



The School of St Jude

St Jude's News

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends

MAY, 2016



Rebel with a cause

On May 28, our second ever Form 6 graduation took place before hundreds of local and international guests. One of those 120 students who graduated was Winnie - Rebel Wilson's first fan in Tanzania.

Before the Pitch Perfect star became a household name, she was a hero to Winnie, an 11-year-old living in a mud house with no electricity, let alone a TV.

"I was just happy that my sponsor sent me very beautiful letters and a gift. I feel lucky because I had a sponsor," Winnie said.

"In our letters we talked about very many things, and I

always look forward to her letters.

"When I was older I started learning about her, that she is a great actress and a very nice, funny woman.

"Some of my friends were jealous, others say, you are so lucky, all I could think was, 'Why me, why does she care about me, why am I so lucky?'. "

In the 10 years since Rebel started sponsoring Winnie, both of their lives have changed for the better.

Read more about the friendship between Winnie and Rebel, and see graduation photos, inside.

Help break the poverty cycle and support an educated future for Tanzania. Rebel Wilson may be a Hollywood star now, but she saw the value in supporting education a long time before then. You can too! Donate to our Area of Greatest Need at www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html.

Rebel's helping educate a brighter future

Rebel has become one of Hollywood's most recognisable faces, a star of the hit franchise Pitch Perfect and a frequent guest on US talk show, Ellen.

Winnie just became the first woman in her family to graduate high school and she will use her education to lift her family out of poverty forever.

Rebel's busy work schedule prevented her from attending Winnie's graduation ceremony. Winnie is also half sponsored by a group of wonderful women from Western Australia. The grateful graduate said that as she dressed for Saturday's ceremony she stopped to think, "Wow, all these women in my life my mother, my teachers, my sponsors, I am so glad I made it to here, for them".

One of Winnie's favourite memories from school was her first face-to-face meeting with Rebel in 2014.

"I was sitting with my mum on a bench when I saw her coming. When I saw her, I really ran to her and I hugged her and she was really happy, we were so excited to see each other. Mum hugged her too," Winnie said.

St Jude's has transformed Winnie's life. Coming from a poor family, in a country where most girls don't even make it to Year 5, Winnie would never have had a chance at a high-quality education.

Now Winnie is preparing to give back by spending her gap year volunteering in the Beyond St Jude's program.

"From my heart, the school and my sponsor have provided me so much, much more than I expected in my life, so I want to give thanks, give back," she said.



Rebel visited St Jude's in 2014.



Rebel has been sponsoring Winnie since 2006.



Young Winnie, centre, enjoys school lunch with her friends.



Winnie's family welcomed Rebel into their home.

See all the excitement from our 2016 Form 6 graduation ceremony on pages 4 & 5.

Dr June Canavan's legacy lives on in Tanzania



Dorice at home in Sombetini with the precious gift of inspiration in the shape of Dr Canavan's stethoscope.

Friends and family of the late Dr June Canavan are ensuring her life and work remain a powerful inspiration both in her hometown and in one of the world's poorest communities.

The much-loved sports physician and family doctor from Australia's Sunshine Coast died in a plane crash in 2009 en route to the Kokoda Track, where she was set to complete a fundraiser for The School of St Jude. Following June's passing, a foundation was established by her family, friends, former patients and colleagues to honour June's legacy by supporting the causes dearest to her.

When St Jude's ambassador and aspiring doctor Dorice met with the foundation last month, they recognized June's giving heart and tenacious spirit in the young graduate.

The foundation gifted the custodianship of June's stethoscope to Dorice, as recognition of what she had already achieved and encouragement for the challenges to come.

Dorice joined St Jude's in 2009, after finishing in the top 10% of an under-resourced government primary school.

Just 2.4% of the 1.63 million Tanzanian students that enrolled in their first year of school with Dorice completed their secondary schooling.

Dorice met the foundation's members while thanking supporters in Australia with St Jude's founder Gemma Sisia.

"I learned that June was the most caring of women with so much energy and love for her community," Dorice said. "I hope that when I finish my studies and become a doctor, and start helping my people, I can deserve this gift. I know it will inspire me in my studies and I will think of her example all the time."

Dorice told the foundation that when she completes her medical degree she wants to specialise in gynecology.

Tanzania has one of the lowest rates of doctors per capita in the world, at three doctors per 100,000 people. The country has 96 registered gynecologists to serve approximately 20 million women.

