



The School of St Jude

St Jude's News

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends

JANUARY, 2016



Welcoming our newest students

Their faces say it all... This is the day that will change their family forever.

Proud parents rejoiced when they saw their children, dressed in new school uniforms and ready for their free, high-quality education at St Jude's.

Chosen from the most underprivileged families in the Arusha district, these students already understand the importance of being chosen to receive a free education that ranks in the top 10% in Tanzania.

St Jude's employees and volunteers rolled up their sleeves to distribute fresh new uniforms to the delighted

children, who then showed their parents and lined up for their first official photos.

"We are so pleased to welcome a new group of keen young students to St Jude's. This is always a very exciting time of the year," school founder Gemma Sisia said. "I couldn't imagine a better way to start the school year than seeing the faces of these students and their parents light up on Uniform Day."

See more touching images of our promising students and the families grateful to have a child educated at St Jude's, on page 2.

Help break the poverty cycle and support the most promising, poorest students in the Arusha region. 150 carefully selected new students will enjoy a high-quality education at St Jude's this year. You can help by sponsoring one of them. Go to www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html

Welcoming our newest students

New student mothers Elizabeth and Ava agreed.

"I'm ecstatic, so excited Jenipha is going to St Jude's," Elizabeth said. "She will have an opportunity at this school to go to secondary level and be such a good help for the family, and it will give her an opportunity to teach others and be a good example of how we need to prioritise education."

"I am so happy, beyond explanation," Ava said. "Colin getting an education will help sustain our life, and that of our community."

Over the 14 years St Jude's has provided an education to underprivileged children, our selection process has been refined to ensure those most deserving are enrolled.

"We welcome bright students who have demonstrated aptitude and dedication to their education," Gemma said. "It's a fair and thorough process to ensure students and their families, as well as their sponsors, receive the upmost benefit of a St Jude's education."

The annual selection process began in August last year with almost 7000 hopeful students applying. These successful new students have been selected for their academic ability, social and leadership qualities and financial disadvantage.





You answered the call to fight poverty!

What an amazing way to start the new year! You helped make 2015 one of our most successful years fighting poverty through education, and we can't thank you enough.

Last year, a record number of supporters helped educate Tanzania's poorest and brightest students at St Jude's.

Our Sponsorship Appeal was the most ambitious in our history with a lofty goal of 150 new sponsorships. Your response has been overwhelming, with 149 new student sponsors, plus more than 200 donors helping to support the school in December alone.

Our supporter base in the United States also continued to grow in 2015, and in December made their largest impact ever, with our American Appeal raising more than \$US89,000.

"It's wonderful to start the year with news like this," St Jude's founder Gemma Sisia said. "We set some big goals and our supporters responded."

Your generosity has created excitement among our more than 300 Tanzanian staff members and the international volunteers here in Arusha.

"You can feel the excitement around the campus," Gemma said. "The kids are always excited, but our staff members and everyone around has a real spring in their step. We've got big plans in the coming months, with our Form 6s graduating and preparing to spend the year volunteering in their local government schools. This momentum is just what we need to make sure we reach more people than ever in 2016."



Haven't watched our Uniform Day video? See how proud parents respond to seeing their children in St Jude's uniforms for the first time. Go to <https://youtu.be/HyfHwVpD9Kg>

Tumaini stands against violence

St Jude's graduate Tumaini is taking a stand against physical discipline while volunteering at his local government school.

Through his Mentoring and Networking Program at Baraa Secondary School, Tumaini is encouraging teachers to lose the canes and adopt non-violent forms of discipline.

"Teachers take those students that they have a negative perception of and the main punishment that they give them is caning. Physical punishment is not a good punishment," Tumaini said, explaining that he has refused to punish in such a way and is trying to sway colleagues to opt for more encouraging solutions. "I told them that when you want to change (the students') mentality you have to deal with them psychologically and not physically. Since strokes are given on hands, some students fail to even hold a pen and write, and some of them start avoiding classes."

