



St Jude's News

JANUARY 2018



Our student wins The Children's Climate Prize 2017 In Sweden

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

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends



A Uniform Achievement

St Jude's newest students dazzled on Uniform Day 2018

Uniform Day promises to be an annual highlight at The School of St Jude, and this year's celebration did not disappoint.

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Moment of joy: With tear-filled eyes, Veronica congratulates her young daughter, Maureen.

A Uniform Achievement

Veronica, a hard-working mother-of-three, stood excitedly outside the gates of St Jude's Sisia primary campus for the second time.

The first time was during student selection testing last year, when she waited many hours, hoping her daughter, Maureen, would score highly enough in St Jude's entrance tests to earn an academic scholarship.

Four months on, Veronica waited eagerly among hundreds of overjoyed parents once more: this time, to catch a first glimpse of her daughter triumphantly parading in her brand new school uniform.

Maureen flung herself into her mother's arms, and Veronica, sweeping her into a tight embrace, wore a telling expression of relief, pride and hope.

Maureen, along with her 75 new classmates, now have the opportunity to win the fight against poverty and change their families' lives.

"I am so happy...so happy," said a speechless Veronica, overcome with emotion and glee.

"I have three children. I wash people's clothes for work. Maureen has been very sick, and it is because of doctors that she is alive. Now that she is at St Jude's, she will have the chance to become a doctor herself."

Many adults in Tanzania do not have the chance to receive education beyond primary school.

However, thanks to St Jude's donors and supporters worldwide, Maureen and her classmates will have the chance to finish secondary school and receive a tertiary education.

Their opportunity is a gift unlike any other. It is a gift which may influence generations of Tanzanians to come.

Our newest Standard 1s and 2s have already surpassed the odds and proved themselves as outstanding leaders.

Each of them scored among the top 10% in their government school results last year, out of as many as 200 students per class.

At The School of St Jude, they will have access to quality teacher support, appropriate class sizes, facilities and equipment, to help them reach their full potential.

Sponsorship is crucial to ensuring each of our youngest students will be able to receive an education for the next 12 years and beyond.

Sponsorship Coordinator, Grace Mahenge, has worked at St Jude's for seven years and knows academic sponsorship ensures the sustainability of a child's education and their future.

"St Jude's provides transport, food and boarding, as well as education, to make sure students are comfortable as they grow, compared to what they may miss out on in government schools. Without your sponsorship, we wouldn't be able to support all of the new students."

Currently, 70 of the 76 new students have yet to secure sponsorship. By sponsoring a School of St Jude academic scholarship, you will help to change the life of one of Tanzania's most disadvantaged, yet extremely bright young people. Through you, there is hope — find out how to become a sponsor today.

Top - Meet the stars: The future is bright for St Jude's newest leaders.

Middle - Click to play: Watch the video of St Jude's Uniform Day 2018

Bottom left - Standing smart: Students couldn't wait to greet their parents.

Bottom right - Tie-ing it together: Supporter Relations Coordinator, Joycelyn, helps a student with his new uniform.





Learning from the best: Edgar gets a glimpse at recycling on an industrial scale.

More Eco-Awards for Edgar



**Eco-entrepreneur Edgar wins
The Children's Climate Prize
2017**

It has been an incredible year for St Jude's eco-entrepreneur, Edgar. His quiet and unassuming nature belies the talented and driven young man who can now boast worldwide acclaim.

Last month, 17 year-old Edgar travelled to Sweden to collect the Children's Climate Prize 2017 award, where he got to experience first-hand Sweden's revolutionary recycling industry... and snow!

Established in 2016, the Prize is awarded to a child or youth, aged 10-17 years, who has done something extraordinary for the climate and the environment.

When presenting him with his award, the Children's Climate Prize jury said: "With his invention, Edgar has made a great contribution locally in his area, and in the long run an admiring effort also for the environment and climate on a global scale."

"The jury is full of admiration of his solutions and see great potential for scaling up and further developing his methods."

Two years ago Edgar started his own company, Green Venture Recycles. It turns plastic waste into cheap and affordable building products such as paving blocks, roof tiles and bricks, with no negative impact on the environment.

Edgar was inspired by a trip to Dar es Salam where he saw how deeply people had been affected by floods. He witnessed mud-brick homes almost completely washed away because the families living in them couldn't afford better materials to build with.

Given the opportunity to attend innovation workshops on the weekend through The School of St Jude, Edgar dreamed up his concept and it was here that he designed the first prototype, entering it into the School's annual Science Fair.