Find out how you too can help support our future achievers, by going to www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html or call 0438 783 035.

Congratulations class of 2016!



Parents from every corner of Arusha and sponsors from all around the world stood side by side to clap and cheer as over 120 graduates, draped in navy and gold, triumphantly paraded to the podium on May 28.

Our second Form 6 graduation ceremony was a bright, jubilant success. Considering just 2.4% of the 1.63 million students in Tanzania who entered Standard 1 in 2002 graduated last year, the past two years have become an excellent indicator of what the impact your support for St Jude's is making to Tanzania's future.

Congratulations class of 2016!



Support our Annual Appeal and give more promising young Tanzanians a chance to fight poverty through education! Call 0438 783 035 or go to www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html.

Green light for green thumbs on our new farm project



Farm manager Stephen Uswege loves seeing the hard work put into our farm, or 'shamba', blossom.

From our student body to our campus grounds, progress is flourishing at St Jude's. Seven acres of our beautiful Usa River campus is currently becoming more fruitful thanks to our farm project.

"We started this project to produce quality fruit and vegetables for all students," farm manager Stephen Uswege, who has been helming the operation since its inception about five months ago, said. "The goal is to produce enough vegetables for all St Jude's campuses."

With an irrigated area for veggies, designated room for rows of fruit trees, two greenhouses (one for seedlings, the other for tomatoes and capsicum), plenty of fertile soil and a sunny sky, the project is set for success.

Secondary students, who will be more involved when it comes time to harvest, have enjoyed valuable lessons about agriculture via the farm (or 'shamba' in Swahili).

"I have learned many things from this farm project so far, with one of those being the importance of the greenhouse," secondary student Cuthbert said. "The greenhouse (environment) helps nourish the plants and gives the seedlings a green, healthy colour. It helps control the pests that would (otherwise) destroy the

plant and take the nutrients, leaving not very good food for us to eat."

Agriculture is Tanzania's primary industry, as well as being a 'National Priority' degree as determined by the Tanzanian Government. It contributes almost 30% of the country's GDP, and in 2014 employed 67% of the population (www.tanzaniainvest.com/agriculture).

Mr Uswege has a background with similar farms and expects our yield to include sukuma wiki (a collared green), cabbage, carrot, onion, chili, watermelon, avocado, mango, cucumber, capsicum, guava, banana, passionfruit and papaya.

The vegetable garden's drip irrigation includes polythene tunnels to protect soft vegetables, and fertilizer to balance minerals in the soil.

"The drip irrigation will help the plants get water throughout the year," Smith student Beatrice said. "It should not be difficult for us to wait until the rains so we can cultivate more crops as we need."

The finished product of this tasty project will soon fill the bellies of students like Beatrice and Cuthbert!

Help us accomplish big, exciting projects like the fruit and vegetable shamba by donating to our Area of Greatest Need. Go to www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html to find out how!

Thanks for everything mums!

St Jude's employs 295 skilled and dedicated staff across our three campuses, who count their blessings every day that they can come to work with our bright and deserving kids.

Many of our teachers, guards, cleaners and office staff have children themselves; almost 20% are mums, many with three or more little ones at home.

Last year, our staff collectively logged over 19,000 hours of volunteer work in their communities and their salaries paid the school fees for almost 600 students around Arusha.

Our staff is awesome, mums are awesome, our mums on staff, they're the best!

As Mother's Day was this month, we wanted to take this opportunity to introduce a few of them to you, not that we needed an excuse – look how beautiful they are!



Donor Relations' Irene and her son.



Secondary teacher Jennifer Daniel and her young family.



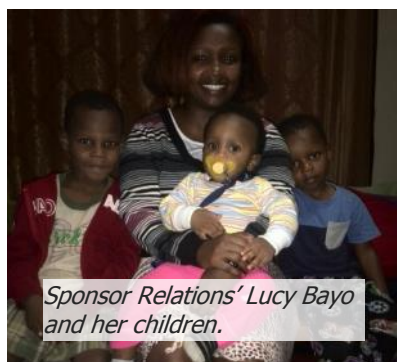
Sponsor relations' Philomena with her daughters.



Upper primary teacher Jackline has a laugh with her cool kids.



Visitors' Bernadetha Mosha with her children.



Sponsor Relations' Lucy Bayo and her children.



Donor Relations' Elizabeth Benedict and her daughter.

Make a donation to an area you're passionate about by calling 0438 783 035 or by going to www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html.