The idea came to the Beyond St Jude's community service student and fellow program founding teacher Peter as they agreed that physical punishment such as caning, which is still common practice in Tanzanian public schools, is no way to encourage students.

In the second half of his community service year, Tumaini is proving himself to be a community-focused leader with strong skills and values.

He said he knows non-violent punishment works, as he has seen it for himself at St Jude's, where physical punishment has never existed.

"St Jude's is an example to be followed as far as educating a child goes. If I had remained in my former school before St Jude's, I would have been failing like these students because I started out as a failure but got better and better and started excelling when I got to St Jude's," he explained.

"This is a lesson to me that a student isn't the one to blame; instead, he/she should be given a chance to be



Tumaini wants the best opportunities for his students, just like he experienced at The School of St Jude.

listened to and understand his troubles as they could be the reason for his failure."

Proof in his theory is already showing... Tumaini said the most rewarding and enjoyable part of his internship proves it.

"The positive interactions with students, and the bond created between me and the students, has caused even the chronic absentees to start attending my lessons."

Graduates like Tumaini are reaching more than 10,000 students at local government schools. Support them by calling 0438 783 035, or by donating to the Beyond St Jude's fund at www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html.

Frank Burton Scholarships to honour selfless supporter

Frank Burton was a man who understood value.

When it came time for the Sydney-based chartered accountant to divvy up his estate, he saw the opportunity to make his contribution to education go further with The School of St Jude.

"Frank was someone who loved knowledge, and who felt that education was important, which we think is why he decided to leave a large part of his estate to The School of St Jude," his sister Suzan explained. "As an accountant, with a university degree himself, Frank loved comparing different investments, and he knew that investment in education is one of the best investments of all. He would have been particularly pleased to know that his donation was going to support students going to university."

The charitable contribution to St Jude's is planned to fully-sponsor 10 students from Form 5 to the end of university, through Frank Burton Scholarships.

The trivia buff, AFL fanatic and all-round generous man passed away in July after an unexpected and sudden illness, but his substantial bequests to three organisations will ensure many others continue to be inspired by and benefit from those pursuits he valued.

"Thanks to him, multiple children will get an outstanding education at The School of St Jude in Tanzania, St Vincent de Paul will be able to help more people who are homeless and more women fleeing domestic violence... he also left something to the (Sydney) Swans, to hopefully help win many more premierships," Suzan shared with attendees at Frank's funeral, and



Dearly loved Frank Burton will continue to support education through his bequest, which has become the Frank Burton Scholarships.

later said the family knew of at least one of those people who had been inspired by his generosity and donated to St Jude's since then.

"We think he decided to include the school in his will because he liked the idea of students being able to improve their lives, and those of their families, through education."

St Jude's founder, Gemma Sisia, said she was deeply saddened by news of Frank's death but touched by his considerate actions.

"Frank's generosity means so much to our school, and we look forward to celebrating the opportunities students will have available from these scholarships with his devoted family," she said.

Frank's mother Anne and his sisters Suzan and Fiona are also patrons of the school, so our community here in Arusha has been very fortunate to have the support of such a giving family. His lasting legacy remains deep in their hearts and in the many he has helped with his decisions.



Join the Burtons and St Jude's in fighting poverty through education. Go to www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/wills-bequests.html to download our Wills and Bequests Information pack.

NOUS raises a cuppa to help St Jude's



All Filip Yip needed was a visit to St Jude's, and he was "in love instantaneously".

Ever since, the illustrator/designer by trade has been looking for a way to help our school fight poverty through education, and his latest business turned out to be just the right avenue.

Filip's new venture combines his passion for exotic teas, a fondness for sourcing products from little known developing countries and a desire to help people in need.

He launched NOUS Tea in December 2015, offering a premium organic selection of blends with a \$1 donation to St Jude's or fellow charity Namlo International (for earthquake relief in Nepal) from each package sold.

