

Helping Youth Through Educational Scholarships  
**HYTES**



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### Mission Statement

To support youth in developing nations with educational opportunities to empower themselves, their families and their communities.

### HYTES' Objectives

1. To provide educational scholarships to youth in developing countries to advance and grow themselves, contribute to their community and benefit society;
2. To increase awareness in Canadian schools and the Canadian public on the need for educational support in developing countries; and
3. To cooperate with other organizations or Canadian government agencies to establish a reciprocal referral network.

### Fourth Annual Summer Fun Fundraiser to be Held August 10th.

by Mona Csada

Mark "fun" on your calendar for Sunday, August 10th in your calendar and join us at the South Calgary Community Centre for an action-packed afternoon of family fun. We're brewing up some great ideas, so stay tuned for more details in a future newsletter, or check our website for updates at [www.hytes.org/fundraisers/](http://www.hytes.org/fundraisers/).

If you can spare a few hours between now and then, we could really use a hand planning the event. Email [janetp@hytes.org](mailto:janetp@hytes.org) or [lisah@hytes.org](mailto:lisah@hytes.org) if you are interested in helping out.

### Inaugural Valentine's Fundraiser to be Held February 14, 2009.

by Harold Pliszka

Save the date. Our first Valentine's Day fundraiser will be held in Calgary during the evening of Saturday, February 14, 2009. This will be an experiential event with fair trade chocolate and sparkling wine tastings. We are also planning some fabulous entertainment and exciting silent auction. This will be the perfect opportunity to rekindle the romance or to simply show your special someone that you care.

We are in talks with a major sponsor for this event and venue details will be released once a deal is finalized. Please visit our website at [www.hytes.org](http://www.hytes.org) over the next several months for details.

### The Rabinal Achi Dance Drama – A Time for Celebrations in Rabinal

by M. Olimpia Boido

Talk about a long-standing tradition! In Rabinal, Guatemala, the Rabinal Achi drama dance has been practiced for more than 800 years by members of the Maya Achi community – one of the 22 Maya ethnic groups of the country. The story deals with a conflict between the local Rabinaleb' group and the invading K'iche group where, after fierce battles and negotiations, the Rabinaleb' triumph and are able to maintain their territory.



New Hope Foundation students enacting a traditional dance drama in one of the Maya Achi communities of Rabinal.

much more subtly, in private or hidden spaces. Today it is performed during the celebrations of Saint Paul's day (January 25th), which encompass the most important festivities celebrated in Rabinal.

The Rabinal Achi is performed by a crew of 21 masked dancers in four acts. There are sections of choreographed dance to the rhythm of local musicians, which alternate with play-like dialogues through which the plot develops. The dancers wear quite expensive outfits

the dance drama, the making of the costumes, and the rehearsals, amongst others.

Through being immersed in the various preparations for the performance, the students are able to strengthen their



**A procession during St. Paul's festivities in Rabinal prior to the Rabinal Achi dance drama.**

and wooden masks. These are made specifically for the occasion and cover the dancers' whole bodies, preventing the audience from knowing the identity of the dancers throughout the performance. As the Saint Paul festivities go on for a few days, the Rabinal Achi is performed at various times during the day, in especially designated areas in the open air where the audience is free to come and go.

At the New Hope Foundation, whose work HYTES supports by providing scholarships, students are strongly encouraged to become involved in the preparation and performance of the Rabinal Achi, as well as other dance dramas of the Maya Achi culture. They, as well as some of their teachers, often participate in various aspects related to the event, including the Mayan ceremonies prior to the dance to ask ancestors for their permission to perform

cultural identity and become more aware of local culture – two aspects that were systematically and significantly damaged during the genocide that occurred in the 1970's and 1980's. The performance of the Rabinal Achi is currently suffering a decline, in part due to the financial challenges represented by the expensive outfits and masks needed, but also due to a reported 'decreased interest' in the event from the part of locals. The participation of youth in the process, as seen in the case of New Hope Foundation students, and that of some of their role models such as their teachers, thus becomes all the more significant in the cultural strengthening of the Maya Achi community as it recovers from its dark and recent history.

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## Student Profiles

by Mona Csada



**Edina Phiri's** father has struggled to cover the school fees for his 8 children from the meager wages he earns from piece work. In the past, Edina sometimes had to go to school in "rags", as she could not afford a uniform. She often gathered pieces of paper from the street so that she would have something to write on. She plans to become an accountant, and says she would like to "help Zamibian banks improve their services". Edina is completing her 10th grade studies at Bwacha High School



**Elizabeth Njovu's** father died when she was six years old, and her mother passed away two years later. She lives in the village of Kabwe with her uncle, who also has four other children to support. Elizabeth enjoys singing and even composes her own songs. She is now attending Form 4 at Raphael Kombe Girls High School and says: "I would like to be a doctor because I've got a heart for the sick".

Edina and Elizabeth are both HYTES scholars for a second year in 2008, thanks to your donations and support. All of us at HYTES are so very proud of their continued efforts, and we wish them every success in their studies.

Purchase books and support HYTES.  
Order books recommended by HYTES volunteers at [www.hytes.org/bookstore/](http://www.hytes.org/bookstore/).

