Foundation honored

The Red Ribbon Foundation, a Greenwich-based non-profit organization, was honored May 18 in New York City at the Bailey House 17th Annual Key Awards. The Bailey House is a nationally recognized leader of housing and services for people living with HIV and AIDS.

Actress and producer Lucie

Amaz saluted the Red Ribbon Foundation's commitment and said its "work and dedication to the Bailey House has helped countless men, women and children living with AIDS to have a brighter, more promising future." Scott Williams, president of the Red Ribbon Foundation, accepted the award on behalf of the foundation.

The Red Ribbon Foundation is the leading AIDS fund-raising organization in Connecticut. It has awarded more than \$1.2 million towards education, research and programs that inspire hope and offer loving care to those who need it. The Bailey House has been a Red Ribbon grant recipient since 2002.

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