

the ROOT

Brooklyn Kids Lend a Hand in South Africa



[CNN's 'Black in America: The Sequel'](#) has taken the time to cover the efforts of "Journey for Change," a volunteer initiative spearheaded by Malaak Compton-Rock, wife of comedian Chris, which take at-risk teens from Bushwick, Brooklyn, pairs them with college-age mentors and sends them to South Africa to help AIDS orphans in South Africa. Compton-Rock requires that each student who takes part in the program sign a one-year contract to be global ambassadors--whose duties include "tell[ing] their friends and neighbors about their experiences -- through writing, blogging, photographs and speeches." No stranger to service, Compton-Rock is not merely trying to expand the horizons of underprivileged kids through travel. She often intones the words of her mentor Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund: "Service is the rent we pay for living."

And now, a tune to honor Bushwick's global ambassadors of "Journey for Change"