

My whole life will be different

THIRTY STUDENTS FROM THE BUSHWICK COMMUNITY CENTER EMBARK ON A JOURNEY TO CHANGE THE LIVES THEY LIVE AND THE WORLD THEY LIVE IN

"AFTER THIS TRIP MY WHOLE LIFE will be different, and my whole personality will change," wrote twelve-year old Vandeeshia Walker in a CNN blog post.

How did a pre-teen from Brooklyn end up blogging for CNN?

One of thirty young people participating in Journey for Change: Empowering Youth Through Global Service, a program organized by humanitarian Malaak Compton-Rock, Vandeeshia and a group of her peers recently had the opportunity of a lifetime: an all-expense paid trip to South Africa.

Compton-Rock was inspired by her husband comic Chris Rock's childhood experience with The Salvation Army's Bushwick Summer Camp. For this reason, she recruited participants for Journey for Change from The Salvation Army's Bushwick recreation and tutoring programs.

Compton-Rock's idea: use travel to expand the worldviews of children living in a neighborhood that faces drug trafficking, a rising crime rate, and high levels of poverty.

In South Africa, the participants met with orphaned and vulnerable children, making friends and distributing necessities to help fill pressing needs.



