



Meet our Ambassadors! In their own words...

The following Journey for Change 2: Empowering Youth Through Global Service Ambassadors are traveling to Johannesburg, South Africa in August 2010 as part of a rich volunteer, advocacy, and educational program both globally and within the U.S. The Journey for Change program strives to uplift the lives of our youth so that they not only have a vision for their own lives, but can also empower those around them by living a life of purpose and service. Ultimately, we aim to create global leaders engaged in civic, political, and social change.



Alysia Roberts, Age 14

About Me:

I am an 8th grader from Thomas Warren Fields Middle School in Brownsville, Brooklyn. When I am not in school I like being with my friends. I enjoy dancing, swimming and playing sports. I like reading mystery book. And my favorite is "Gilda Joyce Physic Investigator." My favorite movie is "Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins." I would like to be a doctor.

About Journey for Change:

I am glad to be a part of Journey for Change because it is a fun and life changing experience. I think I will benefit from this opportunity as much as the people of South Africa will. I am blessed and grateful for this privilege. It will give me a new perspective and change the way I think about myself and others.

About the World:

The issues that are important to me are poverty and HIV/AIDS. I would also like to see more being done about the lack of clean drinking water and the amount of deaths as a result of that.



Aneudy Taveraz, Age 13

About Me:

When I am not in school, I like reading and drawing. I also like playing basketball. I like watching horror movies. I like reading biographies. However, my favorite book is “The Diary of a Wimpy Kid.” When I grow up I would like to be teacher.

I'm funny and I'm important. I like playing football. In my free time I like rapping. I don't like playing basketball—it's boring to me. I'm a generous and kind person.

About Journey for Change:

As a Journey for Change participant I will be able to travel to South Africa and experience the culture. I will help assess the needs of teenage led and granny led households in Soweto and Johannesburg. I will play with the children and teach them how to play sports. Also, I will share my own experiences with them.

About the World:

I think the most important issue facing the world today is global warming. I do not believe enough is being done about it.



Brenden Archer, Age 12

About Me:

My favorite activities when I am not in school are playing video games and basketball. I also like playing on my computer and watching TV. My favorite movie is “Pineapple Express.” And my favorite book is “A Raisin in the Sun.” I have a passion for working with young people. I want to become a pediatrician after I graduate from college.

About Journey for Change:

The Salvation Army is all about service! What a great partnership between The Angelrock Project and The Salvation Army. By next year I will be too old for some of the programs at the center. Thank God for Journey for Change. They've just added three or more years of fun to it.

About the World:

I think we should pay more attention to hunger. There are a lot of people who are hungry and need food and water to survive. We should help them.



Bria Henry, Age 12

About Me:

One of my past times is track and field. I don't have a favorite movie. I like reading and my favorite book is "Experanza Rizing." I think I want to be a lawyer though it might change.

About Journey for Change:

I am happy to be a part of Journey for Change because I'll be able to help other people. I will try to make as many friends as possible while in South Africa. Also, I will talk and share my own experiences with them. This experience will change my life and I will always remember and keep it in a special place in my heart.

About the World:

I think we need to be more concerned with the environment. I was upset to see all the animals that died in the oil spill this summer. We should be more careful with our environment.



Briana Kirven, Age 13

About Me:

I want to be a professional dancer or a tennis player. My favorite book is “Miley Cyrus Now to Go.” I like scary movies.

About Journey for Change:

I like being a part of Journey for Change because it is inspiring. Sometimes we wish for a perfect life that is often hard to achieve. In many countries people are happy for what they have. But here in the United States most of us are not. I am grateful for being part of this program. I will make a difference in the lives of the people in South Africa by assisting them with shelter, food and by volunteering my time. I will benefit tremendously from the experience. It will set me on a path to succeed in life.

About the World:

Poverty is one issue I care about. It is everywhere and seems to have been with us forever.



Chanel Thompson, Age 13

About Me:

I like double-dutch and swimming. My favorite movie is “John Tucker Must Die.” My favorite book is “Quince Ceria.” I would like to join the US Arm Forces to be a Naval Officer.

