

Whitney Johnson
Executive Director, Ubuntu Africa NFP

Whitney Johnson, founder of Ubuntu Africa NFP, is an ardent activist, youth leader, and world changer. Inspired by her experiences while studying abroad in Cape Town, South Africa in 2004 and her volunteerism in an orphanage in the nearby Khayelitsha township, Whitney was drawn to the cause of helping the children and youth of South Africa. She witnessed a huge gap in health services for young people in the area, especially with regards to HIV/AIDS, and was determined to return to the country, to devote her life's work to ensuring that this gap was filled. After graduating from Colorado College, Whitney returned to South Africa to form Ubuntu Africa Child Healthcare. Shaped by the African term "Ubuntu," a core African belief in mutual support which emphasizes the principle of caring for each other's well being, the nonprofit organization was established to impact the overwhelming need for sustained assistance to HIV-positive children and teenagers in South Africa.

With the knowledge that an estimated 80% of HIV/AIDS infected children in South Africa are not accessing much-needed medications, Whitney felt the need to act. Her diligence and determination successfully secured base funding to support her ultimate vision for Ubuntu Africa, which included the establishment of a healthcare center in the Khayelitsha township, for HIV positive children and teens. The center now provides on-site healthcare workers, nutritious meals, transportation to clinics and access to life-saving medicine. Since its conception in 2006, Whitney's organization has grown and now cares for almost 60 HIV-positive children and teenagers in Khayelitsha.

Whitney holds a Bachelors degree in Psychology from Colorado College. As Executive Director of Ubuntu Africa Child Healthcare and public speaker on HIV/AIDS, Whitney engages young people on the subject, to end the epidemic by fostering an empowered attitude towards HIV/AIDS among students in the United States and South Africa. Whitney, originally from New York, is now 25 years old and lives in Cape Town, South Africa.

For more information on Ubuntu Africa NFP, please visit the website <http://www.ubafrika.org>.