

## **RCS Alum Speaks to Students and Faculty at Assembly**

**Bedford, New York—December 5, 2008**—On Friday, December 5, Whitney Johnson '99 spoke to the students and faculty on the Rippowam Campus about the organization she founded in South Africa to help children living with AIDS.

Whitney founded Ubuntu Africa (UBA) in 2006 following her graduation from Colorado College. While in school, Whitney spent a year studying abroad in Cape Town, South Africa and volunteering for an orphanage. Upon her return, she decided to make a difference in the lives of children and founded her organization. UBA's mission is to address the needs of HIV positive children and teens through comprehensive health care and support services.

Currently, UBA supports approximately fifty children, and their program includes health care, social work, nutritious meals, counseling, education, and fun empowering activities. During her presentation, Whitney spoke with passion about her belief that everyone, no matter how young, can make a positive impact on the lives of others if they choose to do so. Whitney credited her experience at Rippowam with providing her with the foundation and confidence to explore her interests and passions. Students listened with great interest as Whitney talked about the daily life of the children she supports, the progress that has been made in helping children with AIDS worldwide, and her goals of continuing to help "her" children live a normal, happy, healthy life.

We are so grateful to have Ms. Johnson take time out of her busy schedule to share her empowering message with our students. She is a wonderful example to all young people of what they can become if they choose to make a difference and help others.

Whitney hopes to return in the spring for a follow up visit, and we can't wait to check in on the progress she is making with her facility as she looks to expand her program to support over one hundred children.

If you would like to learn more about UBA, please visit their website at [ubafrica.org](http://ubafrica.org)

*From the Rippowam Cisqua School newsletter in Bedford, New York. To read the article on the school's website, please click on the link below.*

[http://www.rcsny.org/commoninc/pushpage/183/pushpage3.asp?send\\_id=7c785bba-a73c-4c4a-ad10-f125bfbdb3b0&mode=view](http://www.rcsny.org/commoninc/pushpage/183/pushpage3.asp?send_id=7c785bba-a73c-4c4a-ad10-f125bfbdb3b0&mode=view)