

Helping Youth Through Educational Scholarships

HYTES



Table of Contents:

Edm Fundraiser a Success!	1
A Letter of Thanks from Kenya	1
Language & Culture Feature	2
My Day with HYTES Students	3
HYTES Awarded Macewan's	
Global Education Fund Grant	4
Donation Form	4

HYTES' Fifth Annual Summer Fun Fundraiser

July 5, 1:00pm to 4:00pm
at
South Calgary Community Association Hall
(date and location tentative)

Join us for live music, childrens' activities, snacks, silent auction, and more!

Information will soon be posted to our website so check it out at www.hytes.org/fundraisers/.

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

HYTES Edmonton Fundraiser a Tremendous Success!

by Kirsten van der Meer

On April 18th, Edmonton played host to a fabulous East African Dinner to raise funds for HYTES secondary school scholarships. More than 80 people attended the "wine & dine" event, which provided a great opportunity to enjoy tasty food and drinks, plus raise awareness of the educational challenges facing youth in developing countries.

The highlight of the evening for many of us was the awesome video of HYTES students and country representatives captured on Laura, Pam, Kenya, and Eric's recent trip to East Africa. The video captured our students in real time, eloquently expressing the importance of education. Our students also expressed their gratitude to HYTES donors for helping them to overcome financial obstacles, and reach their dreams getting an education.

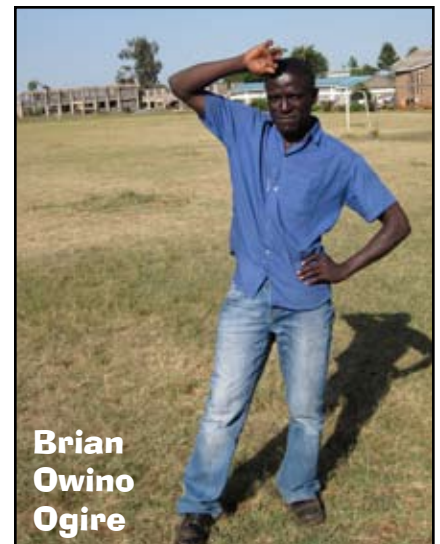
As always, Carol Frost gave an amazing account of her experience at Mawengi School in Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania and an incredible team pulled together to prepare delicious food.

Many thanks to our core team of Edmonton volunteers - you know who you are! Our efforts raised \$5000, shout out to the generous donors among family and friends that contributed to the great success of this event.

A Letter of Thanks from Kenya

by Brian Owino Ogire

My greetings are coming to all of you hoping that you are all doing fine. On my side I'm very fine and thankful to God for having people like you in this world. I am very fine more so to the academic standard. I'm passing on through academic level without any problem and this is happening in my life just because of the good faith you have and also for your good help and support that you have given me. My aim of writing this letter is to appreciate all of you and to say thanks for what you have done to me.



Brian Owino Ogire

My parents have tried to educate me and to prepare my life for the future, but by bad fortune they could not manage it fully. ... They tried their best as possible to continue paying my school fees ... but since they were not working they could not manage it all. ... I was being chased away for the school fees by the principal.

I was moving up and down because I was not able to stay in class. I started missing some lessons every now and then. That ... made my performance to drop down and down.

I was being defeated with my fellows in class because of my absence in class. I was not able to do well that made all of the students to defeat me in everything. I was trying my best as possible, but I could not manage. Everyone in class was ahead of me that I could not be the same as they were.

I started to ask myself some questions which were unanswerable to me. I was almost to drop out of school by that time because I could not manage it. I could not move from that level. I could not push on with life as my fellows. ... But I came to realize and to understand that nothing is impossible before God.

I am very wise to say that if not for the HYTES organization, I could not manage to reach this point. The problem was very large that I could not manage to defeat it. Now it's through my heart to thank all of you and to appreciate you for all that you have done to me. I came to realize and to understand that there is no situation in life that you can't rise above; however it takes time and hard work and an attitude to excel to change your fortunes.

I hope that you will all get more blessings for what you have done. ... I hope that I will pass with flying colours that will please your heart about your offer to me. I hope that each and everyone will be happy about my performance in the end of next year (2009). ... I pray that one day I will be in a good condition to make my parents feel better in their life and they will feel more better some

years to come.

I am putting more effort that will make me to achieve my desires. I am also urging all of you to continue with the same spirit and the good faith that you will be able to gain something after all the help and the support you have been giving out.

It is just tears flowing down my heart/cheek to say thanks for your offer. Thank you and let the bright light shine upon your life. I always hope to meet with all of you face to face to thank all of you more than this. Otherwise be blessed and have more blessings from God. Have more payments that will flow through your heart. I hope and wish something special for that organization.

