

PRESS RELEASE



Profile of Tim Challen

Name: Timothy Challen
Age: 33
Nationality: British
Organization: United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU)
Area of Residence: Geneva, Switzerland

Short history:

Tim was shot during an armed robbery in Nairobi, in May 2003. He has wanted to climb Mount Kilimanjaro from a very young age and now wants to do it with the added incentive of raising awareness towards crime prevention. During the past two years, Tim has worked on this initiative during his free time and has self-financed his travels to East Africa in preparation for the climb and its aim of reducing crime.

PROFILES OF 'YOUTHS'

Name: Gabriel Kerario
Age: 22
Group/Organisation: Sadili Oval
Area of residence: Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya

Short history:

I am 22 year old boy, who has completed Form 4 at Malezi School, where I was under sponsorship. I live in the sprawling slums of Kibera with my uncle since my mother passed away. My father lives in Kuria District near the border between Kenya and Tanzania, and its often too far away for me to visit him. I enjoy soccer and never miss a chance to play it at Sadili Oval, which is the ideal play area for me, because it is safe and close enough to the slums. I am privileged to play soccer at Sadili, for most of my peers back in the slum, this is just a pipe dream. The coaches there have been instrumental in assisting me improve my soccer skills, which has grown in leaps and bounds since I started playing there. I would like to see more young people like myself get inducted into the program, as it will help them get away, albeit momentarily, from the hardships of the slum where there are no proper playing areas for any kind of game, let alone soccer. Sadili keeps me fit and away from bad stuff like drugs, it helps me use my time better.

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Name: Gracie Anthonie Akinyi Ochuodho
Age: 24
Group/Organisation: Sadili Oval
Area of residence: Langata, Nairobi, Kenya

Short history:

I am a 24 years old girl brought up by a strict mother whose motto was "pray, get focused and aim higher". As a young girl, I was taught to respect everyone regardless of their position, status, tribe, gender or age, to never undermine anyone and anything as this was how you show the awareness of God. I was introduced to soccer by my brother when I was in preschool. I love the sport because you can enjoy it wherever you are, play it with anyone and space is never a hindrance. Due to its demand (use of the whole body) it needs one who doesn't use drugs, who loves associating with others and love teamwork. I have participated in many camps, tournament and individual competition like the famous Nairobi Coca Cola Pepeta thriller, where I represented Langata. Soccer is my third passion after God and my studies. I hope to be a computer programmer one day. I completed my O-levels in 2000 and my A-levels in 2003.

Name: Justin Nyabula
Age: 23 years
Group/Organisation: Pendo Moja Self Help Group
Area of residence: Eastlands, Nairobi, Kenya

Short history:

He is an ex mugger at the railway area in industrial area. He is now reformed and has been practicing boxing. He joined the Pendo Moja Self-help group two and a half years ago. He has now started a laundry business, where he works as the manager at the workshop. His main clients in the business are truck drivers. He has actively participated in crime awareness campaigns through the Pendo Moja Self-help Group. They recently organized a music concert in Makongeni area with the theme 'Youth For A Safer Nairobi.'

Name: Felix Oduori
Age: 19 years
Group/Organisation: Soweto Youth Group
Area of residence: Soweto, Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya

Short History:

Felix was brought up in Soweto village in Kibera informal settlement. He went to school in Kibera and is a volunteer with the Soweto Youth Group in Kibera that has been involved in empowerment of youth in the informal settlement. The group is involved in HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns through theatre, organizing sporting tournaments, environmental management and drug awareness campaigns. He is the current chairperson of the group. The group is planning to undertake garbage recycling as a means of generating income for the group members and improving the surrounding environment. The group is also working towards forming a conglomeration of all the youth groups in Kibera. Currently they are working with 15 other groups working in Kibera slums.

Name: Judy Waithera
Age: 21 years
Group/Organisation: KISUG Youth Group in Silanga, Kibera, Kenya
Area of residence: Silanga, Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya

Short History:

Judy was born in 1984 in Kibera slums and brought up by a single parent. She is a first born in a family of four and stays with her mother in Kibera. Having finished her secondary education, Judy who is unemployed helps her mother in her vegetable selling business. She is a very active youth and has been involved in various community based project in Kibera through KISUG (a community based self help group). Through the group she participates in community clean ups and garbage collection. Judy is the secretary of the committee that is facilitating the rehabilitation of a soccer field in the Silanga area. Together

with other youth she helped organize a friendly football match and the second 'Youth for a Safer Nairobi Concert' during the launch of the Kilimanjaro Initiative and Ground Breaking Ceremony for the rehabilitation of the soccer field. She likes traveling, making new friends, playing football and reading books. She has previously toured various places like Thompson falls and Nandi Hills during study tours.