About Journey for Change:

I want to be a part of Journey for Change because I can do what I love doing best: helping others. This trip to South Africa will change my whole life. It will be an experience like no other. If you think of all the suffering and diseases that are in Africa, being able to help in whatever way is a blessing.

About the World:

The issues that are important to me are crime and pollution.



Dara Hutchinson, Age 13

About Me:

In my free time I like riding my bike, singing and playing my steel pan. My two favorite books are “The Diary of a Wimpy Kid” and “Harry Potter” and “Twilight.” I also like watching the movie versions of “Harry Potter” and “Twilight.” I want to be a model when I am older.

About Journey for Change:

Journey for Change will make it possible for me to experience firsthand the South African culture and living conditions. I will show them love and care when I play with the children and meet the grannies. This experience will make me a stronger person. Journey for Change will also teach me how to speak out and take a stand to make a change in issues such as poverty and HIV/AIDS that are very important to the people of South Africa.

About the World:

I care about poverty and world hunger.



Devonte Wilson, Age 13

About Me:

I enjoy playing basketball. In fact when I am not in school you'll find me in a basketball court in the neighborhood. I don't read as much as I should and watch almost no TV at all. I would like to be a law enforcement officer after I finish school.

About Journey for Change:

Journey for Change will expose me to things and allow me to travel to places that wouldn't have been possible if I were not a part of this program. I will have the opportunity to serve the people of South Africa by helping them with housing, food and other basic necessities. This will boost my self-esteem and confidence.

About the World:

Education or the lack there of is a very important issue facing the world today.



Dijore Harris, Age 12

About Me:

My hobbies are singing and playing my steel pan. I also like playing basketball. I am going to be a basketball player when I get older. My favorite book is “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” and my favorite movie is “Friday.”

About Journey for Change:

I always wanted to make a difference in people’s lives. So applying to become an Ambassador of Journey for Change was not a problem. I was happy when I received the call from a staff member that I was accepted into the program. I think I can help with chores in some of the shanty towns in Soweto and Johannesburg, South Africa. My mom often says we have it good here in the United States. I can’t wait to find out for myself.

About the World:

I am fascinated by natural disasters such as earthquakes. They surprise us most of the time. And very often we are helpless.



Dorian Anderson, Age 13

About Me:

I enjoy playing football and basketball. But what I like the most is karate. For a career, I am interested in becoming an international Chinese translator or an inventor. Although I don't have a favorite book, I like reading.

About Journey for Change:

Journey for Change will expose me to things I never thought possible. It will allow me to travel to places that wouldn't have been possible if I were not a part of this program. The opportunity to serve others on the other side of the world, will give me an awareness of poverty on a global level. I am looking forward to working with the grannies and meeting teenagers who are the head of their households.

About the World:

I think we should address world hunger and I would like to see people all over the world get access to an education.



Douglas Williams, Age 14

About Me:

Basketball is my passion. I love to play the game and one day hope to be a professional basketball player. I also like to spend time with friends while we play sports and also watch games on TV.

About Journey for Change:

I am excited to be a part of Journey for Change because I have never done anything like this before. I have never thought about going to anywhere else in the world, so I think it will be fun to both meet other children my age and see how different their lives are than mine. I want to teach them to play basketball.

About the World:

I think more need to be done about HIV/AIDS here in Brooklyn as well as around the world. People should get tested and also know about the drugs they need to take to stay alive if they are positive.



Emani Hears, Age 13

About Me:

I like to shop and listen to music. I have two career goals. Either I am going to be a model or a dancer. My favorite book is “Double Dutch” by Sharon Draper. I like watching TV. My favorite movie is “Love and Basketball.”

About Journey for Change:

I enjoy working and helping others and Journey for Change is the perfect program to be a part of. I am looking forward to our trip to South Africa in August. I hope to learn about the daily struggles of the kids we meet. I will have fun helping with housing and any repairs that need to be done.

