



The School of St Jude

St Jude's News

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends

FEBRUARY, 2016

Education

to our
ing



Rotary's mission comes full circle

When The School of St Jude was just a twinkle in Gemma Sisia's eye, it was her local Rotary members who helped fundraise and eventually build our first classrooms.

Rotary's motto of 'service above self,' must have stuck in the brickwork, because in March, St Jude's students will officially launch Rotary branches of their own.

The Interact and Rotaract clubs of St Jude's will be run by secondary students between the ages of 12-18 and 18-30 respectively.

Both clubs will be coordinated by St Jude's sponsor Seb Cox, a 21-year-old education student and Rotaractor from Canberra.

"Gemma has always had the floating idea of starting Rotary clubs here as the organisation has helped the school so much – she just needed a person willing to come over and do it," Seb said.

Find out about how popular the formation of our very own Rotaract and Interact clubs has been, and their impressive plans, on page 2.

Help break the poverty cycle and support an educated future for Tanzania. From these community-minded students inspired by Rotary, to our recent graduates giving back via community service, your generosity will reach so many more. Go to www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html

Rotary's mission comes full circle

Seb gauged student interest in Rotary by holding a special assembly at our secondary campus, to introduce students to the group's mission and achievements.

Prominent local Rotarians Revocatus, St Jude's secondary Second and Academic Master, and Anna Rweyemam, Arusha Mt Meru Rotary club president, gave inspiring presentations during the assembly and motivated over 250 students to vie for the 80 Interact and 60 Rotaract positions available.

Successful applicants were invited to stand for leadership positions within the clubs. Rotary rules require clubs to carry out two service projects a year: one that helps their school or community and one that promotes international understanding. New clubs must also be sponsored by existing Rotary branches.

Julieth in Form 5 was the only female to stand for the position of Rotaract President – and she won! She was also one of the 10 lucky students invited to attend a meeting of the Usa River Rotary Club, which will co-sponsor the St Jude's clubs with the Rotary Club of Arusha Mt Meru.

In her stump speech for club president, Julieth discussed partnering with Usa River on rain water harvesting projects as well as her motivation for joining Rotaract. "I wanted to be part of Rotaract because it would be selfish of me not to give back with what I have learned and been given at St Jude's," she said. "Although I might not be rich enough to feed the hungry population – I believe there are skills I have, there are jobs I can do, there are stories I can share with my community to make it a better place and I believe Rotary will allow me to do this."

After the elections, club members attended weekend training camps where they looked at Rotary projects from all over the world before homing in on possible service projects using Rotary's procedure for identifying areas of need within Rotary's areas of focus.

Presidents of our generous sponsor clubs will meet with President Julieth and her Interact counterpart, Lisa (also the only girl who ran) later this week to officially sign off and launch both clubs.



Stay tuned to learn more about the projects our Interactors and Rotaractors will engage in as their clubs grow in the coming months.

Givers are grinners: Fundraising for Tanzania's future



A variety of fundraisers have helped us spread the word and ensure our hundreds of students have an educated, happy future.

People who give are happier— just ask our supporters! Copious studies have shown generosity leads to a happy, healthy life, so we're delighted to know our supporters get as much out of it as we do!

The variety of creative and thoughtful ways people have helped us 'spread the word' of St Jude's while fundraising show you can pursue your passion while doing good. We're motivated and inspired by their generosity, and think you will be too, so here are some examples of how easy it can be to support an educated future in Tanzania:

1. Where better to start than the classroom?!

Lovely Luella Green, a student at All Hallows Catholic School in Sydney, recently chose school founder Gemma Sisia as her "Notable" person to focus a project on. Dressed as Gemma, she made a presentation about her achievements before the audience of 60 families, to raise awareness and money. On you, Luella!

2. A healthy way to grow interest

Student sponsor Denis McKercher has supported St Jude's for many years through his tomato plant fundraising. The generous green thumb lovingly tended to about 1600 plants (about 40 varieties of tomatoes!) in his Tasmanian backyard this past year, and has developed a good network of buyers throughout the years. His hard work in just this past year has raised

more than \$5000 that will go towards educating Tanzania's poorest and most promising students. Thanks for using your passion to please so many Denis!

