



The School of St Jude

FIGHTING POVERTY THROUGH EDUCATION

Welcome to our January Newsletter

Thank you for passing this newsletter onto your family and friends.

Greetings from Tanzania to all of our St Jude's family!

Welcome everyone to 2012 and our 10th Anniversary!! This is a very important year for everyone who has made a contribution to the development of our school over the past ten years. We should all be incredibly proud of what has been achieved over the past ten years. Since the front gates were first opened, there has been success after success - whether that be fantastic academic results, a student whose health has improved through proper medical and nutritional support, or children who have been able to learn to dance or drum. Students have seen some of their own amazing Tanzanian environment for the first time on school excursions, or just to see a playground full of happy, healthy faces – children who are allowed to be just that, kids.

Today in 2012 our eldest students are in Form 4, so there are two more years until they finish school. The dream is for them to go onto tertiary education or further training of some sort, but all that is known right now is that these children have been set on the right track, that they have the aptitude and ambition to one day be strong, intelligent leaders in Tanzania's workforce – and St Jude's can't wait to see what they achieve! None of this could have happened without each of you – our amazing St Jude's family. I thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart,

- Gemma

Newsletter Highlights

- Message from Gemma
- 10th Anniversary Celebrations
 - Our Anniversary Year
 - Mount Kilimanjaro Challenge
- Meet Some of Our New Students
 - Feb Free
 - 3 Peaks 3 Weeks
- St Jude's Australian Tour 2012



The School of St Jude 10th Anniversary

2012 – Celebrating 10 years of The School of St Jude, Tanzania, Fighting Poverty Through Education

The School of St Jude commenced in 2002 with just one teacher, three students and a bold vision to educate the future leaders of Tanzania. Today, on a day to day basis, St Jude's continues to positively impact the lives of almost 1600 students, 400 Tanzanian teachers and staff and the wider Tanzanian community.

Our School of St Jude 10 Year Legacy:

- Thanks to our extraordinary Sponsors and Donors the footprint of the school has grown to three campuses – 17 boarding houses – five playing fields – three art rooms - three music rooms and over 56 classrooms
- We have worked as a formidable team alongside 400 Tanzanian staff who have contributed many years service to the school and who have evolved and adapted with the expansion of the school
- We have gained strength and guidance from our 40 strong parent committee, with many members having served since the school began
- We honour the hundreds of volunteers who have helped to make the Founder's vision a reality and ensured the school has continued to grow and develop
- We lovingly rely on our 21 distinctive and unforgettable buses to bring the students and staff to and from school everyday
- We recognise that we could not have reached this milestone without Rotary. Innumerable Rotary Clubs and individuals have been with us every step of the way and Rotarians across the globe continue to support us in so many different ways
- Looking back, we've jumped hurdles too many to recall, too great to capture and sometimes too daunting to contemplate – but we've stood the test of time, knowing that people across the world have shared our vision, our faith and our hope and have joined the journey with us – together the St Jude's family has triumphed.



2012 St Jude's Australian Promotional Tour

At Christmas time Gemma received the most wonderful present - the news that she and her husband Richard are expecting their fourth child. However, as Gemma has had a number of difficult pregnancies in the past, she was instructed to rest for the whole nine months. This, unfortunately, means that she is unable to travel to Australia for the 2012 tour.

But the good news is that her close friend and right-hand at St Jude's, Kim Saville, has agreed to step into Gemma's shoes. Many of you know Kim and are aware that she has been Gemma's rock for the better half of a decade and together they have weathered the many storms and challenges over the past 10 years of The School of St Jude. Kim is the Deputy Director overseeing the three campuses and her energy along with her commitment to and care for the staff and students of St Jude's is unwavering.

You can keep up to date with the tour itinerary and to find out where you can catch up on the latest St Jude's news please click on: [Australian Tour Map](#)

St Jude's Deputy Director - Kim Saville

Kim Saville traveled to Tanzania in early 2002 to assist with the building of The School of St Jude. Her experiences in many and varied lines of work, from stage management and acting to publishing and managing a square-rigged sailing ship, stood her in good stead. Kim was able to contribute to all aspects of the school's development during these early ground-breaking days.



