

Thulani Madondo, AfroAmerica Network Black Man of 2012.



Thulani Madondo is one of the founders and an Executive Director for the Kliptown Youth Program (KYP), in South Africa. He is responsible for communicating with various stakeholders, including corporations, non government organizations (NGO), government institutions, and volunteers, and is responsible for fundraising.

Born in Soweto, South Africa, the 30-year old Thulani Madondo struggled as a child growing up in the slums of Kliptown, where his youth project is currently based. Kliptown Youth Program provides basic necessities to the children in the slums, the necessities his parents could not afford for their kids. These necessities include school uniforms, meals, tutoring and after-school activities to 400 children in the community.

His motto is **“educating children, so that we may change Kliptown together.”**

He can relate to the kids he is helping: when growing up he shared a one-room shack with seven other siblings and lived in and walked the alleys of the slum of Kliptown.

His family was too poor to afford paying tuition. He found a way: washing cars for school fees, he was able to graduate from high school and went on to earn needed professional certificates from Wits University and the University of Johannesburg. He was the first in his family to obtain a high school diploma.



His work has allowed him to travel the world and become a true leader. During a trip to the United States he met former US President Bill Clinton. But most importantly, he has changed and is changing the lives of hundreds of children and his work is transforming the slums of Johannesburg, South Africa into a city of hope. His work has been so praised around the World, that he was nominated to be a 2012 CNN hero.