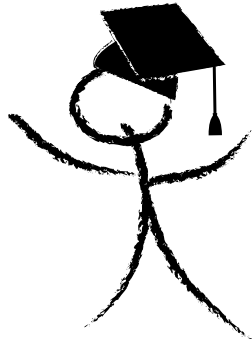


Helping Youth Through Educational Scholarships

# HYTES



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### Founding Members:

Directors:

- Harold Pliszka, B.H.Ecol.
- Pam Amulaku, B.S.W., M.S.S.
- Scott Muzychka, B.Comm., CA

Volunteers:

- Janet Pliszka, B.Comm.
- Jacqueline Ford, B.A., B.Ed.
- Eric Amulaku

### You can contact us at:

HYTES  
4676 Quentin Street SW,  
Calgary, Alberta T2T 6E1

Tel: (403) 291-9812  
Toll Free: (877) 250-6300

### Mission Statement

To help youth in developing nations to better themselves, their families and their communities by providing educational scholarships for secondary education.

### Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in any of the following opportunities Please contact us at [volunteer@hytes.org](mailto:volunteer@hytes.org):

1. HYTES' members who would like to contribute to the newsletter.
2. Volunteers to work on Leadership Package for use in Alberta schools.

### Annual General Meeting

We are planning to hold our first Annual General Meeting Thursday, June 8, 2006 at 7:00 pm in the Barclay Room at Bow Valley Square in Calgary. Invitations will be emailed to all paid members in the near future.

### Second Annual Summer Fundraiser

Save the date. We are planning to hold our second summer fundraiser on the afternoon of Sunday, July 23, 2006. As with our first fundraiser last August, this will be a family-friendly event and we will hold a silent auction and membership drive. More information will be released in the near future.

Please send an email to [2nd@hytes.org](mailto:2nd@hytes.org) if you, or someone you know, would like to donate to the silent auction.

### Tax Receipts

We issued our first round of receipts in February 2006 and will be issuing a second round in May 2006. The receipts issued in May will be for all donations greater than \$20.00 received between January 1, 2006 and April 30, 2006.

Receipts will again be issued via email so please let us know if you need them sent by Canada Post.

Thanks again for your donations!

### Student Profiles: Who are we supporting?

In January, February and May 2006, HYTES provided scholarships to four secondary students in Kenya and nine in Tanzania. Eric Amulaku interviewed the students and their guardians and delivered funds directly to the schools where he obtained signatures from the students, their guardian(s) and school officials.

You will notice many of the sponsored students have lost their parents and have had a difficult life. These details were provided in a salute to each student's resilience, spirit and desire to learn.

We feel our first group of recipients are very worthy and hope you will agree.

From 2001 to 2002, Michael was living on the streets of Nairobi, Kenya and then in a group home. HYTES' paid Michael's 2006 school fees and he is now studying Form One at a boarding



school near Nairobi. He is 16-years old, a boy scout and enjoys volleyball.

Anne is 14-years old and lives with her parents and three other siblings. She has often been sent home from school because her father, a casual labourer, could not afford her school fees. With a HYTES scholarship, she is now attending Form Two (grade ten) in a Nairobi girls school. Anne would like to study in University to become a doctor specializing in HIV/AIDS. She also loves trees and would like to intern with an environmental organization.



Jackline is 16 and lives with her parents in Nairobi. She is now attending Form Two and will work on her grades so she can go to University. She hopes to use her education to help her family out of poverty.



Aziza's father passed away before she started grade eight and she lives with her mother in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. She is now in Form One and wants to study medicine after secondary school to become a doctor. She says, "This is my vision and I will not give up until I achieve my dreams".



Esther is 17 and lives with her mother in Dar es Salaam. She is currently studying Form Three (grade eleven). Her mother is unemployed and unable to pay Esther's school fees. Hadija lives in Dar es Salaam with her



mother. Hadija's father passed away in 2000 and her mother is unemployed and unable to afford school fees. She would like to study journalism when she is finished secondary school.