Name: Godfrey Ten

Age: 27

Group/Organisation: Tandika Youth and Handicraft Group

Area of residence: Tandika, Temeke, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Short history:

I grew up in a family of six children and a single parent (My father passed away when I was 9 years old). I got my education to standard seven, I didn't manage to proceed with secondary education due to poverty, hence find myself engaged in a business of selling and using drugs in order to get basic needs. Year 2002, I was lucky to get a seminar of STEPSTONE from PASADA and get awarded with a certificate of taking care of people living with HIV/AIDS. Same year me and my friends and I established a group called TAYOHAG. The aim of the group was to fight against AIDS, and participate in fighting against drugs abuse. With the small capital from Safer Cities the group also works on handicrafts for income generation, making metal chairs, traditional necklace, mail cards, animal cartoons etc. In the group I am Vice Chairman.

Name: Abel Lisokime Cholobi

Age: 39

Group/Organization: MMSK

Area of residence: Kitunda, Ilala, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Short history:

I was a normal resident of Kitunda, and in the year 2000 major crime happened within the area where two people were killed during that criminal incident. Mr. Komba and I advised the Ward's Security and Defense Committee to establish a Sungusungu group within the area. I then joined Militia training, which is organized under Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF), where I passed the junior and senior militia courses. After I graduated I joined the Sungusungu group in Kitunda and at the moment I am a trainer of militia trainees within the area. We have played a pivotal role in making Kitunda the center for training Sungusungu and militia in Dar es Salaam and managed to eliminate crime incidents in Kitunda area. Apart from Sungusungu activities we are also engaged in development activities for income generation, like keeping poultry, goats, a vegetable garden, carpentry, fruits grinding and small food outlet etc. Initially the group got the capital fund for Poultry from Safer Cities and material support from Ilala Municipality, now the project has grown.

Currently crime incidents dramatically went down, we have widened our services by providing security guards (militia trainee) to security companies and to other private institutions like Schools.

Name: Rahim Niah

Age: 27

Group/Organization: Kilimani Youth Development Group

Area of residence: Temke, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Short history:

I got my education to form six, I didn't manage to proceed with higher education due to engaging my self in criminal activities. I am now a changed man, I need to study more in order to widen my contribution in the development of Kilimani Youth Development Group and to the whole community at large. Our group known as 'Kilimani Youth Development Group' deals with night watch activities, sensitizing youth to stop criminal behavior like theft and robbery, also convinced the guys to join the group and participate in development activities of the group (i.e. Carpentry, tent and chairs renting, Chips kiosk etc), especially after

getting support from Safer Cities Dar es Salaam. Also our group provides HIV/AIDS education and effects of using drugs to the neighboring community.

Name: Eliwaza Martin

Age: 25

Group/Organization: Matimba Arts Group

Area of Residence: Mwananyamala, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Short history:

I am a fourth born in a family of 9 children, and I am still leaving with my parents. I got my primary education in Ndago Primary School in Singida, I didn't manage to proceed with secondary education because my parents had no enough money to pay school fees. I am interested to study more (especially Computer Studies and English Course) in order to widen my contribution in the development of MATIMBA ARTS GROUP and to the whole community at large. I joined Matimba Arts Group in 2002 as actress, later the group expanded their activities to play tradition drums in which I participate as a dancer, singer and a drummer. Matimba Arts Group is currently involved in playing drama, traditional dances while addressing to the community issue like domestic violence, effects of HIV/Aids etc. The group was established four years ago in order to reduce number of unemployed youth in our community, and also participates in night watch activity "Sungusungu" in order to prevent crime. The group received support from Safer Cities Programme, technically and financially that helped a lot in strengthen the group in the field of income generation, now we are operating Mobile Phones' Accessories Kiosk and rent Chairs. The group has good organization, having a constitution and its own leaders, I am currently holding Group Treasure Post.

Name: Happy Ladslaus Kanje

Age: 20

Area of Residence: Moshi, Tanzania

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