3. Spreading the word, a page at a time

Student sponsor Margo Salmon has been busy recently with her annual book fundraiser at Monaghan's Pharmacy in Warrnambool, Victoria. While donations for the second-hand and donated books may be as little as a gold coin, Margo has already raised more than \$1000 and pages of awareness. Keep up the great work Margo!

4. Brisbane practice makes perfect

In March, Dr Gordon Mor will journey to Arusha for the fifth consecutive year as a dedicated member of our international medical check team. Dr Mor and his Brisbane practice team have also, for numerous years, held a special Christmas appeal for St Jude's. Staff members promoted the most recent one by wearing our Shanga necklaces and graduation polo shirts, and displaying a school signage in the waiting room. We look forward to thanking Dr Mor in person in March!

Get your organisation involved by starting a workplace fundraiser! Find out how here:
www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/fundraising-events.html or call 0438 783 035.

Dorcas gets in the rhythm of responsibility

Talented breakdancer and soon-to-be senior student Dorcas may yearn to hit the dance floor during school holidays, but instead she has decided to give up the last three months to help others.

"I like working, keeping myself busy and doing stuff that helps people," she said, explaining why she signed up for St Jude's annual Form 4 volunteering program. "I was happy with any position because I really just wanted to do it."

More than 15 volunteer roles in various departments were available from December to February, with Dorcas landing a spot in the Sponsor Relations team at our primary campus.

"I've learnt lots of skills like working with lots of different people," she said, explaining that her role included helping students with their sponsor communications and organising photos."

When she's not volunteering at school or helping her mum, a single parent of four, Dorcas is getting her groove on at Via Via Café, a dance venue in Arusha.

"I like doing hip hop and I'm good at girls' hip hop, which we call 'chicky pop', but I like breakdancing the most," she said, explaining that most of the moves require power and balance.

"But I'm really busy now so I don't have much time to train... Practice starts at 5pm, but when I get home I have to wash my clothes, do cleaning, fetch some water, help mum cook, and then time is up – no time for practice.

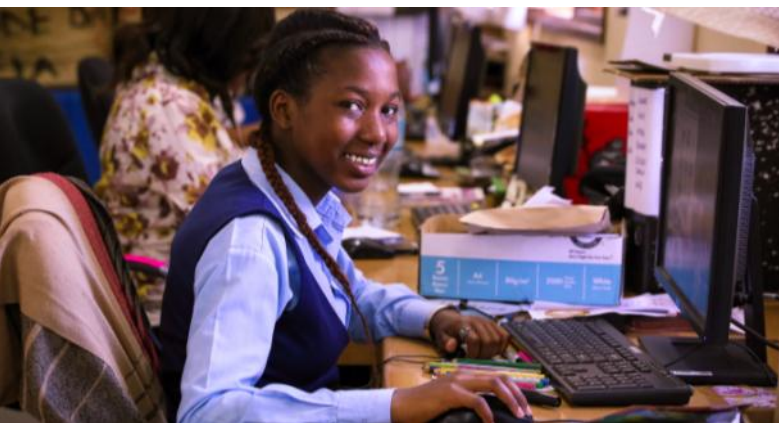
"I've got some mates from school who dance and we would practice every free time we would get – after school and on weekends and public holidays."

Dorcas' past few months have proven her appreciation for both the past 11 years of a free, high-quality education at St Jude's, and the encouragement her supportive mother has given her.

"It's been great having Dorcas with us the past few months," Sponsor Relations' long-serving volunteer and Dorcas' mentor, Lucy Cole, said.