About the World:

HIV/AIDS is a big problem in Brooklyn and around the world. I think more people need to know more about how many people are infected the disease and what they can do to protect themselves.



Gabrielle Bradley, Age 12

About Me:

I am fun to be with. I am very reserved and a little shy, but sweet. But when you get to know me, you will want to be my friend. I like staying home and help my mother with different activities around the house. I also like being on the computer when I am done with my home work. I want to be a teacher.

About Journey for Change:

I want to be a part of Journey for Change because I would like to learn a lot about the country of South Africa. I would also like to learn about how the people live and eat. I think I can help them by getting them the basic necessities. This experience will change my life in so many ways. For example, I stop wasting food and anything else because I know how much people in other parts of the world need it.

About the World:

HIV/AIDS is the most important issue facing the world today. People are dying from it every day. There is a lot that can be done to prevent it.



Jasmine Brown, Age 14

About Me:

I am quiet and affectionate. My favorite activity is listening to music. I also enjoy reading. My favorite book is “The Diary of the Lost Black Girl.” I also like to watch TV and go to the movies. When I get older, I would like to become a pediatrician.

About Journey for Change:

I want to be a part of Journey for Change because I heard so many great things about it. This experience will change me and make me appreciate what I am blessed with. I will have fun helping the children in Johannesburg and Soweto, South Africa.

About the World:

I would like to see people all over the world have access to education.



Jordan Griffin, Age 11

About Me:

I enjoy playing basketball and computer games. My friends and I are always on the basketball court. I also like to play a lot of other sports. My favorite book is “Harry’s Mad.” I would like to be a basketball, football or baseball player when I grow up.

About Journey for Change:

There are a lot of poor children in Diepsloot, South Africa. I am eager to meet them, which I think will then make me more grateful for all the things I have here in the United States.

About the World:

The biggest concern facing the world right now is trying to help repair the damage done by the BP Oil spill.



Kaela Jones, Age 12

About Me:

I am very generous and kind. I am always of good humor. I like playing board games with my mother and double-dutch with my friends. I like reading and my favorite book is “The Bully.” When I watch movies, I like to watch comedies. My favorite movie is “Big Fat Liar.” When I grow up I would like to be a lawyer.

About Journey for Change:

I made it! Two years ago when Journey for Change started I was too young to apply for it. But this year since I am twelve years old, I was able to apply and selected as one of the thirty young people from Brooklyn to join the program. I enjoy helping other people. Because of Journey for Change I can connect with my African roots. I hate to see people suffer. I am happy for all the things that I have. But it is sad to know people are suffering, not only in Soweto and Diepsloot, but in Brooklyn too. It is good to be able to help.

About the World:

I think we need to care more about the planet. There are a lot of ways people can change their daily life to save the environment.



Kavon Williams, Age 12

About Me:

I like playing ball. My favorite sports are basketball, football and soccer. I enjoy reading and thought “The Diary of a Wimpy Kid” by Jeff Kenny was very funny. I want to be a doctor when I grow up.

About Journey for Change:

I think I will have a good time being a Journey for Change Ambassador. It will be a wonderful experience to see how the South Africans live. I wish their living standards were like ours here in America. I think this experience will show me how to appreciate the things I take for granted here in Brooklyn.

About the World:

The BP Oil spill really hurt the environment. There were so many pictures of animals that died and the Gulf of Mexico looked black! I think companies need to be more responsible for their actions if it is hurting the environment. Plus, it’s dangerous!



Keara Sheppard, Age 14

About Me:

I love singing and reading. I like reading Harry Potter books. My favorite movie is “Twilight: New Moon.” I haven’t made up my mind yet on a career choice.

About Journey for Change:

I wanted to be a part of Journey for Change because I think it will affect my life, tremendously. It will change the way I look at things and it will make me feel like I made a change in someone else’s life. This opportunity will change my life in many ways. It will give me a chance to learn about a new culture and experience how fortunate we are in the United States. This trip will mean so much to me spiritually. It is a true blessing to be chosen to be an Ambassador for change.