Irene lives with her mother's friend in Nairobi and is using a HYTES scholarship to attend Form One (grade nine) at a provincial girls school. Her dream job is to become a doctor so can "be serving other people".



Laila's parents passed away in 1998. She currently lives with a guardian in Dar es Salaam. Her guardian is ill and does not have enough money for school fees. HYTES paid her 2006 school fees and she is now studying Form Two (grade ten). Laila wants to attend University and become a doctor so she can help people "who are suffering from diseases".



Lingasiku lives alone in Dar es Salaam and is attending Form Three (grade eleven) with a scholarship from HYTES. Her mother passed away in 1997 and her father in 2005. Siku would to study law after finishing secondary school.



Salaam, Tanzania. Rukia's father has passed away and her mother is ill and unable to work. She is 17-years old and is using a HYTES scholarship to study Form Two (grade ten). Rukia wants to continue on to University to become a doctor so she can help women like her mother. She would also like to be a "Minister of Rights for Women and Children" so she can promote human rights for women and girls in Tanzania.

Madaha has five brothers and sisters and lives with his mother in Dar es Salaam. He is studying Form Three at a National Boys School and plans to keep himself safe by avoiding HIV/AIDS.



Alfred's father passed away early in life and he lives with a guardian in Dar es Salaam. His guardian paid for some of his Form Three school fees and then lost his job. HYTES paid his remaining fees in early May 2006.



Abimelek is currently studying Form Three and hopes one day to become a doctor so he "can save mama's life". Abi's mother became ill last year and so was unable to pay his school fees. He would also like to learn more about computers.



Peter's father was a Congolese musician and his mother was Kenyan. He

**Donate Online at:**  
[www.hytes.org/ch](http://www.hytes.org/ch)  
*Service provided by CanadaHelps.org*  
Rukia lives with her mother in Dar es



now lives with his uncle and his family in Nairobi. Peter is currently attending class eight and plans to start Form One next January 2007 with the help of a HYTES scholarship. Peter would like to attend University and get a good job so he can help his mother's relatives.

## A Special Thank You

Frederick's father has a good job and so did not ask for a scholarship. He instead passed out application forms to people he knew that needed help with school fees. We are greatly indebted to Fredy and always look forward to his emails.



## Financial Statements

*Written by Harold Pliszka using figures provided by Scott Muzychka.*

Please see below for our unaudited interim Statement of Operations and Net Assets. As of April 30, 2006, HYTES' raised \$7,890 from donations, silent auction

HELPING YOUTH THROUGH EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS	
Statement of Operations and Net Assets	
For the period from commencement of operations on May 1, 2005 to April 30, 2006	
<b>Revenue:</b>	
Donations	\$ 5,589
Fundraising – silent auction, net of expenditures of \$55	1,651
Membership fees	650
	7,890
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
Scholarships awarded – Kenya (4 students, average cost \$660)	2,640
Scholarships awarded – Tanzania (8 students, average cost \$74)	592
Program costs	1,066
General and administration	318
	4,616
Excess of revenue over expenditures	3,274
Net assets, beginning of period	-
Net assets, end of period	\$ 3,274

and membership fees. We paid \$3,232 in scholarships to students in Kenya

and Tanzania. Program costs included honourarium for our volunteer in Kenya and his travel and accommodations while in Tanzania. \$318 went to general and administration costs. The bulk of the remaining funds will go towards scholarships in January 2007.

HYTES' fiscal year-end is April 30, and we will announce complete and final financial statements prior to the Annual General Meeting in June.