Speaking about his journey so far, Edgar credits The School for helping to provide him with the opportunity: "I couldn't have achieved this without the help of my school!"

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Recognition: Edgar accepts his first runner-up prize at the Anzisha Prize event in October.



A pro: Edgar has become used to press interest and award ceremonies in the last year.



“I think this idea can change the world, but I’d like to start here in Africa. Tanzania is a developing country and it’s important for us to use our skills to serve the local community. Yes, we have problems. It is up to individuals to help solve them.”

In addition to his latest accolade, Edgar was also recently awarded first runner-up of the Anzisha Prize. Supported by African Leadership Academy (ALA) in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, the Prize celebrates the next generation of young African entrepreneurial leaders, recognising their contribution in helping create job opportunities, solving local development problems and driving economies.

As the second youngest candidate selected to attend, he had tough competition, but it proved hard for the judges to argue with a 17 year-old who is already employing over 50 people, ridding his local community of more than 1.2 million plastic bags and providing strong, affordable and eco-friendly building materials to those who really need them.

As a shortlisted candidate, Edgar attended a ‘boot camp’ in South Africa where he received business training and mentorship as well as money towards expanding his business further.

Edgar’s achievements are incredible, but they’re not a one-off. The School of St Jude sets out to provide all of its students with the education, attitude and belief to become the future leaders of Tanzania, leaders who care about their communities, their country and the world we all live in. Our students are talented and motivated and our science and technology laboratories have the facilities for students to experiment with new ideas.



This is how Edgar started working on his invention, and look where he has got to now! Sponsor a St Jude’s student and give someone else the chance to follow in his footsteps.



Bridge to a Bright Future

Through Beyond St Jude's, one young adult can change hundreds of lives

In 2015, the Beyond St Jude's program launched its first Community Service Year. A handful of bold sponsors and 50 graduates put their trust in this new program, enabling The School of St Jude to venture into uncharted territory, with a vision of nurturing our graduates' leadership potential and changing even more lives.

We knew from day one that Beyond St Jude's was going to have an important impact on St Jude's graduates, but we had no idea just how much they would help their communities flourish, and how much they personally would grow from the experience.

In its pilot year alone, our interns taught over 10,000 government school students!

In 2017, three years on, we have welcomed 117 new graduates into the program. As of today, we have positively influenced over 22,000 students in 80 schools in the Arusha district. The ripple effect is spreading far and wide!

The numbers tell one story, but the stories shared by Community Service Year interns tell a heart-warming personal tale of compassion and triumph against the odds.

Each intern who chose to teach during their Community Service Year enthusiastically rose to the occasion.

For most of their schooling, these young adults enjoyed a free, high-quality education at The School of St Jude. However, Beyond St Jude's interns appreciate their privilege, and realise government school students aren't always so fortunate.

Government schools in Tanzania are over-crowded and under-resourced. Our interns work tirelessly, teaching hundreds of students each day with great professionalism and empathy.

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Building the dream: Joseph used his Community Service Year stipend to help rebuild his mother's house.



A 'family-ar' face: One of Josephs students was his own younger brother.



Rising to the occasion: Joseph was Head of Department during his Community Service Year!

Some Community Service Year interns overcame monumental challenges. As the only mathematics teacher in his government school, Joseph became Head of Department, teaching 244 students in total!

"I feel very good doing community service. I am helping with the whole of my heart because I know how it feels to have nothing," the brave leader said.

Joseph's students also benefitted from his teaching abilities.

"He is a good teacher because he taught me new skills and knowledge. He has improved my study skills and confidence," said Form 3 government school pupil, Elibariki.

Joseph comes from a rural area outside of Arusha. Aside from helping so many students, Joseph changed his family's life. With the stipend he earned during his internship, he rebuilt his mother's house and provided school uniform and books for his younger brother.

Beyond St Jude's interns have their sights set on higher education upon completing their Community Service Year. Through Beyond St Jude's, we have 66 Scholars studying everything from Education, Communications and Law, to Medicine, Engineering and Agriculture, in institutions across the country.

Thanks to the quality education they received at St Jude's, our students are motivated to take their next steps into higher education. However, financial aid for post-secondary study in Tanzania is severely limited. Many high school graduates are not able to afford tuition fees, and government loans for disadvantaged graduates have decreased.

Currently, more than 40 Community Service Year interns and university scholars in our program remain unsponsored. Without a higher education, it is impossible for many St Jude's graduates to reach their long-term dreams of becoming Tanzania's future leaders.