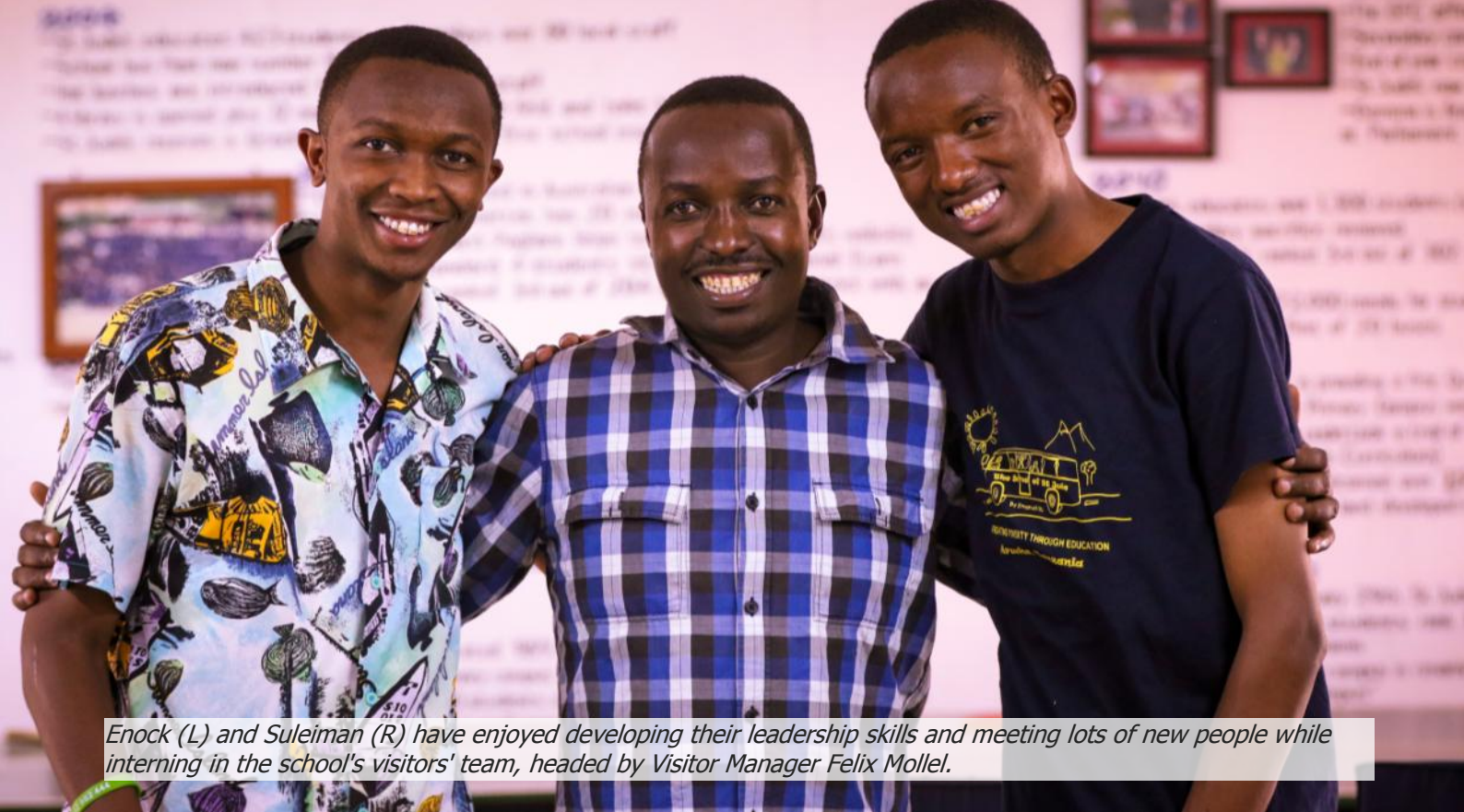
"She's always ready to help, no matter what the task is, always gets it done, and is simply a nice person to have around."

Dorcas will start her final two years of school later this year and after she graduates she plans on doing community service through Beyond St Jude's before going to university, possibly to study medicine.



Dorcas took the chance to show some of her moves during Cultural Day in 2013.

If you'd like to support a breakdancing, volunteering future doctor like Dorcas, find out about our sponsorship programs by going to www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html



Enock (L) and Suleiman (R) have enjoyed developing their leadership skills and meeting lots of new people while interning in the school's visitors' team, headed by Visitor Manager Felix Mollel.

Our graduates step up and up-skill with a smile

Form 6 graduate Suleiman remembers the moment he had to step up and be a leader in the Visitors' team.

