

## CHFT-NACHU Youth Exchange Program Kenyan Partners



**Brian Nzomo Kavuwa:** Lives in Huruma in Nairobi Province. He is a volunteer with Reality-Tested Youth Program an organization of youth involved in shelter, HIV/aids and culture activities. He is 23 years old and a third year Bachelors of Education student at a local university. At the Reality-Tested Youth Program he is in charge of education and training activities. He is also a peer counsellor and hopes to share knowledge in youth activities. This organisation is also in the process of forming a housing cooperative for shelter development.



**Eddy Ndwigah Nyagah:** Lives in Mavoko town in the Eastern Province of Kenya. Both his parents are members of the Uvumilivu Housing Cooperative Society and his mother is the chairperson. He is 25 years old and has just completed a course as a flight attendant. He is a member and treasurer of the Mavoko Youth Housing Cooperative Society (MAYOCO) based in Athi River. He is glad to be part of the exchange program to Canada and hopes to learn much from the program as a new leader in the cooperative sector.



**Ruth Wamaitha Mwaura:** Lives in Kariobangi in Nairobi. She is 23 years old and undertaking a one year course in Mandarin. She is a member of youth operating under the Marura Housing Cooperative Society which have a youth programme and runs a project for children orphaned through HIV/AIDS. She volunteers her time with the project orphans. She wants to participate in the youth leadership and be involved in income generating activities and shelter issues.



**James Waweru:** Lives in Nakuru in the Rift Valley province. He is a 22 years old graduate of mechanical engineering from a local polytechnic school. He is a leader of the youth operating under the Kwa Rhonda Neighbourhood Housing Cooperative Society. He believes that the youth should come out and take action to make their lives better through engagement in cooperatives.



**Minneh Njeri Mwangi:** Lives in Nakuru town in the Rift Valley province. She is a young adult involved in small scale design, art and making of handicrafts. Her father is a member of the Upendo wa Jirani Housing Cooperative Society. She mentors young people who operate at this cooperative society.



**John Wachira:** He is the NACHU Community Training Manager. He has over twenty years experience in mobilization and strengthening community structures and youth activities at different levels. These include overseeing mainstreaming of gender and youth and HIV/AIDS in organizational programs. He believes that youth are the leaders of tomorrow, but that they also hold the potential to lead positive transformations today.

## PARTNER INFORMATION



The National Cooperative Housing Union (NACHU) is the umbrella organization for all housing cooperatives in Kenya. It was established and registered as a housing union in 1979 and began its operations in 1987. NACHU is a member based organization with about 230 affiliate primary housing cooperatives that have an estimated membership of approximately 200,000 people in Kenya. NACHU provides technical services to its members, and the majority of the target comprises women and children. HIV/AIDS was declared a disaster in Kenya and therefore mainstreamed in NACHU activities. NACHU has been working with youth on issues of leadership development, enhancing employment opportunities through vocational skills and access to credit, HIV AIDS and in general increase youth participation within the cooperative movement.

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The The Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto (CHFT) represents more than 45,000 people living in 168 non-profit housing co-operatives in Toronto and York Region. Since 1974, CHFT has promoted the development of new housing co-ops and provided services to existing co-ops. CHFT is a leader in member education offering over 80 workshops for co-op members and staff. CHFT has been actively facilitating leadership development among youth in housing co-ops in Toronto. This is linked to diversity / discrimination issues and supporting youth at risk, especially achieving their educational dreams. The CHFT Diversity Scholarship Program has highlighted the hard working, creative and dedicated young adults who live in member co-ops.

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Rooftops Canada is the international development program of co-operative and social housing organizations in Canada. Rooftops Canada works with partner organizations to improve housing conditions, build sustainable communities and develop a shared vision of equitable global development. Rooftops Canada is facilitating this exchange between CHFT and NACHU. Youth in housing co-ops in Kenya and Toronto will work together in a skills training exchange as the first step in a longer term capacity building partnership. The overall objective of the youth exchange is both to provide youth leaders with a significant self-development and growth opportunity; and, to help NACHU and Rooftops Canada learn more about supporting and working with housing co-op youth.

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