About the World:

I think the biggest issue facing the world is poverty. There are so many people who live on so little around the world, but we have so much here in the United States. I wish we could help share what we have here to make their lives better.



Keion Staton, Age 13

About Me:

I am outgoing and easy to get along with. I like telling jokes. My favorite subjects in school are Science and English and I am doing much better in school than I was last semester. I enjoy basketball and playing in the band. I play the drums and from time to time, I play piano. For a career, I am interested in computer engineering or architectural engineering.

About Journey for Change:

I am thankful to be a part of Journey for Change because I always wanted to travel and have fun. I also want to help people who are less fortunate than I am. I want to learn a lot about my ancestors and the continent of Africa as a whole.

About the World:

I think there is too much crime in our neighborhood. We should feel safe to walk around the block and not have to worry about getting hurt.



Kristian Capers, Age 12

About Me:

I am very articulate and detail oriented. I enjoy drawing and reading. My favorite book is “City of Bones.” For a career, I would like to be a forensic scientist.

About Journey for Change:

It's good to help someone who is less fortunate than you are. To have everything I do and to not be happy, then see people who live on a dollar a day be happy is shocking. It is rewarding to be a part of Journey for Change because it will offer great educational opportunity to me.

About the World:

I think pollution is the most important issue facing the world today. It doesn't take anything to pollute. Rich or poor we all do it.



Laquan Dickenson, Age 13

About Me:

My favorite subjects in school are Science and English and I am doing much better in school than I was last semester. I enjoy basketball and playing in the band. I play the drums and from time to time, I play piano. My favorite book is “Bully” and my favorite movie is “Friday.” When I get older, I want to be a basketball player or a doctor.

About Journey for Change:

Journey for Change will expose me to things and allowed me to travel to places that wouldn't have been possible if I were not a part of this program. I want to make the best of this a great opportunity. It will help me appreciate life and more grateful for what I have.

About the World:

I think the most important issue facing the world is safe sex.



Maria Nunez, Age 14

About Me:

I like reading novels and writing. My favorite books are “A Matter of Trust” and “Push.” My favorite movie is “Diary of a Mad Black Woman.” I would like to be a model or fashion designer.

About Journey for Change:

A lot of us kids have it good and don't know it. I think the experience of being part of Journey for Change will wake me up and I will in return share it with my friends. Having my brother as an alumnus helps me put things in perspective and I really think I am ready for the journey. I have a passion for helping others.

About the World:

I am concerned about teen violence and how it has had a negative impact on our communities.



Marie Solivan, Age 14

About Me:

I like having fun and play computer games and chat with my friends. I also like playing sports. My favorite book is “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.” I would like to be a lawyer.

About Journey for Change:

It is a privilege to be able to go on a free trip to South Africa. This is a unique opportunity. I will share my experience of being an American living in Brooklyn with the people I am going to meet in South Africa. I will also learn so much from them. Just the thought of visiting South Africa is exciting. I can't wait to taste the food, experience the culture and go on a safari.

About the World:

I care about a lot of issues. But the most important one is homelessness.



Myah Lynch, Age 12

About Me:

I am very nice and quiet. When I am not in school, I enjoy reading along with arts & crafts. My favorite book is “It’s Raining Cup Cakes.” You can also find me riding my bike in the neighborhood and playing double-dutch with my friends. My favorite movie is “Zombie Land.” If all goes well, I hope to be a pediatrician.

About Journey for Change:

I am looking forward to the Journey for Change trip because I want to learn and experience the African culture, South Africa in particular. It's a privilege to help and serve as a Journey for Change Ambassador just like my mother served in Iraq. I will definitely learn to be more appreciative of what I have and be thankful.

About the World:

People are always talking about being more “green” so I think if we paid more attention to those advertisements and suggestions we can find ways save the planet. We should make sure to recycle and save water.



