

Rev. Anthony Evans

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Rev. Anthony Evans has fought tirelessly to reduce health disparities, foreclosure, homelessness and black on black crime as well as promote financial literacy and help to preserve environmental justice across the country.

While still a college student, Rev. Evans mobilized local colleges in Vermont to donate \$15,000 to the investigation of the Atlanta child killings in the early eighties.

A native of Savanna, Ga., Rev. Evans earned a Bachelor's degree in Religion in 1981 from Middlebury College, Vermont. Rev. Evans was ordained in 1982 and went on to earn a Master's in Divinity in 1988 from Howard University School of Divinity.

He became NBCI's president in 1992 and continues to work on behalf of social and economic justice issues. He leads a coalition of 34,000 churches across the country fighting against health disparities, promoting financial literacy, protecting babies from abuse and neglect, and helping to preserve the environment.

In 1989, Rev. Evans publicly showed the ferventness of his convictions when he was arrested during a protest in front of the South African embassy until the end of minority rule and the freeing of Nelson Mandela. He helped continue that protest for nearly two years.

In 2005 in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Rev. Evans and the NBCI mobilized over 15,000 volunteers to serve in the disaster relief effort. These volunteers came from NBCI member and sister churches. The volunteers came from many ethnic backgrounds, illustrating NBCI's policy of an interfaith and interracial approach to solving social problems. NBCI churches, along with other minority churches across the country, helped to raise more than \$1 billion in cash and social services.

In July 2006, Rev. Evans participated in a massive protest outside the Sudanese embassy to denounce the country's role in the genocide of its African citizens. In 2010 Rev. Evans organized a group of young hip hop artists and traditional black church leaders to launch an intensive initiative to aid Haiti and Haitians. He committed NBCI for seven years to work through Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention to aid in the reconstruction of Haiti, especially in the areas of housing, parenthood, economic development and civil society.

Rev. Evans is now launching three significant programs that will affect millions of African Americans over the next seven years: NBCI's Health Emergency Declaration, NBCI's Financial Literacy Initiative, and NBCI's Educational Initiative.

Rev. Evans has a clear understanding of how public policy affects and determines the impact of these issues in which the black church fights for and against. He is determined to preserve the moral authority of the black church's voice in the public square.

Brief History of NBCI

In 1991 a group of African American ministers in Washington, D.C., from various religious denominations in the metropolitan got together and launched the DC Black Church Initiative. They formed a coalition to address racial disparities in healthcare and responded to an urgent need at the time for expanded human and social services in the District of Columbia.

The Black church has historically filled the role of forming the moral conscience of its people and the entire American society, providing guidance on issues of race relations, fairness, peace and justice. The Black church is steadfast in its refusal to be a part of a society bent on undermining or not fully reporting the enormous contributions and achievements of the Black people.

In the African American tradition, church pastors have the authority of prophets and the ability to galvanize their communities and move them to action. NBCI remains committed to utilize the full power of the Black church to continually create the “beloved community,” as the Rev. Martin Luther King said.

Under the leadership of a founding minister and president, Rev. Anthony Evans (see bio), NBCI uses a powerful national network 34,000 African American and Latino churches to eradicate racial discrepancies in healthcare, education and housing. NBCI also works to preserve the environment.

The NBCI network is actively engaged in multiple programs and activities. In 2008 the Board of directors decided that NBCI should take leadership in broad areas of its mission. This is why it has spent two years researching our next steps and in 2010 will be kicking off many major initiatives as listed below:

[NBCI Health Emergency Declaration \(HED\)](#)

The National Black Church Initiative Health Emergency Declaration (HED) is a comprehensive approach to tackling the tragic state of health in the Black community. Through the establishment of 35 health prevention communities, HED plans to educate communities across the country and promote preventive healthcare. Because of the Black Church’s leading role in the Black community, HED will have a greater and lasting impact on the African American community and seriously help to decrease the health disparities that are so prevalent within it.

[NBCI Financial Literacy Initiative](#)

The National Black Church Initiative launches the most progressive savings plan in the nation’s history, asking African American families to save one year’s salary over the next seven years with its Savings for Life Program. During the good years of harvest God urged the people of Israel to store grain because there would be bad years. Given the economic principles that you cannot have continuous growth, you have to prepare yourself, your family and your community for the years where there is no growth at all. We are experiencing these times now.

[NBCI Housing Literacy Program](#)

The National Black Church Initiative teamed with national mortgage and housing organizations to provide congregants and the public with information on how to keep their home. The first initiative product was the NBCI Foreclosure Prevention Guide, to help identify resources for the explicit purpose of assisting homeowners facing financial difficulties.

The program has grown to include the [Ten Easy Steps to Help Stop Foreclosure](#) guide to help homeowners navigate the housing crisis, and information for those intending to be first time homebuyers.

NBCI Small Business Enterprise

Within the faith based community there are more than 50,000 small businesses, the engine of our nation's economic life. NBCI's objective is clear; we plan to organize them, educate them and empower them by providing informative material and seminars free of charge. NBCI will emphasize the traditional routes of government assisted small business programs, but we will also introduce these small businesses to creative financing, targeted marketing, how to sustain and maintain cash flow, and how to create an effective business plan that is implementable.

The Baby Fund

The Baby Fund is a response to the rising tide of abuse, neglect, and death among infants and young children in our society. The Fund will be both a source of assistance and advocacy to meet the needs of children who have little or no voices of their own. The universal Church has a moral obligation to protect children. The philosophical and theological underpinnings of the Fund can be understood by all faith communities, noting the supreme value placed upon children in scripture when God said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for such is the kingdom of God."

NBCI Education Initiative

The National Black Church Initiative has devised an Education Initiative, and already have 250,000 volunteers working to drastically cut the dropout rate among young African American males and to increase graduation rates of males and females at the collegiate level, especially at historically black colleges and high school level across America. We hope to also focus on high school dropout rates among the weakest communities like Cleveland, New York, Detroit and Baltimore.

NBCI Digital Divide Initiative

Far too often minority communities lack the ability to get online and when they are online they do not have the income or ability to access the Internet in the same beneficial way that others do. NBCI is committed to helping organizations, churches and all others bring broadband Internet access into African American and Latino communities. We will work with the Internet and cable industry to achieve these tasks, and do not believe that there should be a constant line in the sand over these issues. The Internet should not be a racial dividing line in America.

NBCI Civil Society Initiative

A civil society lifts everyone to the same level of humanity, and forces people to deal with each other's humanity. Our ultimate goal is to erase human prejudice, discrimination, hatred and especially violence. This project compels the Black Church to go against the grain, and not be afraid to speak to the most powerful institution or individual. It will also require the Black Church to correct any level of ignorance and engage into conversation in order to transfer hate filled language into words of healing and dialog.

NBCI Environment Initiative

In the spring of 2010 NBCI will launch a comprehensive environmental initiative that will deal with environmental justice issues.