**Free HYTES Education and Resource package available!**

by Jacqueline Ford

**“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela**

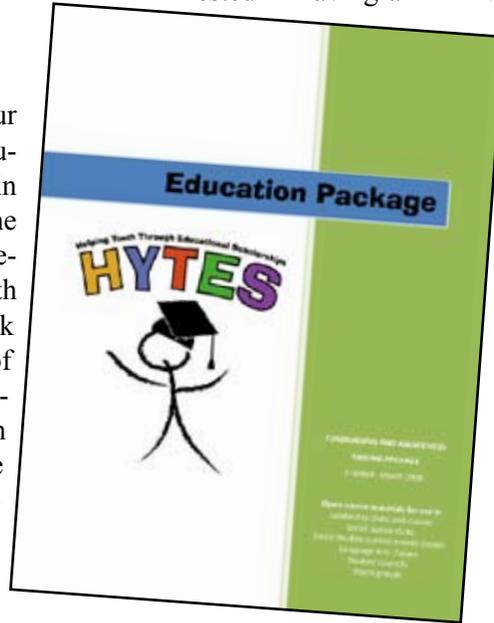
When HYTES was founded four years ago, we recognized education as the most powerful force in creating positive change throughout the world. Our objectives reflect this belief: we provide scholarships to youth in developing nations and we also seek to raise awareness here in Canada of the importance of universal education. Over the past year we have been designing an educational resource centred around this second objective. Created by Canadian teachers, the package was published online in March and an initial pilot presentation was given a Calgary Junior High Diversity Conference.

Here are the highlights of the HYTES Education package:

- It is downloadable from the HYTES website free for use in classrooms, with clubs, youth groups, etc.
- It integrates curricular outcomes of the Alberta Social Studies, Language Art and Art Program of Studies
- Contains handouts, a powerpoint presentation, background information for teachers, fundraising ideas and templates
- A soon-to-be-released package designed especially for second language Spanish classes or Spanish bilingual programs integrating the language competence and global citizenship components of the Program of Studies

In addition to the resource package, HYTES also looks forward to the opportunity to present in person, free of

charge. Our presentation is interesting, interactive and informative and is particularly pertinent for middle/secondary Social Studies students, leadership clubs, social justice groups, and youth groups. Please contact Jacqueline Ford at [jacquef@hytes.org](mailto:jacquef@hytes.org) if you are interested in having a HYTES



representative present to your group.

We are also looking for volunteers for our Education committee. If you are an educator, a youth, or if you work with youth and you would like to contribute your creativity towards developing resource materials, please contact Jacqueline at [jacquef@hytes.org](mailto:jacquef@hytes.org).

Here are comments from a HYTES presentation to Grade 7-8 students:  
 “We are very lucky compared to other people in the world. Many people are very poor and we have the power to help.”

“I never really appreciated school very much until I realized how different things here are.”

Visit the link below for the package:  
[hytes.org/resources/teachers.html](http://hytes.org/resources/teachers.html)

**HYTES at the Calgary Folk Music Festival on July 26 & 27**

by Harold Pliszka

Watch for the HYTES booth at this year’s Calgary Folk Music Festival. This is the third year HYTES will be at the Folk Festival and you will find energetic HYTES volunteers, student information, trivia contest and more.

If you are interested in volunteering at the HYTES booth, please send an email to [haroldp@hytes.org](mailto:haroldp@hytes.org) by June 30. We can purchase Saturday and Sunday tickets with a 15% discount for booth volunteers.

More info: [www.calgaryfolkfest.com](http://www.calgaryfolkfest.com)

**Website of Interest: ourstories.org**

by Mona Csada

A new website called “Our Stories” has been established jointly by UNICEF, Google, and the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) Project. The site includes an eye-opening and touching collection of short audio clips from both children and adults in various developing countries, including Tanzania and Uganda. A number of the stories are related to education, and others describe different aspects of daily life for the storytellers. If you’re interested in learning more about what life is like for HYTES students and residents of other developing nations, go online to [www.ourstories.org](http://www.ourstories.org) and click on “Find A Story”. From there you will be able to search for stories by country.

More info: [www.ourstories.org](http://www.ourstories.org)

## "Thanks dear HYTES"

by Winfred Nthuka Mutungi  
HYTES Kenya Scholarship Recipient  
for 2007 & 2008

Life is like a road  
Less taken  
By the strong and mighty  
Of the heart and will

What do we say  
Of those people  
Who struggle to make ends meet  
But their problems are overwhelming

That is when we get other strong hearts  
That come our way  
By the grace of God, to ensure that  
Us who are tormented and broken by life

Get our way  
HYTES, you are one of those  
You came at the time  
When I needed you most

Was it coincidental, by my power?  
Or was it through godfathers?  
I say a BIG NO  
It was the grace of the one above

HYTES, you gave me a new hope  
You illuminated my mind  
You created in me fire that burns  
And this fire won't die till day come

That is the day  
When the struggles of life  
Shall not only be taken by the strong and mighty  
But by all, equally at the same table,  
through strong will

Thanks dear HYTES  
You give the hopeless people renewed hope  
That will change, has changed and will inspire Me, us and all of us,  
THANK YOU.

## Donation Form

<b>Name:</b>	_____
<b>Address:</b>	_____
<b>City:</b>	_____
<b>Province:</b>	_____
<b>Postal Code:</b>	_____
<b>Country:</b>	_____
<b>Phone Number:</b>	(    ) _____
<b>Email Address:</b>	_____
<b>Donation Frequency:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> One Time <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly*
<b>Donation Amount:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$150.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$300.00
	<b>Other Amount:</b> _____
<b>Total Payment Enclosed:</b>	_____
<b>*If you are making monthly donations, please mail post-dated cheques with your donation form.</b>	
<b>Your donation will go towards scholarships and program costs in Guatemala, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Please contact me with any opportunities to volunteer with HYTES' initiatives.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>I would NOT like my name published in any HYTES material (printed or online). Please consider this gift as an anonymous donation.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Please DO NOT add me to your email list.</b>

**HYTES**  
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Calgary, AB T2T 6E1  
CANADA

**Donate Online at**  
[www.hytes.org/ch](http://www.hytes.org/ch)