



# St Jude's News

MAY 2017

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The School of St Jude is a project of The East Africa Fund

## Above and beyond - our growing impact!



Roars of applause and smiles to spare: celebrating Form 6 graduation!

Story page 2



Meet Joseph and learn about the life you change when you gift to our 2017 Annual Appeal

Story page 4



Check out the highlights of the 2017 Graduation Day ceremony

Photos pages 6-7



# Graduation 2017

## Future leaders celebrate a momentous achievement!

May 2017

It's a sight to see, 133 brilliant young adults, bursting with pride as they celebrate St Jude's third Form 6 graduation. Tears of joy and eruptions of applause filled the hall as the crowd of proud family members, sponsors and international visitors celebrated a milestone - 13 years in the making.

The graduates, draped in gold regalia, were propelled onto the stage by years of hard work, persistence and support from our exceptional school community.

School captains, Farida and Victor, triumphantly commended the efforts of their peers.

"We know by now that we should always have courage when things get tough. We should not be fearful. It's time to grab all our chances, do our best and be happy," Farida said.

"We are thankful beyond words to our sponsors and always to Mama Gemma."

More than 60 visitors travelled from America, Australia and New Zealand to join the celebrations!

Kerry and David Steller are from Armidale Central Rotary club. They came to watch the student they sponsor, Oliva, bask in graduation glory.

Like our graduates, the couple knows something about building a dream from scratch.

"How did you hear about The School of St Jude?" The pair was asked.

David responded with a smile but didn't miss a beat, "I built it."

"We came over for three weeks in 2000, and camped on the school lawn," Kerry added.

"We first thought the school would take students 'til Grade 7, but then people placed bets on whether Gemma would build a secondary school.

- A few of us won that bet!"
- "We can't believe how huge it is. We're very proud," Kerry said.
- So is St Jude's Founder, Gemma Sisia, whose heartfelt words of wisdom stirred the ceremony guests.
- "I am so proud to celebrate Form 6 Graduation with bright and strong young adults, the future leaders of Tanzania," Gemma said.
- "Nelson Mandela said, 'Education is the best weapon against poverty.' He also tells us that "Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great" and I know that you can, that you will be, that generation."
- St Jude's Academic Manager, Nestory Msoffe, knows the Class of 2017 is already paving the path to success!
- "Our graduates leave a legacy of resilience, courage and hope, which younger students will follow," Mr Nestory said.
- In between formalities, guests were treated to cultural dances, and eyes glistened when graduates serenaded their captive crowd with special songs.
- As Gemma says, "yes, this is the closing of a chapter, but it is also a beginning!"
- Over 90% of our graduates will undertake three months of government mandated National Service, before commencing their Community Service Year.
- Many will use their quality education to give back to their communities as volunteer teachers in their local government schools.
- No matter where the future leads them, we know that St Jude's graduates are destined to be leaders!

Find out how you can contribute by visiting  
[schoolofstjude.org/donate](http://schoolofstjude.org/donate)





- A helping hand: Two form
- 6 students fix each others
- uniform for the final graduation
- ceremony.



- Jumping for joy: The sky is the
- limit for this enthusiastic group
- of graduates who are ready to
- embark on their next adventure.



## The eyes have it

You've given Joseph every reason to smile with a free high-quality education!

**W**hen asked to describe himself, Joseph thinks seriously while his eyes flicker and curl into the lines of his broad smile.

"I am honest, I am responsible and I am one for dreaming. I like to sing and dance with my sister. I like my family. I like football and running. And I know I smile so much, they said that to me when the famous runners came," he said.

Last month, the Queen's Baton Relay passed through St Jude's. Joseph had the chance to touch the baton.

"I felt like a king, because it is coming from the queen in Britain," he beamed.

Joseph is the king of his household, a king who is very happy to do the dishes. He lives with his mother Susan and his older sister, Felista.

"My mum she works hard for me so that any problem can go away," he said.

"I help in chores and cleaning, even when she doesn't ask."

Joseph says he doesn't fight with his sister, they only disagree sometimes.

