

For Immediate Release

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**Local grassroots charity holding family friendly event during Stampede week:
HYTES' Fifth Annual Summer Fun Fundraiser**

Calgary, AB - 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 is now awarding at least 150 scholarships per year to eligible students in developing countries including Guatemala, Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia. So far HYTES has provided over 400 scholarships.

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.

Previous Summer Fun Fundraisers have been very successful for HYTES and this year admission is FREE. It will be held at 3130 -16 Street SW on Sunday, July 5, 2009 from 1pm to 4pm.

"Because of the current economic climate, we have decided to make admission to this year's event free of charge. The bulk of fundraising will be from the silent auction and donations," explains Harold Pliszka, HYTES co-founder and president. "This event will prove to be really fun for the whole family while supporting a good cause by helping kids get an education."

This gala fundraiser will feature live music performed by local band, The Ad Hoc Band, as well as face painting, children's crafts and activities, snacks and elaborate silent auction. More information can be found at www.hytes.org, send RSVP to fifth@hytes.org or call 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 in country expenses.

For more information please contact Mona Csada at (403) 852-8135 and monac@hytes.org, or you may contact Harold Pliszka at (403) 291-9812 and haroldp@hytes.org.