The aspiring doctor chose to spend this year in our Visitors' team through the Beyond St Jude's community service program, developing his skills and helping the supporters who made his free education possible.

"When I started, I had to do mostly paperwork, then (Visitors Coordinator) Bernadetta put me in charge of a tour group and I will always treasure that responsibility," Suleiman said. "I did the itinerary, prepared the room, booked trips, and when they came I took them to an orphanage and I just found myself crying as I helped heating milk and changing diapers."

An orphan himself, Suleiman was determined to showcase 'the real Arusha' to his charge of visitors.

The next day he took his guests to Plaster House, which offers pre and post-operative care to children undergoing corrective surgeries, and TanzHandz which provides education and employment opportunities to people with disabilities.

"That day was intensely emotional; one of the girls in the group started to say something and then she fainted in my hands. As I was taking her to the doctor, next door, two more girls fainted."



As group leader, Suleiman took it upon himself to comfort the young women.

"I said to the whole group, you should be thankful for what you have seen, you should be happy. There are so many out there who do not have these chances and maybe they are even more desperate," he said. "Then I said, when you go back to Australia, you should not take anything for granted and always live a life mindful of those who have less."

Enock is Suleiman's best friend. All our 2015 graduates placed in the top 10% of Tanzania in their national exams, and Enock finished right alongside Suleiman, at the top of the top. He also interns in our Visitors center.

"We like it so much," Enock said. "We meet all these different visitors, we sit together with them and they are smiling and that is really nice, and it's a very regular feeling for us. By the end of a visit you always end up treating a visitor more like family than a friend and when they are leaving you feel it."

Enock was one of the very first students to be accepted at St Jude's and, like Suleiman, he has had a steep learning curve this year, literally – in the course of his internship he has summited Mt Kilimanjaro!

Enock was assistant coordinator on a Kili climb and personally took it upon himself to make sure every participant summited.

Both interns discuss 'growing out of responsibility' and how, in hindsight, they have learnt and matured a lot.

Responsibilities don't end when they leave the office, though. Both Sule and Enock taught in government schools after graduating Form 4, and they continue to tutor every night after work.

"We teach in the afternoons, evenings and weekends now, kids from different government schools in our neighborhood, so even though we are here in the Visitors' center in the day, we also get to teach," Suleiman said.

Fifty of our inaugural graduates chose to participate in the Community Service Program, some like Suleiman and Enock are interning at St Jude's, and the bulk are teaching approximately 10,000 students across 18 government schools. All together, our graduates log over 2000 volunteer hours a week.



Share a smile and become part of Suleiman and Enock's family before they head off to university, by planning a visit to St Jude's today! Go to www.schoolofstjude.org/visit-us/making-a-visit.html to find out how.

Education wins with Global Immersion visit



Bernie Kelly (front centre) is most proud of his latest achievement—bringing almost 100 fundraising students to visit our school.

Queenslander Bernie Kelly is connecting students around the world, fighting poverty in Tanzania and opening the eyes of young Australians. The energetic Global Immersion founder has just returned from his latest trip to Tanzania, where his organization is making a major difference at our school. For more than five years, Bernie has brought groups of students to visit St Jude's to meet those poor families whose lives are being transformed by free education.

"Our emphasis is on the journey, as a whole," Bernie explained. "It's African students, walking side-by-side our Australian kids, and they're all sharing hut space and learning heaps. It's really empowering and powerful."

Bernie and his Global Immersion groups have enjoyed culturally immersive experiences in Tanzania with us over the past few years, fundraising thousands for us beforehand. This latest group of 98 students is the largest to date.

"(This trip) was probably my greatest piece of work, ever, in my career," Bernie said. "When you take away so many people the first priority is health and safety, but we went way beyond that – we created an

atmosphere and environment in which nearly every student thrived and had an experience way beyond their expectations."

The 98-strong group travelled through Tanzania for almost three weeks, in which they climbed Mt Kilimanjaro with St Jude's students, spent a few days at our campuses in Arusha and enjoyed local experiences including visiting a Maasai boma, drumming and dance lessons and home visits with school families.