With a penchant for challenges, Kim thrived at St Jude's. Her previous experiences, combined with untapped skills such as: digging ditches, planning classroom blocks, employing and managing staff, dealing with government departments, negotiating contracts and writing promotional material, made her a valuable addition to the school's original team of Gemma and Angela. With good doses of common sense, patience, perseverance, passion, energy and a sense

of humour, she embraced life in a new culture and coped with the drawbacks of unreliable electricity, water, and transport... and no supermarkets, coffee shops and cinemas.

Ten years on, Kim is still working beside the Founder and Director of the school, Gemma Sisia, and as Deputy Director now oversees the 400 staff who are all working to ensure the almost 1,600 students currently enrolled are receiving the high quality free education the school promises to provide.

St Jude's 10th Anniversary

What is planned for 2012?

There are a host of activities planned to keep the celebratory feeling happening **all year long!!!**

- The School of St Jude 2012 documentary '**Join Our Family**' released on the website, YouTube and Facebook. Here is the YouTube link - <http://youtu.be/LtFprIFxU68>
- Sunday 15th to Wednesday 18th January - Peaks Foundation Three Peaks Three Weeks Mt Meru climb, raising funds for St Jude's.
- Saturday 28th January - The School of St Jude Smith Secondary Campus - Usa River Official Naming Ceremony.
- Sunday 29th January - Our official birthday and our very special '**Happy Birthday St Jude's**' video clip is launched on YouTube and Facebook.
Here is the YouTube link to the clip - <http://youtu.be/kd4On0u9U4c>
- Tuesday 31st January - 10th Birthday Celebration Day hosted at Moshono Upper Primary Campus
- Monday 20th February - Launch of 2012 St Jude's 10th Anniversary Appeal
- March - The School of St Jude 2012 Australian Promotional Tour
- May/June/July - The School of St Jude 2012 Promotional Tours of USA and Europe (TBC)
- Thursday 14th June to Wednesday 4th July - [St Jude's June Tour Group](#) - **Join Now!!**
- Saturday 30th June - Last Day of 2012 St Jude's 10th Anniversary Appeal
- Friday 14th September to Thursday 4th October - [St Jude's September Tour Group](#) - **Join Now!!**
- Wednesday 17th October to Friday 26th October - St Jude's 10 Days for 10 Years Anniversary Tour Group - information on website soon!!!
- Thursday 25th October - St Jude's Day and Sisia Family Campus Official Naming Ceremony
- Saturday 20th to Thursday 29th October - St Jude's 2012 Mt Kili Challenge
- Tuesday 27th to Thursday 29th October - The School of St Jude Annual Award Ceremonies.

St Jude's 2012 Mt Kili Challenge

Climb on up with The School of St Jude's Kili Challenge 2012. This year will take this event into its third year—each climb a success. In 2012 we anticipate - with your enthusiasm and support - that the event will attract a greater number of climbers who will raise even more money to help St Jude's continue to offer a first-rate education to hundreds of children.

Passionate people move mountains (or climb them), so if you're feeling passionate and energetic, then check out our unique itinerary and details of the challenge on our website here: [St Jude's 2012 Mt Kili Challenge](#)

The School of St Jude is working in conjunction with Summits Africa to give you the chance to make it to the roof of Africa and support St Jude's.



2012 - Celebrating 10 years of The School of St Jude

We celebrate the thousands of people who have caught the vision and demonstrated their care and compassion by sharing their time, their talents and their funds to help bring St Jude's this far. Together, our St Jude's family will continue to make a life changing difference to the lives of our students, their families and their communities.



**All hands on deck as the preparations were in full swing
for the St Jude's 10th Anniversary celebrations the next day**



2012 - Celebrating 10 years of The School of St Jude

In celebrating this milestone, we look forward to keeping the vision alive and growing confidently so that this generation of hard-working, talented students, and those who follow them, will be supported to achieve their dream of changing the outcomes of their lives for the better – and for the developing nation of Tanzania.