"We took a tour at St Jude's and fell in love instantaneously with the premises, especially the fleet of colorful school buses," Filip said, explaining that he had travelled to Arusha with a Tanzanian colleague for market research on their university business concept. "The academic achievement of the students is very impressive and inspiring! Since then I have been

looking for an opportunity to collaborate with St Jude's."

The trip was also a valuable step along Filip's emerging career path, with the business concept earning them third place at the prestigious Chicago Booth New Venture Challenge Business Plan Competition in 2010.

After creating visual brand assets for almost two decades, Filip said it was five years ago when he was recruited to rebrand a tea in the UK where the seeds for NOUS were sown. His NOUS research led him to the advantages of sourcing teas from "neglected origins".

"There is always a poor cousin next door (to countries with well-established tea reputations such as Darjeeling), who do not get the same love due to their underdeveloped economy and infrastructure. State borders are only imaginary and political boundary does not divide climate or soil composition," he explained. "Teas from Myanmar taste a lot like their counterparts from Yunnan; teas from Tanzania are comparable to those from Kenya; and teas from Nepal have the same characteristics of those from Darjeeling's...etc."

Enjoy a cup of NOUS tea and help us educate!



Filip (left) said the advantages of sourcing teas from these areas include being organic and non-GMO.

"Teas from trees not grown industrially are in fact more flavorful, thanks to the soil that is not depleted of nutrients nor polluted by chemicals. Merchants and farmers in these regions are also keen to work with importers because of their desire for economic growth," he said.

"This is one area where we can squeeze some budget out for charity. We get clean, delicious teas at a lower cost, and experiment with reducing marketing cost to further increase charity contribution."

Filip said it will also be an interesting challenge to see if they can raise awareness of their product through communities such as St Jude's supporters, as effectively as traditional marketing campaigns.

"We are starting really lean, yet we are super ambitious in being generous, \$1 a box for donation is a big chunk of revenue. No big established multinational brands can afford that kind of social commitment," he said.

"We want to give back to the communities we source tea from in a meaningful manner, and education is definitely one area that's proven to be effective in reducing poverty in the neediest population."



New York-based NOUS tea is currently exploring new avenues to ensure more people around the world can purchase from their selection and support charity. Go to www.NOUStea.com to make your order, and have it delivered anywhere.

The kind folks at NOUS tea have also made a special offer for St Jude's supporters. Make your order with this discount code - **stjudes25** - and enjoy 25% off the total purchase.



Meet 'Amazing Asha', fearless future doctor



Un-sponsored student Asha Juma (left) and her best friend Mary want to use their opportunity at St Jude's to become doctors.

Young Asha is afraid of nothing, and how many 10 year olds can say that?

Her favourite subject is science because her teacher, Mr Samwel Jackson, "is so smart funny and nice," she says. Asha likes learning about animals, especially lions, and how lions like to kill and eat zebras.

Asha's favourite person in the world is her mum, Nuiya.

Nuiya raises Asha and her cousin, Ramadhani, on the money she makes from washing clothes and sewing jumpers to sell at local shops. St Jude's also assists Asha's family by providing home packs that include essentials like soap, beans and cooking oil.

Asha and Nuiya have just returned from Mwanza, the second biggest city in Tanzania, where they spent the school holidays with Asha's grandmother, who taught her how to cook ugali.

Asha is a quick study and in 2015 achieved almost straight A's across her subjects.

This year Asha has started Standard 3 (Year 3) and is excited to be back at school. "I like St Jude's and I am very happy to come back because I am coming to read lots of books," she said.

She is also excited to see her best friend Mary. Asha



Asha's favourite person is her mum, Nuiya, who St Jude's is helping by providing essential supplies.

and Mary like to play the slide game at lunchtime and are near inseparable.

When Asha grows up she wants to be a "doctor for children" and so does Mary.