This group of inspiring Global Immersion students came from all over Australia, and collectively raised more than \$100,000 while also paying their own way. Money raised in previous years has funded various necessities, most notably our Senior A-Level science block.

Bernie's passion and enthusiasm in guiding high achievers was clear more than 25 years ago, when he drove his first major project, the not-for-profit Australian Youth Development Association. He followed it up with yLead and now Global Immersion... and for all that work was awarded a little something known as the Pride of Australia Medal in 2009. Bernie's support for St Jude's began with yLead in 2010, and it's become a valuable partnership for everyone involved.

Know someone who wants to see the world and make a difference in the lives of Tanzania's poorest and brightest students? Visit Global Immersion at <http://globalimmersion.com.au/> to find out more.

Producing well-rounded future leaders

You don't consistently rank in the top 10% nationally without a serious focus on classroom education, but here at St Jude's we know that future leaders need more than just impressive exam results.

Our approach extends beyond the classroom and into every facet of St Jude's life, producing community-focused leaders with strong skills and values.

These photos from our boarding campuses at Moivaro and Usa River give you a sneak peak into every day life and show our holistic approach in action.

Those bright uniforms you see when you visit don't stay bright without regular cleaning - especially with all the running around our students do.

Both boarding campuses are equipped with washing stations so our students can wash their clothes, a valuable step in becoming mature, self-sufficient young adults.

Our students understand the importance of the finer details. That's why they spend time on the little things like shining their shoes.

Cleaning doesn't have to be a chore, especially when you're surrounded by friends who are happy to help.

At St Jude's, we believe you reap what you sow - and the garden is a perfect place to learn this lesson.

Gardening is an important extra-curricular activity at St Jude's, especially with agriculture playing such a vital role in Tanzania's future.

Our budding green thumbs help look after the gardens, which help provide the food for their meals. And they have fun while they're doing it!

Cleaning up after 1400 boarding students could be a lot of work!

Thankfully, our students take an active role in cleaning up after themselves, learning responsibility and how to appreciate their surroundings.

Our boarding campuses have rooms where our students can revise and study under the supervision of helpful and experienced boarding parents.

All work and no play is never a good idea.

That's why our campuses are fitted with football fields, basketball courts, volleyball courts - and even a badminton court.



Producing well-rounded future leaders

Not only is sport a great way to socialise and cultivate a spirit of teamwork, it keeps our students fit and healthy.

Football is a favourite for boys and girls (and they don't always stick to the field!).

We're fighting poverty through education - so it helps to be strong. That's why some of our secondary school students enjoy working out with cleverly-conceived gym equipment!

The result: not only are our students excelling in the classroom, our holistic approach is creating happy and healthy community-focused leaders with strong skills and values.



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



Meet Mary, future leader of Tanzania

Mary always had the talent and determination to become a future leader of Tanzania. Thanks to St Jude's, she now has the opportunity.

The phenomenal 14-year-old was the top student out of 359 Standard 7s in her severely under-resourced primary school but would not have been able to finish high school without St Jude's.

Her mother, Juliet, is a hard-working single woman raising two children without any support since her ex-husband left her two years ago.

"I couldn't afford the fees to send my girls to high school," says Juliet, who works six days per week selling vegetables at local markets for roughly AUD\$23-\$26.

Mary entered St Jude's in 2015 as a first-year high school student and excelled immediately, receiving As in physics, maths, Swahili, biology, chemistry, history and commerce in her first term at the school.

"I've always like to study and at St Jude's we have everything you need to study," Mary says. "In my old school we had 126 students in our class and it was very hard. At St Jude's we've got very small classes and teachers who pay us attention and help us learn."

Providing education to girls like Mary is critical in Tanzania, where most girls are out of school before their 12th birthday and just 21% of the female population receives secondary schooling.

At St Jude's, Mary will receive an education that consistently ranks in the top 10% in Tanzania and produced some of the top high school graduates in the country in 2015.

The Beyond St Jude's team will also support Mary as she goes to university to study medicine so she can become a doctor.

"My dream is to become a doctor so I can help people," Mary says. "Now that I'm at St Jude's, this is possible."