## Movie Review: Tsotsi (2006)

*Written and Directed by Gavin Hood and based on the novel by Athol Fugard.*

*by Jacqueline Littlewood*

As the film "Tsotsi" opens, we see our first glimpse of Johannesburg's Soweto township as the sun rises over the shantytown. We meet Tsotsi and his gang of three playing dice in Tsotsi's home; we see that Butcher's ability to successfully play the game is severely limited by his inability to add the two die together correctly. These teenagers have no education, family or even real community to ground them or give them direction. They live a life of daily desperation, navigating their world by their own obscure rules and moral code. As the film unfolds, we see that Tsotsi's

penchant for silence masks inner turmoil – the events which transpire lead to a personal awakening in him and a new sense of the value of all life.

A tragic chain of events begins as Tsotsi and his gang - brutal Butcher, bookish Boston and affable Apa - set out to the train station for a job. Here in

the station and repeatedly throughout the film viewers are reminded via huge billboards that everyone in Africa is affected by HIV or AIDS; at this juncture however, we don't yet know how it has affected Tsotsi's gang. Once the gang has marked a scarf merchant as their target and Butcher has brutally stabbed and killed him on the subway, we quickly learn how Tsotsi's gang survives in the world.

The group make their way to a drinking hole in the 'shacks' – Boston is drinking more heavily than the others and appalled by what he deems the lack of 'decency' in the others. He seems to consider Butcher beyond hope, but berates Tsotsi for the killing, probing relentlessly to reveal signs of remorse in him. Boston cuts his own arms with a broken bottle telling Tsotsi that is how he feels inside and asking if the loss of someone – a mother, father, girl, or even a dog hadn't made him feel that way. As we later learn in a series of flashbacks, Tsotsi has lost all of those things – and also his name, David. David was a young boy trying to comfort his dying mother when his drunken father berated him for being near her and kicked his dog so hard he broke its back. Traumatized, David ran away to live with other children in stack of concrete culverts, learning to fend for himself and becoming the young man now known as Tsotsi, or 'thug'.

The events of the evening, or internal turmoil cause Tsotsi to rise up in the face of Boston's questions and to beat him severely before running away, eventually reaching a gated community and stealing a woman's car. This is easier said than done as we learn that Tsotsi can't drive (this is the only reason he hasn't joined a more powerful gang leader Fela who pays his members for stealing cars). As Tsotsi struggles to shift the car, the female owner of the car gets up from the blow

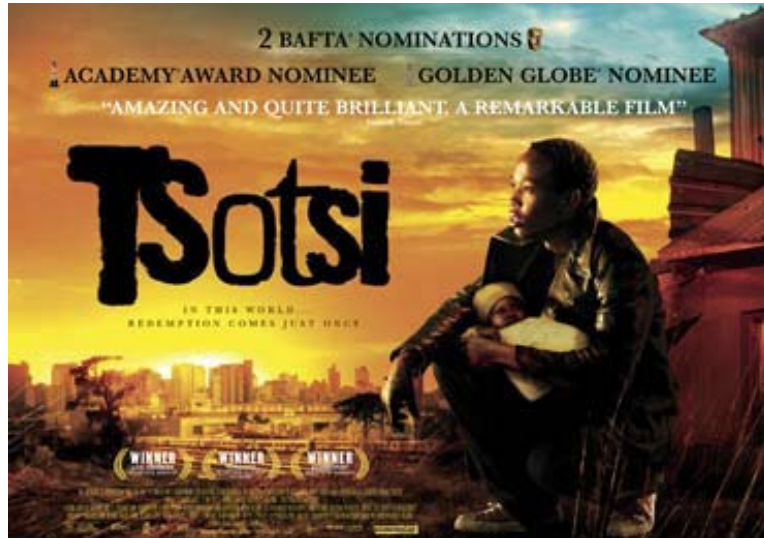
he had earlier delivered and opens the door – Tsotsi shoots her and erratically drives away eventually choosing to abandon the car on an empty road. Suddenly, he is made aware that he has stolen more than a car; there is a young baby in the back seat. Tsotsi panics and starts to walk away, but at the sound of the baby’s cries he return to the car and takes the baby with him.