In Tanzania there are only 3 doctors per 100,000, people, one of the lowest per capita rates in the world.

If you would like to be part of amazing Asha's aspirations and correspond with her about the feeding practices of lions, why not sponsor her today? Go to www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html to find out how.



Secondary student Selemani said the generous Rotary donation has enabled him to make the most of his education.

Rotary helps students with albinism see clearly

Overcoming vision impairment in a developing country is no easy task, especially when you're trying to focus on your education, but two of our students have done just that.

Primary school student Sebastian (right) and secondary student Selemani (above) are both severely vision impaired due to albinism, but a group of generous Australians are helping them focus on their education.

The Brisbane-based group have worked together to provide specialised equipment for both students, so they can access the curriculum like their normal-sighted peers.

Selemani said he had tried various solutions during his schooling, including a prescription monocular (an optical instrument for use with one eye) and glasses, but without success. Simply mentioning his new set-up brought a huge smile to his face.

"I have struggled to read the blackboard since I was in Standard 1 (Grade 1). I used to wear spectacles but they didn't help much, so I still needed to go close to the board," the soon to be 18-year-old said.

"Now with the iPad, I can see! It has a camera that takes a photo of the blackboard, and I copy it in my iPad. It's so easy to read, and I can zoom in and out!"



When Brisbane High-Rise Rotarians visited St Jude's last year, Selemani volunteered to show them around campus. Vision Australia physiotherapist Louise Arvier was amongst them, and she realised how Selemani's life might be drastically improved with equipment that's difficult to come by and afford in East Africa.

The Rotarians arranged to provide Selemani, Sebastian, and another St Jude's student with cerebral palsy, an iPad with specific software each to facilitate their learning.

At almost nine years old Sebastian already suffers from similar difficulties to Selemani, and the equipment is already making a difference.

"Sebastian has been at the school for two years now, and seeing the progress in his performance over the past few months (with his new equipment) is amazing," St Jude's Community Relations Officer Charlotte Peyrat-Vaganay said.

Mrs Arvier said two of the iPads were donated, and the Rotarians fund-raised to purchase one specifically for Sebastian, as he needed the latest version to support the up-to-date software.

She and her husband, fellow Brisbane High-Rise Rotarian Dr John Arvier, personally provided the Sony Camera lens' to attach to the iPads of both students.

"It not only allows them to take pictures of the board but of handouts and anything they find difficult to access," Mrs Arvier said.

With the addition of iPad cases, keyboards, several styluses and the appropriate Apps through iTunes, donated by the couple, Selemani and Sebastian can both access the curriculum like their sighted peers.

The excitement and cheer Sebastian and Selemani have been radiating makes the joy they feel about the group's generosity obvious. Their increased self-confidence, self-esteem and independence is already showing, with Selemani competing in a public speaking competition late last year (right).



Support students like Sebastian and Selemani by donating to an area you are passionate about today! Call 0438 783 035 or go to www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html to find out how.



Senior primary students enjoy their special beatboxing and MCing class, thanks to Alliance Française.

Special music lesson hits the right note

An 80-strong audience of our senior primary students began their year with a funky lesson in a different kind of music.

French artists visited St Jude's to share the art of beatboxing and emceeing, to the delight of eager St Jude's students. The professional beatboxer and an MC, invited from France by the Alliance Française of Arusha (with support from the French Embassy to Tanzania), spent the afternoon sharing their "universal language" skills with the students, much to everyone's delight.

"We've been to a few local schools with this workshop and it's been very popular," Alliance Française Arusha director Alicia Thouy said. "It's a fun, rewarding way for students to collaborate and learn something different."

Grinning and giggling students were obviously impressed with the group bonding exercise, with their confidence built to the point that a few demonstrated their own talents.

The workshop was an ideal chance for St Jude's to add another dimension to the diverse and thorough education our students experience, and connect with a fellow highly regarded local organization.



Support our holistic education and help create confident, community-focused leaders by donating at www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html