

Helping Youth Through Educational Scholarships

HYTES



What we did on our Winter Vacation!

by Pam Amulaku and Laura Franceschini, HYTES Board Members



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TURN ON

calgary

Hotel Arts
Sumptuous Tapas
Sexy Drinks
Live Sultry Music

February 14, 2009
7:00pm to 1:00am

Share the love this Valentine's Day and turn on young minds to education. HYTES
Help kids get scholarships to fund their schooling in developing countries.

tickets and information at www.turnoncalgary.org

Late last year we had the pleasure of visiting most of the students HYTES supports in Kenya and Tanzania while there on holiday. It was an amazing opportunity to personally witness the impact HYTES has had in the lives of these young people, some of whom have been a part of the organization since our first scholarships were awarded in 2006, and have now successfully completed secondary school!

Amongst this first round of HYTES graduates is Nancy Nyaega from Kenya, who chaired her school's St. John's Ambulance Club last year, and in that role spearheaded a major campaign against female genital mutilation within her ethnic community. She would like to go on to university and pursue a career in human rights law someday. Likewise in Tanzania, Rukia Shabani completed secondary school graduating from Form 4 last year, finishing top of her class. With marks like that she should have

no problems making it into Form 5 & 6 (pre-college years), along with HYTES continued support. Meanwhile, she is volunteering with HYTES locally in Tanzania, working with the Country Representatives to administer other students' scholarships.

The month of December is a school holiday in East Africa (final exams are held in November and the new school year begins in January), but our wonderful HYTES Country Representatives were still able to gather large groups of the students together at schools where some attend. Some of the students in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania even invited us into their homes to meet their very grateful and welcoming families or guardians.

It was humbling to see how, despite the impoverished conditions that many have grown up in, and the extremely long commutes some endure

Get your tickets by February 6 & receive free organic Cocoa Camino chocolate.
See back page for order form.

to school and back daily, HYTES students are so proud of and genuinely enthusiastic about their studies. They feel overwhelmingly fortunate just to be able to attend school, and spoke to us in superlatives of their appreciation to HYTES donors who have made this possible.

Probably the best part of all was how the students consistently described how they would like to “pay it forward” and in turn, use their education to help others in their families, communities and countries. Some of our graduates have already become local HYTES volunteers, assisting with the logistics of awarding scholarships to other students. Others are involved with the Red Cross, Scouts, HIV/AIDS awareness clubs, and environmental initiatives in their communities.

We returned home inspired by the huge energy, progress, and smiles of the HYTES students in East Africa, and recommitted in our support of this organization. It made all of the work as HYTES Board members and volunteers very real and worthwhile. And on behalf of the Kenya and Tanzania Country Representatives, students and families/guardians we met, we send all of you warm greetings and sincere thanks for your generous support of HYTES!

In closing, here is a special message from our wonderful Kenya Country Representative Alice Kihungi:

Encourage [HYTES donors and volunteers] that whatever they're doing is not in vain, it is going to help very many families, even in future. And also it is encouraging other people to come in and even give a hand in whichever way. Even if it is not paying fees, we have some people helping the HYTES students with their basic needs. So I would like to really encourage them to continue and to never give up.

Language and Culture Feature: Flirting & Dating

by Mona Csada, Grace Boido, and Pam Amulaku

Love is in the air this month as stores line their shelves with heart-shaped candy boxes and the HYTES team finalizes details for our Turn On Calgary fundraiser. All of that has us thinking about the rituals of dating, from shy first glances and tentative flirtations through to the bold “pick-up” lines used by more confident suitors. Here are a few examples of what you might say to let a member of the opposite sex to let them know you’re attracted in Guatemala and Kenya:

Guatemala (Spanish)

Eres muy guapo. (You are very handsome.)

Eres muy bonita. (You are a pretty girl.)

¿Quieres ser mi novia? (Do you want to be my girlfriend?)

¡Qué bellos ojos tienes! (What beautiful eyes you have!)

Kenya (Swahili)

Sasa supu. (Hey sweetie.)

I’m single and willing to mingle!

I am a blank cheque waiting to be signed.



HYTES Announces Turn On Calgary Menu



The Hotel Arts chefs have designed a Valentine’s Day themed tapas menu with chef-attended stations for your indulgence.

Aphrodisiacs

- Oyster Shooters with sherry foam
- Strawberry and Lobster Salad
- Port marinated Figs with citrus mascarpone crostinis
- Tempura Prawn, Japanese Spicy Mayonnaise

Chef’s Choice

- Moroccan Spiced Gulf Island Leg of Lamb with naan bread
- Tomato, Eggplant and Goats Cheese Tart
- Risotto Croquettes with Saffron Aioli
- Marinated Grilled Vegetable Platter

Ethnic Inspiration

- Vegetable Pakoras with tamarind chutney
- Samosas with chilli mango dipping sauce
- Kuku Paka Chicken Satay (East African Curry Spice Blend)
- Wali wa Nazi (Coconut Rice)

Chocolate Desserts

- Chocolate Mousse
- White and Dark Chocolate Dipped Strawberries
- Chocolate Truffles
- Chocolate Lollipops
- Chocolate Tortes

Letters of Thanks from HYTES Students in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

"In their own words"

God bless all the people who gathered and formed this organisation called Hytes. Many Tanzanian youth especially Mawengi students. You have been a great help and advantage to our academic issues. For example I Martina Nobo from Maweng school, I would like to give you my appreciation and thanks for enabling me to be at school this year.