Thus begins Tsotsi’s brief attempt (the entire storyline lasts only 6 days) to be the father he never had. The next morning he removes the baby’s soiled diapers, wrapping it in newspaper. He manages to find a can of condensed milk and to his great relief the baby stops crying. This is his only attempt to feed the child as when he returns the baby is crawling with ants. As

luck would have it, there is an attractive single mother nearby. Tsotsi threatens her with his gun until she agrees to feed the child. She agrees and washes the child – he leaves the baby with her for the night as he heads out to find some money. Before leaving he reminds her that the baby is ‘his’. His secret can’t last for long though – it seems the baby’s parents have some pull with the police and from her hospital bed the mother assists the sketch artist with an accurate picture of Tsotsi which is soon distributed all over town.

Tsotsi reunites his gang for one last job – he leads them back to where he stole the car and baby and they sneak in after the husband returns home. Butcher wants to kill the man immediately, but Tsotsi won’t let him. While Apa is ineffectively guarding their prisoner and Butcher ransacking the house, Tsotsi is awestruck by the baby’s room where he steals some formula, a bottle and toys. It is clear he is hoping that with these things and the assistance of the neighbor woman he will be able to raise the child he has named David. However,

when the prisoner sets off an alarm, panic sets in. Faced with the prospect of Butcher about to shoot the baby’s father, Tsotsi shoots Butcher instead. He holds the gun on the father as well, before following Apa out. They steal the car, selling it to Fela for cash which Tsotsi tries to give to the neighborhood woman who won’t take it. Apa silently



takes his share, while telling Tsotsi that it is over – he is worried he’ll be the next victim of Tsotsi’s apparent rage.

Tsotsi realizes that despite his intentions, he has no choice but to return the child to its family. The neighbor woman offers to return the baby for him, so he won’t be caught, but he decides to do it himself. Later that morning the police break into Tsotsi’s home, threatening the beaten Boston who has no inkling of the situation. Tsotsi is on his way to the baby’s home – he leaves the baby in a shopping bag by the gates and starts to walk away. The baby starts to cry and Tsotsi, unaware of the policeman inside the home, is unable to just leave him, buzzing in to tell the parents he’ll leave the baby at the gate. Almost immediately, a tense confrontation ensues between the police – who arrive en masse and guns at the ready, the parents, and a very scared and weeping Tsotsi, clinging to the baby. Clinging to the childhood he lost and has realized he can never regain. The baby is returned safely and the movie closes with Tsotsi

placing his hands above his head.

Part of Tsotsi’s inner awakening is explored in the movie through an altercation with a man he runs into at the train station. The man has been crippled and half-blinded in a mining accident. Tsotsi asks him why he bothers to live when he must ‘crawl’ like a dog. The man tells him that he can still feel the heat of the sun upon his hands. It is unclear if Tsotsi will ever be able to appreciate that feeling or to exercise his newfound appreciation for human life and the familial bond. Despite the criticisms of some reviewers, this movie does not provide a ‘Hollywood’ treatment of the issues therein. There is no wrapping up of storylines in a neat bow, and we are not left with any feeling

of reassurance that the characters have found happiness or even redemption. For those not wishing to be misled and concerned about the status quo, this is a movie worth seeing. The acting is to be commended – especially that of the lead role played by Presley Chweneyagae and the soundtrack provided a fitting accompaniment for the violent and frenetic pace of life in Soweto.

..... ●  
**Games Tournament  
Host a Fundraiser in Your  
Home**

*By Janet Pliszka*

Want to have a fun evening with friends and raise funds for HYTES at the same time?

Hold a ‘Games Tournament’ at your house!!