A spectacular cake, as every significant birthday celebration rightly deserves, and special gifts for our very special Sisia family, who started it all.



Going Without for **St Jude's** During Feb Free

Now in its third year, Feb Free is a fun and exciting initiative in which participants can be sponsored to give up a vice for the month of February – the shortest month of the year. By taking on the challenge of giving up a vice Feb Free participants are able to raise much needed funds for The School of St Jude and help us with our aim to continue Fighting Poverty Through Education.

Having raised over \$50,000 in the past two years, Feb Free has a target of \$70,000 this year and we hope you can get involved to help. In 2012, Feb Free already has secured some wonderful Australian Ambassadors for the initiative including well known media personality and author, Peter Fitzsimons, iron woman and former Gladiator, Hayley Bateup and professional surfer, Laura Enever. Our St Jude's volunteers have risen to the challenge and left their coffee, tea, bread, sugar and chocolate on the shelf for the month. Show your support for Feb Free by visiting the website www.febfree.com.au for more information or to sponsor one of our St Jude's fundraisers or the many other dedicated Feb Free participants.



St Jude's Students Join 3 Peaks 3 Weeks Super Women

Peaks Foundation is a non-profit group that organizes inspirational trekking expeditions for women who seek adventure and an opportunity to make a positive difference in the world. The School of St Jude directly benefits from one of their treks where a group of adventurous women climb the three highest peaks in Africa over a three week period, Mt. Kenya, Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Meru. Some of our secondary girls accompanied the intrepid group to the lower levels of Meru during the January trek. The women were able to visit St Jude's and see up close and very personal how their efforts are breaking the poverty cycle by providing exceptional educational opportunities for our students. Peaks Foundation has provided financial support to the school for over five years now with the most recent funds used to purchase a shining new bus to replace another long serving member of the bus fleet.



Meet some of our YOUNGEST new **St Jude's** students

Each year only a very small percentage of children from the thousands of applicants make it through our student selection process. Those who are successful have demonstrated that they qualify academically and sadly are amongst the very poorest of the poor of Arusha. For these special children their first day at St Jude's is the start of a life changing journey for them, their families and their communities. The children below are just some of these new and as yet un-sponsored students. For information about sponsoring a St Jude's student please click: [St Jude's Sponsorship](#)



LOVENESS lives not too far away from the St Jude's Primary campus in Moshono. She lives with her grandmother (Bibi) who sells milk from two cows that she looks after for neighbours to provide an income to support her granddaughter. Clever Loveness was ranked 2/72 in her Government school class in 2011. Her journey has started to brand new future where she can follow her young dreams.



RAJABU lives in a one room house with his parents and baby sister. His father had a job dyeing cloth in a local factory but now can only find work as a casual labourer. His mother works as a tailor from their home, mending clothes for her neighbours. Rajabu was ranked 9/71 in his Government school class and at this early stage of his schooling dreams of being a bus driver.

Meet some of our OLDEST new **St Jude's** students

In 2011 it was decided that we could accommodate 25 new students into Secondary Form 1 for 2012. Over 500 students arrived to sit three tests in Maths, English and Science. The tests were marked that day and those students who scored highly progressed to the next stage involving document and house checks. It was an anxious time for students and their parents/guardians as they all understand what a life-changing opportunity an education at St Jude's would bring. Our new Form 1 students have settled in extremely well to a very different education journey from what they had previously experienced.



CHRISTINA lives close to the Smith Secondary Campus at Usa River with her mother and four siblings. Her mother works hard farming two acres of land growing food crops and sells eggs to provide an income for her family. Christina was ranked 8th in her Government school district in last year's National exams. Her St Jude's education will make a huge difference for her entire family.



EMMANUEL lives two hours from the Smith Secondary Campus at Usa River in a traditional Massai boma (village) with his father, mother and three siblings. His father grows maize and beans to provide food for the family. Their only income is obtained from the selling cattle from time to time. Emmanuel was ranked 1/150 in his Government school and is destined for great things.

Our Students