Nia Bey, Age 13

About Me:

I love sports and reading. I read almost anything I can get my hands on. One of my favorite books is “To Kill a Mockingbird.” I also like watching TV. My favorite movie is “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.” I want to be a lawyer.

About Journey for Change:

I want to be a part of Journey for Change because I want to make a difference in the world. I just want to play with the children when I get to South Africa. I want to make them feel happy and loved. This experience will change my life by making me more grateful for everything I have. I will be more caring and less selfish.

About the World:

I am most concerned about global warming. It’s getting hotter and hotter every year.



Rochelle Chambers, Age 13

About Me:

I like reading books and magazines; if I am not helping my mother in the kitchen, I am outside playing riding my bike or playing double-dutch with my friends. I like writing poems. I also like painting, designing clothes, dancing and stepping. My favorite book is “The Witch of Blackbird Pond.” I have a number of movies that I like, but my favorite ones are “Big Mama’s House 2,” “Ruby Bridges,” and “Step up 2.” I would like to be an actress; but if that doesn’t work out I’ll be a lawyer.

About Journey for Change:

I want to be a part of Journey for Change because I would like the people of South Africa to know that they are not alone in their struggle. I want them to know that there are people in Brooklyn who care for them and would like for them to have access to HIV/AIDS medications and being able to receive the treatments they need. This trip will help me to appreciate more what I have and be grateful.

About the World:

I would like to see more people getting HIV/AIDS treatments, especially in Africa.



Shakirah Brown, Age 14

About Me:

I like sports, music and dance. I love singing and sometimes writing and reading. My favorite book is “Jane Eyre” by Charlotte Bronte. My favorite movie is “Grease.” I would like to be an artist or a model.

About Journey for Change:

The reason why I wanted to be a part of Journey for Change is to find out what it is like to live in South Africa. This will be my first time ever being on a plane. Having heard staff members talk so highly about their experiences there makes me want to live in South Africa. I am excited also at the thought of helping my brothers and sisters there.

About the World:

HIV/AIDS, pollution and lack of water are some of the most important issues facing the world today.



Shari Clark, Age 13

About Me:

I like drawing, reading and dancing. I like playing double-dutch with my friends. My favorite book is "Othello." My favorite movie is "Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins." After I finish school, I would like to be an artist and a model.

About Journey for Change:

I want to be a part of Journey for Change because I want to see how people live in South Africa and how I can help make a difference in their lives. I want to speak out and raise awareness about HIV/AIDS in South Africa. I would like to make sure people are getting the treatments they need to live productive lives.

About the World:

There are two very important issues that I care about. The first one is HIV/AIDS around the world and the US economy.



Taijah Jones, Age 14

About Me:

When I am not in school, I like to dance and sometimes swim. I also read a little. My favorite book is “Blood is Thicker.” My favorite movie is “Crooklyn.” I would like to become a professional dancer and a model.

About Journey for Change:

One of the reasons why I want to be part of Journey for Change is because I had a pen pal from Sierra Leone. This was a few years ago while I was in 5th grade. It was something we worked on for about a year. Since this experience I always wanted to travel to Africa. So I really like Journey for Change my dream is about to come true. I will show the people of Diepsloot that there are people in other parts of the world like myself who care about them and would like a better living condition for them.

About the World:

I think we should help poor people around the world and in the United States.



Tyler Williams, Age 13

About Me:

I like to listen and make music. When my homework is done, I enjoy playing the piano and the clarinet. I also like sports such as basketball, baseball and football. One of my favorite books is “Rich Dad Poor Dad.” I like watching “Pursuit of Happiness.” I would like to have a career in Air Force as a pilot, or become an engineer or a law enforcement officer.

About Journey for Change:

As soon as I heard and learned about Journey for Change I realized that I've always been very interested in helping others and that this would be a great opportunity. Since I've been selected to be a part of Journey for Change I want to continue to volunteer more than I used to. I think I will be very effective in South Africa and also in the program.

About the World:

I think the reason why we are facing so many issues in the world today is because we as a people wait too long before we act and do something about anything.