Provide some snacks, organize a few games and you’ve go yourself a games tournament! Depending on your

guest list, go for Scrabble, Cranium, Pictionary, or Yahtzee. You could even go boardless with Charades or for upcoming summer months, move it outside with croquet. By charging a tournament entry fee, you'll be raising money for HYTES. The fee could be smaller for a party accompanied by simple pop and nachos and larger for a more fancy affair with wine and fancy appetizers. To add more excitement for participants, pre-arrange donated prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishes. As you'll also want to let them know how they're contribution to the future of youth in developing countries while having fun, simply include information on HYTES in your invitation and through leaflets at the party.

Email [info@hytes.org](mailto:info@hytes.org) for more details on how to host a game tournament.

..... ●

## Tea in the Serengeti

by *Mona Csada*

**A** particularly fond memory of my time on safari in East Africa involves arriving in camp at sunset after a day of bouncing around in a Land Rover to find that our thoughtful camp cook (who called himself our "stomach engineer") had set up a folding table and chairs, laid out for tea. The checked table cloth, plastic camp mugs, and all of the ingredients needed to prepare our afternoon chai were there waiting for us. Since the sun sets at a fairly early hour Kenya and Tanzania, often causing the evening air to cool off rapidly, the steaming and aromatic hot tea was a welcome treat to savor as Janet, Harold, Amy and I reviewed the day's amazing wildlife sightings and miscellaneous safari adventures. It turned out that there was much more chai to come as we continued our travels through Kenya and Tanzania. That was a very good thing, especially for a couple of avid tea drinkers like Janet and me!

Chai has very much become part of the culture in East Africa. It is said that the day does not start until you have your chai, and you have not received a guest well if you have not offered tea. Chai is served at breakfast, morning break, after lunch, at afternoon tea, and after dinner. Time for tea is even worked into the school schedule. One thing to keep in mind if you are ever traveling through East Africa, however, is that the word chai can also be a somewhat polite way of referring to a bribe. Pam advises that if a local police officer or customs official ever seems to be asking you for some tea, he is not necessarily thirsty!

Over time, East African culture has embraced traditions from many other cultures, and the evolution of tea drinking has been no exception. The concept of taking tea was introduced by the British in colonial days, but the style of chai enjoyed most often in the region today is closer to that of India, no doubt influenced by the influx of Indian workers who moved to Kenya to work on the railroad.

Although the first tea plantations were only established by Europeans in East Africa in the early 1900's, the area is now one of the world's most significant tea producing regions. Kenya in particular is one of the largest exporters of black teas globally. Traditionally, Kenyan tea has been sold primarily to foreign tea companies for blending to produce some of the world's leading tea brands. However, the country's Tea Packers Association is leading efforts to encourage production of pure Kenya branded teas for sale to tea-lovers both locally and worldwide.

The hub of tea cultivation in Kenya is the Kericho district, located in the wet highlands of the western Rift Valley. The slopes of the highlands, with high altitudes and constant moisture from Lake Victoria produce some of the finest African teas. The rolling hills

carpeted with lush green tea estates make for a very pretty landscape, and the climate here is perfect for tea, with rain falling almost every afternoon.

In Kenya, chai normally refers to tea with milk and sugar. When making chai, it is ideal to follow the Indian custom that all the ingredients be brought to a boil together. Doing so gives the drink a richer taste than what would be obtained by just adding milk and sugar to hot tea. A regular strength brew of chai should have a light caramel color like cafe au lait. If you are interested in making spiced or Indian (Asian) chai, which tastes and smells quite heavenly, it is best to boil the spices along with the tea. If you add them in at the last minute with the sugar, you won't get the full and true taste of the spices.

If you are pressed for time, there are some good dried chai tea blends available, which are a combination of loose tea leaves and spices. These can be prepared like regular tea, adding milk and sugar to taste in the cup. Janet recommends a brand called VASTU (available at Planet Organic in Calgary), which she has lately been enjoying practically every day! I would not advocate using the chai tea syrups sold in grocery stores and used by some coffee chains, as they tend to be overly sugary and lacking in real spice flavor and aroma.