The Beyond St Jude's program is more than just an education sponsorship. It is the bridge between adolescence and adulthood for St Jude's graduates, who are fighting poverty through education with support from donors and sponsors worldwide. Their lives have been changed, and now, they are changing the lives of others.

Support Beyond St Jude's by becoming a sponsor or donating to our tertiary fund.

Working at St Jude's Ticks Every Box!

Our new Head of Marketing shares insights about working at one of East Africa's largest charity schools.

Sarah first landed in Tanzania almost a year ago to spend six months volunteering on an entrepreneurship program in rural villages.

Inspired by the power of working with and not on behalf of Tanzanian communities, she jumped at the chance to use her marketing experience at St Jude's in October last year.

"I fell in love with Tanzania. Being from the UK, I hadn't heard of the St Jude's story in as much depth as the Australian population."

"Being at the School has opened my eyes to what an incredible organisation this is."

"I want to impact how we communicate the achievements of St Jude's and our students in new and exciting ways. I want a global audience to hear about the outcomes we have in raising communities out of poverty."

Equipped with eight years' experience in the charity sector, Sarah believes working at St Jude's provides a unique opportunity to live and work on the site of an international project which, every day, changes lives.

"You can see the progress of the people we support, from the youngest students, to those completing secondary school. And, with the development of Beyond St Jude's, graduates giving back through a Community Service Year and going on to university."

In the four months since Sarah started working at St Jude's, she says her life has already been changed.

"There have been some incredible experiences so far. Uniform Day was very special, but St Jude's Day was my first experience of the whole school and local community coming together. The feeling of unity and celebration was indescribable."

"In the Marketing team, we want to communicate how wonderful St Jude's is with as many people as possible around the world. To convey the same feelings I have when stood among our community — hearing the songs, watching the dancing, eating school lunches and the buzz of weekly assemblies. I want everyone to share those experiences."



Life in Arusha may be vastly different from Cambridge, Sarah's hometown, but the bustling, mountainside city lends opportunity for international staff and St Jude's visitors to explore some of Tanzania's breathtaking sites.

"Arusha is very green, and I love that it's in the foothills of Mount Meru, which you can always see. It's majestic."

"It's also a convenient place to live. The shops are good, transport is efficient, the climate is great. There's a wide range of local and international cuisine to try."

"The truth is, I can't think of many challenges I've faced [living in Arusha]. St Jude's immediately felt familiar to me. I love that the commute between my house and the office takes, conveniently, about 40 seconds."

"It is a privilege to be in a situation where I can walk outside the office doors and speak to students, teachers, fellow workers, and to Gemma, the organisation's Founder, about what we do."

A word of advice for anyone considering applying for a position at St Jude's?

"Working at St Jude's ticks so many boxes. You can be part of a large not-for-profit with more than 300 staff, and it's one of the few chances you'll get to work in an international development organisation onsite at the cause."

"If you are someone who values new experiences, adventure and philanthropy, then this is a great opportunity for you. Hurry up and get here! You won't regret it."

Tides are shifting at St Jude's and there has never been a more exciting time to join the fight against poverty through education. What are you waiting for? Check out our current vacancies and apply for the role of a lifetime today!



On the ground: Sarah loves speaking with students about St Jude's impact on their lives.

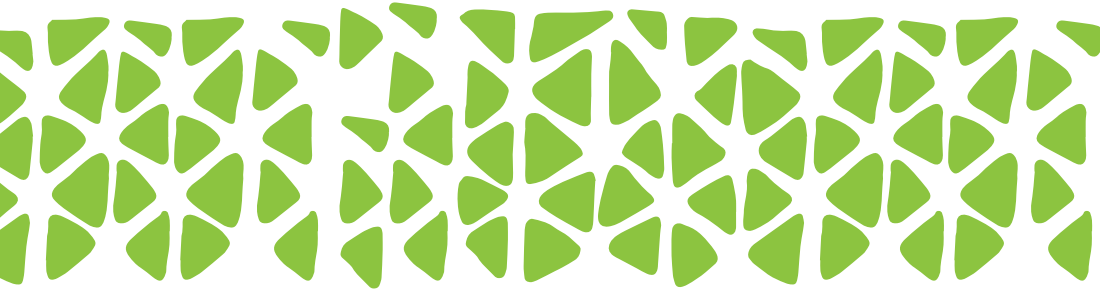


Making friends, making a difference: Staff enjoy sharing morning tea and lunch, provided by the School.



Terrific team: St Jude's Marketing department is lucky to be led by Sarah.

