

MORE REALITY: "Oprah's Big Give" judge Malaak Compton-Rock believes everyday people have vindicated the show that was met by an onslaught of critical barbs when it debuted.

Critics of "Oprah's Big Give" — which has its season finale this Sunday, April 20 — have claimed it has an "unsavory aura of exploitation," that it would make viewers "cynical about charity," and that philanthropy was inconsistent with the whole competition reality genre. But as far as the philanthropist wife of comic Chris Rock is concerned, "This show has inspired people to give in such good ways, and I'm not just talking about our contestants. I am stopped on a daily basis by people all over the country who want to tell me how the show has changed their lives and that they realize now how much they can do in their own community. There are really simple things that make a difference in people's lives. The one thing I'd like to get out there is, whether 'Big Give' is on the air or not, people can still keep on giving locally, globally or on an international level. There will always be information on giving back on Oprah's website, www.oprah.com, and mine, www.angelrockproject.com.

Compton-Rock — whose humanitarian endeavors include a nonprofit organization call StyleWorks for women on welfare, and Hope Worldwide to aid the poor in South Africa — says, "I told Oprah I believe she's started a movement. There's a little 9-year-old girl I know who's a big fan of my husband. She told me after 'Big Give' aired, 'I really love your husband, but now you're my hero.' She's watching the show and she gets it. To me that was so special. I couldn't be more pleased."