"My heroes are my mum and my sister. With my sister, if I have anything, we share. If anything is disturbing me, I go and ask her or, if she is having a problem, she comes and talks to me."

Joseph's mother, Susan, had no access to formal education; she has done everything within her means to make sure her children do.

"Everyone was saying, St Jude is the best for students and is for free, my mum, she told me we must go for testing, and we went very early, in the dark," Joseph said.

"She was so proud when I was accepted. She was congratulating me, she was celebrating. She gave me a big hug," he said with the broadest smile.

Parental education is the single most important determinant of childhood poverty, according to UNICEF's Child Poverty in Tanzania 2016 report.

For Joseph and 1800 other students, an education at St Jude's means he can break the cycle of poverty. 80% of our graduates' families have been lifted out of extreme poverty.

Joseph knows how lucky he is to have this chance. He is often reminded of this by his favourite teacher Ms. Anna.

"Ms. Anna encourages us. She is my only teacher who is a girl and she teaches very well. She knows where she came from; she told us that she started learning under a tree, so she reminds us we are having a free, private education and should always study hard, for everyone."

Despite dancing, at school, at home and sometimes on his way to class, Joseph wants even lighter feet.

"In the future, I want to be a good man and I want to be a pilot because I dream of flying.

A pilot is someone who needs to be very happy and smile and kind to everyone and smart," he said with his own beaming grin.

Thanks to the support of people around the world, who may never see his smile in action, Joseph's dreams are already coming true.

"I remember when I first put on my first uniform for St Jude's," he said, "I felt like I was flying."

Make a difference in the life of a student like Joseph by donating at [schoolofstjude.org/2017-annual-appeal](http://schoolofstjude.org/2017-annual-appeal)







- Everyday hero: Joseph has his
- sights set high, he plans to
- become a pilot.



- High hopes and a happy home:
- Joseph and his mother, Susan,
- take care of each other and talk
- often of the future.



## Amani's story

### Our Community Service Year intern is zipping away to Zimbabwe!

**A**mani is known to many as a, "gentle, social and intelligent," young man. He first came to St Jude's 12 years ago as a bright-eyed 10-year-old from a large local orphanage.

Amani is one of 23 St Jude's graduates volunteering their time to give back to the local community through our Beyond St Jude's Program.

The kind and thoughtful intern is currently working in our Beyond St Jude's' office.

"Beyond St Jude's is the bridge between The School and the students in Form 6, the current interns and those now studying at university," Amani said.

Amani ensures the transition for graduates between school life and the real world is a smooth one. He also does his best to keep past students connected through the alumni page.

Growing up in the orphanage, Amani lived with other children, who he affectionately calls his, 'brothers and sisters.' Many of them also attend St Jude's.

When asked how he feels about the future of the many children he grew up with in the orphanage, he revealed he's nervous.

"When I think about it, it pains me. We have grown up together for so many years, shared many happy moments; will they have the same warm, loving home? Will they be with people that are kind and love them, take them the way they are and support them?"

The advice he offers his siblings?

"Hard work pays off, as long as you work hard you

- will be prosperous".
- Amani's role models include school founder,
- Gemma, without whose support, he says, he
- would not be 'as much of a person,' as he is today.
- "She has shown me that I can also be a help to
- those I don't know, those I've never even met in
- my life. Building a school like this does more than
- just educate people but raise them, give them a
- place where they can not only focus and plan
- their future but actually see it forming in front of
- their eyes.
- She could have done many other things, she had
- a family of her own but she chose to come to
- Africa and help us."
- Amani's fondest memory?
- Graduation day 2016.
- "I saw my sponsor, who congratulated me. The
- night after my graduation, I remember reflecting...
- I realised I had made the biggest step of my life.
- I tried to find the language to thank the school
- and my sponsor but I couldn't find the words. I
- couldn't wait to come back to the school for my
- internship. I am so proud of the day I graduated."
- When asked what he will miss most about his
- year of community service, he replied, "my lovely
- team. If I meet another team like them I will live
- the best life ever."