Super Supporters



St Jude's supporters from all over the world are renowned for their creativity — we couldn't fight poverty without people like you.

To celebrate the new year, we'd like to thank some of our amazing fundraisers and advocates who are helping us change the lives of 1,800 students.

If you would like to host a fundraiser or event for St Jude's, email our Donor Relations team at DonorRelations@schoolofstjude.co.tz.

For support with advertising and/or sharing stories, contact the Marketing team at Marketing@schoolofstjude.co.tz. We look forward to hearing from you!



Keith and Tessa share the impact of Graduation Week 2017

The Sydney couple are long-time supporters of St Jude's, sponsoring academic scholarships for two students. Last May, they attended the graduation ceremony for Faraja, who successfully completed Form 6.

Reaching out to local media to share the experience of their visit, the pair featured in an article published in Peninsula Living magazine's November issue, distributed monthly to 87,000 homes.

"The sponsorship has allowed us to see the girls grow into impressive young women."

"It [student sponsorship] is probably the best spent money we've ever put into anything," Keith enthused.

If you host an event for St Jude's or visit us, you can increase your impact by contacting newspapers, magazines, television and radio stations and tell them all about it.

To read the full article about Keith and Tessa's time at St Jude's, follow this link and flick to page 40: <https://www.thinklocal.com.au/thmagazines/peninsula-living-mw-november-2017>

Irish school students prepare for the trip of a lifetime

Later this year, St Jude's will welcome 13 students from Dominican College Wicklow in Ireland.

The intrepid advocates have been raising money since September last year, which they will donate to our school.

So far, they have hosted 12 unique fundraisers, some of which include: a sunrise hike with mountain-top yoga, a sports and science camp, a moonlit ball and a 'Bob a'job' campaign which sees them cleaning, painting, car-washing and lawn-mowing.

Additionally, the group is spreading the word through their Instagram page. Follow their fundraising journey at @tanzaniagroup2018, or via their blog: <http://www.dominicanwicklowatstjudes.com/>



To the beat of a drum: Students from Dominican College Wicklow are looking forward to their Tanzanian adventure.

Rachael, one of the student fundraisers, is thrilled to join the fight against poverty!

"The School of St Jude is unlike any other. The School devotes everything to helping their students, and this is one of the reasons why we choose to support them. We all feel very honoured to be able to visit the school after our year of fundraising."

We can't wait to meet these inspiring students at the end of 2018!

A Taste of the Big Apple at St Jude's

Visiting a government school in Tanzania's capital city, Dodoma, several years ago changed Joann's life.

The engaging science teacher returned to her home in Woodstock, New York, eager to learn more about education in Tanzania. Fortunately, curiosity led her to St Jude's website.



Sky-high fundraising: Yoga on a mountain is one of the most creative events we've heard about!

Joann says she was inspired and determined to spread the word and sponsor a young student's academic scholarship.

With friends, Richardson and Diane, plus two huge suitcases full of stationery in tow, she put smiles on the faces of everyone she met during a visit to St Jude's in January.

"This school is unique. You can feel the burning passion of every member of staff, and each student's palpable enthusiasm for learning."

"This school beats with one heart. I can't wait to go home and tell as many people as possible about the work being done at St Jude's!"

The gifts Joann, Richardson and Diane brought to St Jude's will benefit many of our students. Thank you, American friends!



Joann's joy: Beyond St Jude's intern, Irene, was excited to thank our visitors for their generous donations.

Lyn's Bridge of Hope

Annually since 2009, Lyn, an enthusiastic supporter from New South Wales, Australia, has hosted a bridge day luncheon with her friends, raising tens of thousands of dollars to fight poverty through education. Lyn's recent bridge day raised \$6000.

"I visited the School and was so impressed with how efficiently it was run that I decided to fundraise when I arrived home to Australia," Lyn said.

"It is satisfying to know that 1800 underprivileged children are being given the opportunity to receive an education and better their prospects in life."

Lyn has a few simple words of advice for others wishing to fundraise for St Jude's:

"Find a favourable venue and advertise your event to people who you think would also be willing to support the cause!"



Bridge day luncheon: Lyn's event attracts dozens of attendees each year.



Many hands make light work: The event is a yearly highlight for our hardworking staff.



Excited and expectant: They couldn't wait to greet family at St Jude's gates!



Worn with pride: New students helped each other adjust collars and straighten ties.



Time to celebrate!: Parents welcomed their uniformed children with open arms.



Full circle: From Selection Day 2017 to Uniform Day 2018.