

WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY  
14 JUNE 2024



# Share life, give blood

We are the *pulse*

#Donate blood. Save lives

Celebrating a Lifetime of Giving. Thank You, Blood Donors.

TELL US YOUR STORY

# biography



**Thami Gazide**  
Zone Committee Member

## From Peer Promoter to Zone Committee Member

As we celebrate Youth Month, we are inspired by the young individuals who are making a profound difference in our communities. Among them is Thami Gazide, a beacon of hope and a testament to the power of passion and dedication. His journey, which commenced at the age of 16 when he joined the South African National Blood Service (SANBS) as a peer promoter in high school, is a source of inspiration. Motivated by the belief that a single blood donation could save up to three lives, he rallied his peers to donate blood, becoming a familiar face at blood donation drives. His story is a testament to the fact that with the right drive and determination, anyone can achieve greatness.

Thami's unwavering commitment and dedication led to his appointment as a non-voting branch donor committee member in 2016, and later in 2018, as a voting branch donor committee member. His leadership skills and passion for saving lives made him a natural fit for these roles. He collaborated closely with the SANBS team to organise blood donation drives, raise awareness about blood donation, and recruit new donors. His pioneering spirit shone through when he was elected as the first black and youngest chairperson of the branch, serving two consecutive terms. During his tenure, he led the branch to achieve a significant increase in blood donations. His exceptional leadership and dedication led to his election as a Zone Done donor committee member, a role he currently holds.

Thami's passion for saving lives extends beyond the SANBS. He established a nonprofit organisation that converts illegal dumping sites into community gardens, providing sustenance to those in need. His academic accomplishments, which are equally impressive, are a testament to his dedication and hard work. He earned a degree in International Relations from the University of South Africa and a Public Relations degree from the University of Cape Town. He is currently pursuing an honours degree in public management, with a focus on monitoring and evaluation. His academic pursuits have equipped him with the skills and knowledge to make a meaningful impact in his community and contribute to the South African National Blood Service, demonstrating that one can excel in both community service and education. Thami's leadership roles, from a peer promoter to a Zone Committee Member, further underscore his ability to balance academic excellence with active community involvement, inspiring us all to strive for similar multi-faceted success.

Thami's outstanding contributions to blood donation and community development have not gone unnoticed. He has been honoured by SANBS and other organisations for his exceptional work. In 2022, he was the proud recipient of President Cyril Ramaphosa's prestigious Student of the Year award, a testament to his exceptional leadership skills and dedication to his community.

Thami's message to young people is not just a simple statement but a powerful call to action: 'Believe in yourself, and never give up on your dreams. You have the power to make a difference, no matter how small you may feel. Reach out, open yourself up, and inspire others to do the same. Together, we can achieve greatness.' This message is a testament to Thami's belief in every young person's potential to create positive change, and it should inspire all of us to believe in our abilities and strive to make a difference in our communities.

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