Amani is one of six St Jude's scholars who attained a scholarship through the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at the African Leadership Academy.

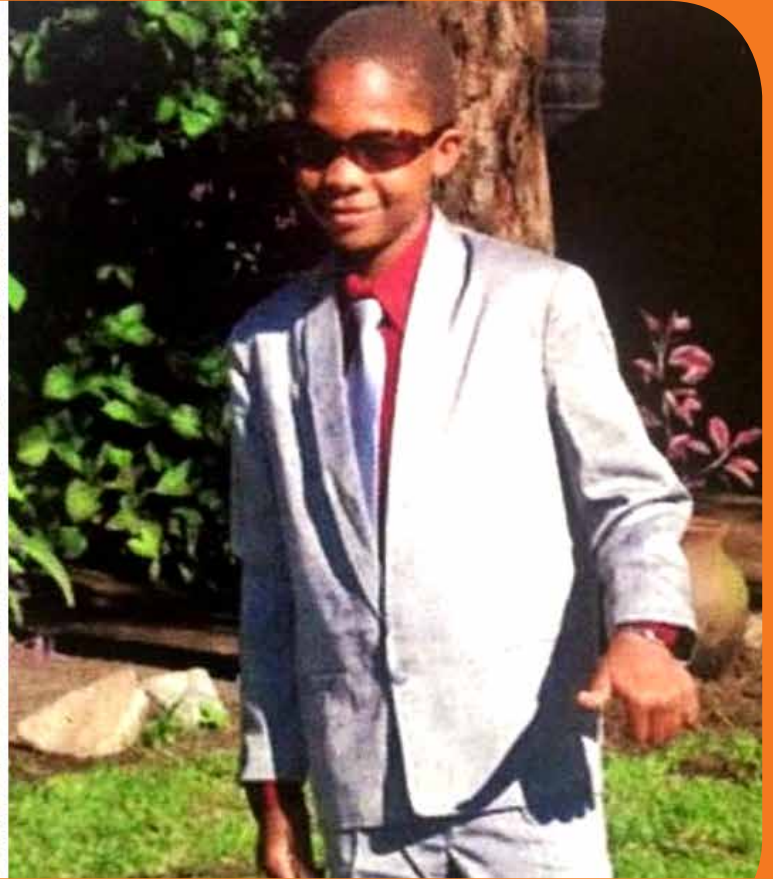
Later this year he will be moving to Zimbabwe to study Education at Africa University.

May 2017

Support St Jude's commitment to academic excellent by  
sponsoring a student at [schoolofstjude.org/sponsor](http://schoolofstjude.org/sponsor)







May 2017

- Flahback fun,,: Amani all dressed up as a new student and recapturing the moment during his Community Service Year.



- A class of their own: Amani with his fellow MasterCard scholars and School founder, Gemma.



## RYLA a success!

### Another Rotary first brings pride to the young leaders in our community

**T**anzania's first ever Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) were held at St Jude's last month. Almost fifty bright and promising students participated in the training and awards day.

Students came from seven schools in the region, nominated for their leadership skills and commitment to service.

The day began with icebreaker games designed to encourage students to interact and communicate with each other.

Then it was time for the Rotary formalities, with inspiring speeches from District Governor, Jayesh Asher and District New Generations Chair, Francisco Ssemwanga – it was a real coup for the students to meet such high ranking Rotarians and community leaders.

It will come as no surprise that our Community Service Year interns got involved. When it comes to leadership and service, our capable interns put their hands on the (Rotary) wheel, and they did a great job facilitating the day.

Miriam, who oversees our youth Rotary clubs at St Jude's, made an inspirational speech about her passion for entrepreneurship and ran a highly successful creative workshop.

The workshop involved using everyday materials (from fabric off-cuts to empty water bottles and cans) to create something genuinely useful.