I have been studying very peacefully without having pressure of paying the school fees. It is very comfortable studying and reading book which you bought for us. At first I used to be sent home now and then to bring school fees in result I would stay home for weeks and even a month to look for the fees.

By the time am back at school, I will find my fellow student have learned a lot of topic which was very hard for me to cope with the subject and where other students have reached. It took a lot of my time and made me to put more effort than my capacity. I had to sleep for three hours studying especially during exams. Your help was much helpful. This year I have been able to get grade A and B in all nine subjects.

Now that I have reached at the end of this year studies I felt in my heart I should thanks you all.

Martina Nobo

Iam very happy to hear again from you. We are all fine I have just finished fill ing the HYTES form. I am very suprised to know that you remember kiswahili - that is very good of you. Say "hi" to Glenna without forgetting to give her my thanks.

Sually Caro

Thanks very much for what you have done for me and my fellow students for sponsoring us, you are the ones who made me to continue with my studies since last year. For what you have done I hope God will bless you, am still praying for you so that you can still help me and my fellows I will work hard in my studies so that I can acheive my goals and not to discourage you for what you showed me. Also I will be able to help other people who need help when I will become successfully in my life.

Yours faithfully,

*one of the students from Mawengi Secondary School who is sponsored by HYTES,
it's Omary J Kilungu
thanks very much*

Local grassroots charity making a splash with Valentine's Day Gala Fundraiser

by Kate Tavender

It all started when Calgary couple Janet and Harold Pliszka, along with their friend Mona Csada, were on vacation in 2004 in Tanzania. They were struck by life in Africa that so contrasted with their reality back home. They were especially moved by the young Tanzanians they met who so wanted the chance to go to school, but simply didn't have the means to afford it. Though most developing countries provide free primary education, secondary schooling is beyond the household incomes of so many in East Africa and elsewhere.



They knew they had to do something. So back in Calgary, Harold and Janet, together with a small group of volunteers, started HYTES (Helping Youth Through Educational Scholarships) in 2005. This non-profit organization provides scholarships for financially challenged and community minded youth in developing countries.

Using their basement office as their headquarters, the Pliszka's have watched HYTES grow. The registered charity has a team of capable volunteers in Calgary and Edmonton and board

of directors including Csada who believe in the cause. The charity now awards at least 150 scholarships per year to eligible students in developing countries including Guatemala, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Uganda. So far over 270 students have benefitted from HYTES.

The grassroots organization has been getting noticed for its efforts. It was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Wild Rose Foundation in February 2008 and \$3,000 in January 2009 from the MacEwan Global Education Fund. In



fall 2008, HYTES was nominated for a YMCA Calgary Peace Medal in the “International Group” category.

Now they’re likely to get a lot more attention at a sexy Valentine’s Day fundraiser called Turn On Calgary being held at Hotel Arts beginning at 7pm on February 14, 2009. HYTES has held smaller fundraisers in the past in both Calgary and Edmonton, but this gala event is the biggest and most extravagant undertaking so far for this up and coming charity.

“We were ready to take HYTES to the next level and so we came up with the idea for Turn on Calgary,” explains Harold Pliszka, HYTES co-founder and president. “This event is about sharing the love – meaning it’s the perfect place to take a date on Valentine’s Day and at the same time, support a good cause by helping kids get an education.”

This gala fundraiser will feature live music performed by local jazz band, Round Midnight as well as sexy drinks, sumptuous tapas served at chef attended stations and a lavish silent auction. Tickets are \$125 and are available online at www.turnoncalgary.org or by phone at 403-291-9812.

HYTES is 100 per cent volunteer run and 88 per cent of all funds raised go directly to students. The remaining 12 per cent covers necessary program costs like money transfer fees and honoraria for local representatives.

Ticket Purchase Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 Province: _____
 Postal Code: _____
 Country: _____
 Phone Number: () _____
 Email Address: _____

Individual Tickets:

\$125.00 x _____ people = _____

Ten Pack of Tickets:

\$1,200.00 x _____ packs = _____

Donation: _____

Total: _____

THANK YOU!

Please send **cheque** along with this completed form to the address below by February 6, 2009:

**Helping Youth Through Educational Scholarships
 4676 Quentin Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2T 6E1**

Tax receipts will be provided for donations only and NOT for ticket purchases.

- 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 DO NOT add me to your email list.

**Buy Turn On Tickets Online at:
www.turnoncalgary.org**