Raphael is a founder of Tears Group Kenya, a community and youth based organization consisting of artists using their creative arts talents to empower and create awareness among the youth in Kenya. Tears stands for "Theatre for Enhancement and Acceleration of Researched Solutions" and symbolizes the struggles by Kenyan youth for development. Established in 1998 by nine individuals, including Raphael, Tears Group Kenya began as a means to empower and enhance creativity among at-risk youth. The organization has been involved in creative performances in schools, communities and workplaces promoting reproductive health and civic engagement. Recently, Tears established a development and empowerment village on self-reliance and life-skills for Kenyan youth. Raphael has orchestrated many projects, some involving over 500 students, in the areas of environmental conservation, ecology, citizenship, and the performing arts. Raphael has fundraised and managed different youth projects funded by development partners like USAID, Global Fund, CDC, World Bank, Hewlett-Packard, and the United Nations.

"Before I joined this wonderful program I was like a hare, jumping and jumping, wanting to connect with everyone and everything. But when I came to Seattle, I learned something great: that jumping is not helping, but [what is], is to become a tortoise–to be silent in still waters and to start connecting with myself."

FUTURE HOPE:

To complete my Degree in Strategic Human Resources Development and initiate a Community Consulting & Leadership Training Centre.

3,370+ YOUTH
under 29 years old were reached through the Population & Health Programs by the end of 2013

7,500 PEOPLE
Annual population targeted by TEARS

FUTURE HOPE:

Increased community participation in TEARS programming through more coordination and sharing of resources by the community based organizations.

1,250 YOUTH
population in Nakuru County in Rift Valley were reached through The Civic Participation and Governance Programs by end of 2013

1,057 STUDENTS
have successfully completed the Livelihood Skills and Economic Empowerment Programs in the past 7 years

INDIVIDUAL

COMMUNITY

ORGANIZATION/NETWORKS

2 PROGRAM CENTERS
Community Resource Centre and Business Incubation Centre

175 YOUTH
Annual training capacity

5 PARTNER
Organizations around the globe

9 STAFF
8 BOARD MEMBERS
3 VOLUNTEERS

FUTURE HOPE:

For the organization to be more self-reliant. We need to continue strengthening and developing our existing TEARS Social Enterprise Business Unit to generate our own local revenue to support our work and mission. By the End of 2018, I would like for us to be supporting ourselves at least 60%.