"I took away from the workshop how one can use the resources you have; even using something worthless to create something useful that can

- serve the community," Samson, Form 1, said.
- Next up was the great debate, where teams of students discussed 'Who can help the community the most?'
- The conclusion? That the young generation are the most beneficial to the community.
- Daudi, another St Jude's Community Service Year intern, served as a great mentor for the debate. Daudi is volunteering as a teacher at Njiro Secondary School and brought some of Njiro's budding young leaders to the awards day.
- When asked, Krupa and Maahiya, from Jaffery Academy Secondary School, said the debating was "by far our favourite activity of the day," as it allowed them to "interact with different students, hear different opinions and learn teamwork skills."
- The day closed with a presentation ceremony, where each of the 48 students received a certificate for successfully completing the Interact Tanzania RYLA program.
- Immediate Past Interact President and St Jude's student, Lisa, said, "the highlight of the day was the speech from Mr Francisco, on the importance of not waiting for opportunities to come but rather seeking them out, and that one is not required to do something big to make a difference but rather do anything, no matter how small.
- It was a jam-packed day - mix in some yummy rice, poetry recitations and brilliant dancing, and you've got the perfect recipe for an extremely successful RYLA event.

May 2017



Donate to St Jude's today and know your money will go a long way. Our school community actively aids thousands of others locally, just like Rotaract members have given these young people "a hand up, not a hand-out". Help fight poverty through education today!





## Following the dream

**Hosiana: a leader, inaugural St Jude's graduate and the first member of her family to go to university!**

**H**osiana began at St Jude's in 2003, shy but determined. Her favourite subject was Science and she knew she wanted to be a doctor.

Hosiana grew and changed in many ways during her years at St Jude's, but her goal to study medicine never did. Today, the confident and capable young woman is studying at the best medical school in the country!

Hosiana attributes her self-confidence and success at university, so far, to her Community Service Year. After graduating in 2015 she volunteered to teach Chemistry and Physics at Losirway Secondary School.

This month during her university holidays, the inaugural graduate came back to Arusha to visit her former students and her old stomping ground.

"St Jude's and my community service prepared me really well for university. Since I was really young, St Jude's taught me a lot of things apart from academics... also about attitude, manners, different ways that I can behave when I am with my fellows."

Hosiana is already showing her leadership skills as a class representative, which makes her a Member of Parliament at her university.

"My duties are to organise lectures which are taking place, communicate with the lecturers and other leaders, as well as my fellow scholars, so that we can make learning effective."

● Being the first of her family to attend university, Hosiana often communicates with her family when she is away from them.

● "They are so very happy and proud of me, for making it to university."

● Late last year, our Beyond St Jude's intern, Amani, was lucky enough to visit Hosiana at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Science in Dar es Saalam, to check on how she was settling in.

● "Hosiana is the type of woman that truly believes in what she does. When she decides studying hard is what she should do, she will do it," Amani said with pride.

● "She doesn't let the pressure of other people get to her. She is fair, she is determined and a visionary person."

● Amani knows the future is Hosiana's for the taking and so does she.

● "What will make Hosiana a good doctor is that she is real; she won't just go with what everyone else does, she isn't afraid to question the reason people are doing something," Amani said.

● "St Jude's gave me a strong enough character to get me through whatever comes in life. When I imagine myself in the future, I see myself sitting in a big hospital with so many patients surrounding me and me and I am making the best for all of them," Hosiana said.

- Happy Hosiana: Future leader and healer in her community, this charismatic young woman is off to study medicine.





## Graduation Day 2017

Congratulations to our sensational Form 6 Graduates. We wish all our supporters could have been present to celebrate this hard fought success!



- Mama Gemma - as she is
- affectionately known by our students
- - is so proud of each of our graduates.
- Here she enjoys a moment to sit back
- and let it all sink in. 133 graduates in
- 2017!



- The future is bright for our
- exceptional new graduates.
- The Class of 2017 enjoyed the
- ceremony together, knowing
- today is a new beginning!





- Winning smiles: our 2017 graduates
- pictured with members of the Sisia
- family who began our school over 15
- years ago.



- Ngoma dance: Our students are proud
- to celebrate traditional Tanzanian
- culture and support the graduation
- ceremony.



Your donations help us open a world of possibilities to our students.  
Donate today!