Yours sincerely,
Brian Owino Ogire

Language and Culture Feature: Correspondence

by Mona Csada and Eric Amulaku



The Canadian students and HYTES scholars participating in our pen pal program gave rise to this feature about correspondence. In Canada, email communication has all but replaced pen and paper, but most HYTES students have limited or no access to computers and the internet. According to research conducted by the International Communications Union in March 2009, the internet is used by over 74% of North Americans. By contrast, only 1% of Tanzanians, 4.3% of Zambians, 8% of Kenyans, and 10% of Guatemalans use the internet.

Pen and paper are still the most popular tools of choice for most written communications in our countries of operation, however internet use is growing – as reflected for example by the recently introduced word for ‘email message’ in Swahili: “barua pepe.”

When HYTES students write to their friends and family members, they might use some of the words and phrases below.

English	Spanish (Guatemala)	Swahili (Kenya & Tanzania)
stamp	estampilla	stempu
pen	pluma	kalamu
pencil	lápiz	kalamu ya mate
paper	papel	karatasi
envelope	sobre	bahasha
post office	correo	posta
mail a letter	echar una carta	tuma barua
mailbox	buzón	sanduku la posta
write	escribir	andika

My Most Excellent Day with HYTES Students

by Gina Stokes

In December 2008, I had an amazing opportunity to attend my cousin Pam & Eric's wedding in Kenya. I had never been to Africa before and it truly was a trip of a lifetime. A safari to Masai Mara and Nakuru was so much fun. A walking tour of a Kericho Tea Plantation. Looking over Lake Victoria from Kisumu (very close to the village of Kogelo where President Obama's "Mama Sarah" lives). Oh yes, I did a lot of "tourist" things but I also think I saw how life really is for people.

One of my personal highlights was visiting the Kenyan HYTES students. In my travel journal that day, I wrote:

A van arrives [at our lodging] to pick up those of our group who are going to the museum. Another van is here to drive some of us to see 13 HYTES students at the school.

There are far more than 13 kids here! So, we do a roll call and separate the HYTES students from the others. Eric takes the others to chat with them for a while. As we were leaving the school, we found out that those dozen or more young people are hoping to get a scholarship. It was heartbreaking to see so many and know that HYTES didn't have the resources available to help them all.

While Eric was talking to those young hopefuls, the rest of us sat with the HYTES students to "interview" them and get to know them better. It was such an amazing time! We took photos, gave our gifts, and then "Mickey" (Peter Mikobi - one of the HYTES students) wants to pray with our entire group. I'm touched. Mickey certainly has leadership qualities! Anyway - it was so neat and I wish we could have spent more time with them. They are awesome kids with big dreams that I hope are fulfilled. I think it will be really hard for some of them to continue with their schooling.

As I think back to that hot sunny day sitting on the grass in the schoolyard, I remember being struck by these young people and the hopes and

dreams they have for their future. Some of the kids I spoke with want to be lawyers or teachers. They all have good grades and work hard at their studies. To say they are grateful for receiving HYTES scholarships is an understatement ... these kids *know* that if it were not for the generosity of HYTES supporters, they would not be in school. Some of the kids I spoke with have no parents, and it costs \$750 CDN for one Kenyan kid to attend secondary school. One student I talked with used to be a street kid; HYTES pays for his schooling now and he also works doing small jobs at the market like fetching water and carrying things for people so that he could pay rent and buy food.

Life has been very hard for them. But I also found that these kids are full of joy and gratitude. They all want to give back to their community to pay back the kindness that has been shown to them. I am truly inspired by them to value and appreciate education, to be grateful for what I have, and to be generous with what I have been given.



**Peter Mikobi
"Mickey"**



Gina interviewing one of the Kenyan HYTES students

HYTES awarded grant from Macewan's Global Education Fund

by Pamela Amulaku

Late in 2008 HYTES received notification of a successful grant application to Edmonton's Grant Macewan College Global Education Fund, amounting to a \$3000

contribution towards HYTES scholarship recipients in the 2009 school year!

This is a unique funding structure that collects monies through student and faculty levies – each full-time student contributes \$2 and each faculty member contributes \$5-10 annually as mandatory additions to their association fees. Additional funds come from special fundraisers and individual donations, and the fund is managed by a volunteer committee.

Many Alberta-based initiatives that support education around the globe have benefitted from the Global Education Fund since it began in 2001. Some examples of other supported projects include building classrooms and schools, providing school supplies, paying teacher salaries, and as in the case of HYTES, covering school tuition fees. Since 2003 a portion of the Global Education Fund has also been set aside to provide scholarships for up to two international students to attend Grant Macewan College each year. Please see www.macewan.ca/gef for more information.



HYTES Donation Form

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

Donation Amount: \$20.00 \$50.00
 \$100.00 \$150.00
 \$200.00 \$300.00

THANK YOU!

Other Amount: _____

Total Payment Enclosed: _____

You will be provided a tax receipt via email (or regular mail) if your donation is \$20.00 or more.

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- 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.
- Please DO NOT add me to your email list.

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