

## FRED OCHOLLA OWINO – PERSONAL PROFILE DECEMBER 2012

My name is Fred Owino Ochola. I was born on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1994 to the late Robert Owino Ragot and the late Marceline Atieno Ragot in Nyandago, a rural village in Western Kenya along Kenya - Tanzania border on the shores of Lake Victoria.

I started my education at Oruba Complex Academy in 1999. During the same year my mother who was the only bread winner in the family died after my father's death. We thereafter had to move to our rural home to continue our schoolings there through the support of my late uncle's wife who was herself widow with very little income and a large family of her own to support. It was then that I experienced firsthand the combined impact of losing parents, poverty, deprivation and isolation. We had to share very little food with our cousins, very limited clothing for uniforms at school, no money for school levies and very limited psychosocial support and mentoring for our emotional development.

We barely managed through these hardships up to the year 2006 when I was in seventh grade at Mang'u Primary School when Activation Trust took my brother Kevin and myself for sponsorship. We then transferred to Oruba Complex Academy which is boarding school. Oruba Complex Academy had better facilities than our previous school and generally provided a much better academic environment. In addition to these, Activation Trust met all our personal needs which we otherwise lacked earlier, provided pastoral care, Environmental exposure tours and the Positive Life Skill Education which we had every triennial holiday workshops.

I sat my end of primary education - Kenya Certificate of Primary Education Examination (KCPE) in 2007 and qualified to join high school. The following year, I joined form one at Mirogi Boys High School where my brother Kevin had joined a year before. In a similar manner, Activation Trust still met all our tuition and personal expenses with relatives giving support by providing a place we can call home and the much needed protection from abuse and exploitation as children. I finally sat my end of secondary school education examination – the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Examination in 2011 and qualified with a mean grade of B- (B minus) which qualified me to join university.



I have been admitted to Moi University for a B.A. course in Project Planning and Management starting the year 2013. This is a four academic year programme costing a total of Kshs. 190,000 per year out of which Kshs. 146,000 will be for tuition and Kshs. 44,300 will be for accommodation, meals and personal expenses. From year 2, I will be eligible to apply for the Kenya Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) and Constituency Development Fund (CDF) out of which I am likely to generate Kshs.50,000 to supplement any external support.

I have attended 18 triennial workshops organized by Activation Trust on Environmental Management and Positive Life Skills. The sponsorship programme has made it possible for me to get involved in activities both at school and outside to achieve my academic goals and in addition, to develop a mature, success driven and self motivated personality. I have in the process acquired a deeper appreciation of qualities like time management, critical thinking, multitasking, team building, environmental conservation and protection. In high school I became the school timekeeper for two years, I participated in the school debating club, basket ball club, Young Christian Student and the Environmental Conservation