Our spinach lady is so Nice... in attitude and name

Nobody has to tell the students at St Jude's to eat their spinach. Four times a week, the bowls are licked clean and the smiling faces of more than 1800 students are speckled with flecks of green. It's spinach day!

The benefits of these nutritious meals are being felt far beyond our school gates.

Vegetable farmer Nice Fadhili is just one of the local producers whose life has changed because of the more than \$10,000 AUD spent each week on the more than 31,000 meals our students eat.

Known around St Jude's as "The Spinach Lady", Nice started supplying the school with leafy greens in 2012.

"I was selling some small vegetables at the central market and people from St Jude's came looking to buy food for the children," Nice says. "Even though I was small they saw my spinach was the best and started to buy from me. I was so happy."

Tanzania has one of the highest rates of chronic malnutrition in the world; 42% of children under five are malnourished, which leaves them open to disease and learning difficulties later in life. Vitamin A and Iodine are the direst deficiencies, with iron deficiency another major concern.

Nutrient-rich spinach, served with beans and rice for lunch, is an affordable and delicious cure-all for these specific dietary deficits.

Nice is proud of her produce, the fact it feeds so many children and the ability it gives her to employ her elder sister, Waidae, on the shamba (farm).

Before supplying the school, Nice and her husband John lived in a one-room mud house in Moivaro, sheltering and providing for four members of their extended family and their three children. Nice grew vegetables in a small rented plot on the other side of Arusha.

In the future the Fadhilis hope to grow the shamba for their eldest son, Freddy, to inherit; they want to finally finish building their house and they want to see daughter Alice graduate and become a teacher.

Nice said that she gives thanks for the school and prays for its students each night.

"I am happy because St Jude is able to support many children and I am able to give a better future to my children because of the school," Nice said.



Go to www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html to support our Annual Appeal and everyone in the St Jude's community it helps!



Venance (L) and Martin's (R) original Smart House with Raspberry Pi, when they took out top spot in the 2015 Science Fair. Another St Jude's student, Wenseslaus, added a special touch to help their entry take out Hackfest.

International accolade for our Smart House students

A nationally-recognized IT project, created by our own students, has now taken out top position in an international secondary schools competition.

Global IT solutions provider we-do-IT has rewarded the excellence of the Smart House with Raspberry Pi entry, and its three talented creators, with joint first-place in their international Hackfest competition.

Venance, Martin and new recruit Wenseslaus won AU \$500 for St Jude's as co-winners with Preshill Private Independent Coeducation School in Kew, Australia, for the AU \$1000 first prize. Hackfest is sponsored by Australian-based company we-do-IT, which has been a long-time supporter of St Jude's.

"We were very surprised by the level of knowledge, innovation and enthusiasm displayed by all contestants," we-do-IT CEO and co-judge Dr Walter Hesse said.

Dr Hesse said entries were judged on how they used a Simblee chip (which allows gadget developers to build mobile apps into their devices), which was donated by we-do-IT to St Jude's, in their project design.

"It wasn't their existing Raspberry Pi that impressed us, but how they incorporated it all," Dr Hesse explained. "While the distance did not permit a live demo by St Jude's, we most certainly enjoyed the

professional video! The team's Bluetooth app extension to the home automation system, making the 'Internet of Things' real, was very impressive."

Venance and Martin took out first place in the annual Young Scientists Tanzania competition's Technology category with the Smart House late last year, simultaneously winning a special award from sponsor and major electricity supplier Songas.

Following an ethos much like our own, Dr Hesse said we-do-IT became involved in Hackfest to show their appreciation and give something back.

"We were thrilled to have The School of St Jude take part in this year's Hackfest," he said. "Over the last 10 years, we-do-IT has been privileged to fight poverty in Africa through education by helping out Gemma Sisia AM and her School of St Jude, and in turn we received more inspiration from her school than we could possibly provide in monetary terms."

In an incredible display of generosity, joint first-place winners Preshill Private Independent Coeducation School donated their own AU \$500 prize to St Jude's.

With talk of a possible collaborative project between our school and theirs, we couldn't be more excited about what the future holds!

Producing well-rounded future leaders



We're proud of our bright fleet of school buses, adorned with a variety of animals. Our latest addition is the Octopus bus, which was recently brought to life thanks to some of our artistic Interact students with the guidance of art teacher Mr Dickson. They did a great job! Make a donation to an area you're passionate about, such as Boarding and Transport, by calling 0438 783 035 or by going to www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html.