Below you will find some recipes and buying information to help you brew up your own delicious batch of chai. I hope that you will soon have the pleasure of enjoying some of it with friends or family while discussing your own life's adventures, whether they be from a safari in Africa, a hike in the mountains, a picnic in your back yard, or any other number of pleasurable experiences. Safari njema - have a good journey!

## Chai, East African Style

(makes 6-8 servings)

Ingredients:

- 6 cups water
- 7 tsp loose black tea leaves or 4 to 5 tea bags (Assam & Darjeeling are my favorite tea varieties)
- 6 cups milk
- 10-15 tsp sugar (approx. ¼ cup)
- Optional (but highly recommended!): 3-4 tsp of tea masala spice mix (usually ginger, cinnamon, cardamom, pepper and cloves – see below to make your own).

Method:

1. Heat together water and tea leaves in a large pot.
2. Boil 10 minutes. Add milk and spices (if using) and heat to near boiling. Strain leaves.
3. Add sugar to taste
4. Enjoy!

Note: to make your own tea masala spice mix, combine the following and store in a tightly lidded glass jar in a cool, dark place:

- 2 Tbsp ground cardamom
- 2 Tbsp ground cloves
- 2 Tbsp ground cinnamon
- 2 Tbsp powdered ginger
- 1 Tbsp ground white or black pepper

**A Sampling of Places To Buy Ingredients For Your Perfect Pot of Chai:**

Tea Masala Spice Mix or Spices to Make Your Own Blend:

- A1 Spices: #96 - 55 Castleridge Blvd NE, Calgary
- OK General Food Store: 3250 60th St. NE, Calgary
- Kantamato Food Market: 1288 Wilson Ave (between Jane & Keele), Toronto
- Nakumatt Supermarkets, Nairobi
- Check out your local Indian or African grocery store.

Loose Tea Leaves and Chai Tea/Spice

Blends:

- Higher Ground: 1126 Kensington Road SW, Calgary
- Oolong Tea House: 110 10th St. NW, Calgary
- Planet Organic Market: 100-10233 Elbow Dr. SW, Calgary
- Capital Tea: 3196 Yonge St., Toronto
- Say Tea: 2362 Bloor St. W, Toronto
- Murchie's Tea and Coffee: various locations in Vancouver and Victoria or online at www.murchies.com (a Canadian company)
- Any tea shop selling bulk loose teas

**Fun with Swahili: kaka na dada**

by Harold Pliszka

I was hiking with Mona Csada and Janet Pliszka in the Usambura Mountains near Lushoto, Tanzania in November 2004. It was great hike that took us through forests, villages and up to a look-out point that locals often go to after church to ponder life. On the way back, we came across a teenaged boy sitting on the ledge of a hugely inappropriate high-end lodge being built between a village and the look-out point.

The young man said “Hey kaka na dada”, to me making me a feel like he was making fun of us.

When I remembered that kaka is Swahili for brother and dada for sister, I asked, “Habari?”, and we continued a brief greeting as we walked back down from the look-out point.

**Useful Translations:**

**Swahili to English**

- kaka - brother
- dada - sister
- mama - mother
- baba - father
- rafiki - friend
- jamaa - family
- bwana - man
- bibi - lady
- habari - news

*We believe that it will be Africans who will improve the standards of living for Africans and that education is vital to this process.*

**Our Charitable Registration Number is 828039545RR0001.**

*All articles written by Harold Pliszka unless otherwise stated. Many thanks to all who helped with this issue.*

**Membership and Donation Form**

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 \$100.00  \$150.00  
 \$200.00  \$300.00

Other Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Payment Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use one "Membership and Donation Form" per person.

You will be provided a tax receipt via email (or regular mail) if your donation is \$20.00 or more. Please note tax receipts are not provided for membership fees.

- Please contact me with any opportunities to volunteer with HYTEs' initiatives.
- I would NOT like my name published in any HYTEs material (printed or online). Please consider this gift as an anonymous donation.

THANK YOU!