

THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2010

Reel Film Festival continues

The Reel Voices Film Festival at the Ridgewood Public Library will present "A Small Act" at 7:30 p.m. tonight. The documentary tells the story of a young rural Kenyan student and the woman whose donation turned his life around.

When Hilde Back sponsored Chris Mburu so that he could go to school, she thought nothing of it. She certainly never expected to hear from him, but years later she does. Now a Harvard graduate and a human rights lawyer for the United Nations, Mburu decides to find the stranger that changed his life. Inspired by her generosity, he starts a scholarship program of his own and names it for his former benefactor.

The top students in Mukubu primary school are in the exact same situation as Chris once was. They are bright, but can't afford to pay school fees. With the creation of Chris' fund, these stu-

dents have new hope. But the program is small; how many will qualify for a scholarship?

Using a strong narrative, the film interweaves seemingly separate lives into a cohesive whole. With clarity and grace, "A Small Act," bears witness to the ripple effect a single action can create.

Speaking after the film will be Shannon McNamara, United Nations Youth Achievement Award Winner for her work in East Africa. She will be answering questions and also focusing on girl's education, since the movie touches on that topic. She will be providing some real life examples of what she saw when she visited schools in Tanzania.

For more information about the film festival see ridgewoodlibrary.org or call 201-670-5600, ext. 114.

For more information about McNamara, see shareinafrica.org or facebook.com/shareinafrica.

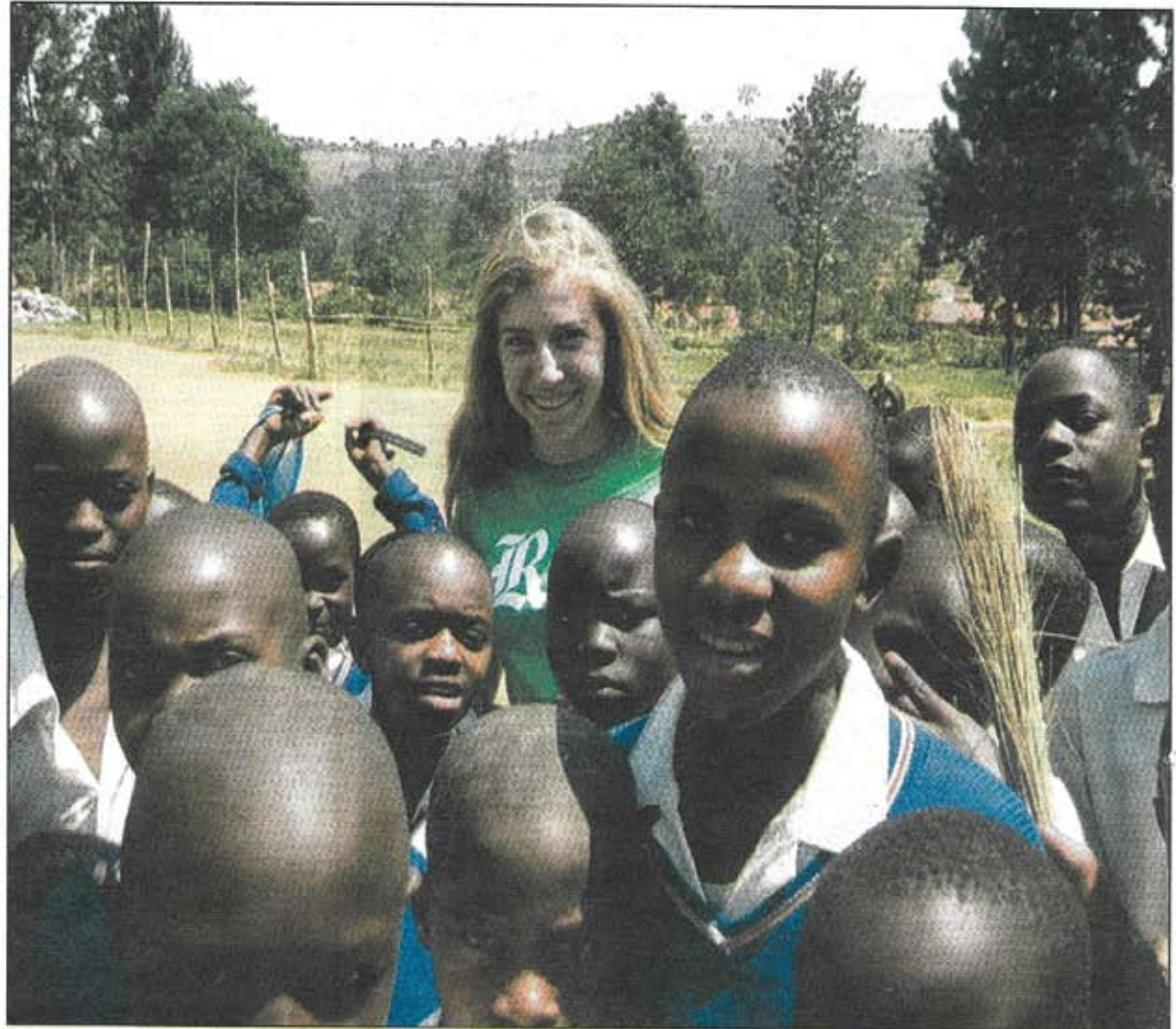


PHOTO COURTESY OF SHANNON MCNAMARA

Shannon McNamara will be speaking about her work in East Africa after the showing of "A Small Act" at the Ridgewood Public Library tonight.