



**The School of St Jude**

# St Jude's News

*Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends*

ISSUE 4, 2014

## Every gift before the end of June will be matched!

A generous family has offer to match any donation received before June 30 up to the value of **\$200,000**. Since the start of May, people like you have given **\$27,000** towards the Make Your Mark Appeal. Help us reach our goal by looking at the list of resources and supplies or students' need for a high-quality education and know that every dollar you give will be **doubled**.

There are hundreds of food packages and medical and welfare packs still needed as well as text books and teaching resources. With our first graduation on the horizon (see page 5 for the dates) it won't be long before we start to see our students make the most of their precious education in their communities and across Tanzania. What an exciting time!

Click here to donate  
today!

<http://bit.ly/1gZCvxq>



**\$27,000**  
raised for our  
Appeal since the  
start of May!

**\$173,000**  
still needed to  
reach our goal!

**40 days to go!**  
Help us reach our  
target by the end  
of June.

## Meet Edward from our senior class



Edward has entered into one of the most important years of his life, as he is in his final year of schooling, Form 6. At St Jude's, he has been able to enjoy learning about Science and Maths; studying a combination of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and related subjects in his last year. Through his studies, he has developed an interest in learning about the body and the importance of maintaining one's health. Edward also has a compassionate side and says if he could, he'd like to invent something which could enable disabled people to enjoy the world, like finding a way for blind people to use computers.

Edward comes from a loving family and lives with his Mama, Baba, his brother, Razili and sister, Regina in a small, cement home. Over time, they saved the little they had to buy land and start building a house to shelter their young family. It has no electricity and the family collects water from a tap outside, paying roughly around \$US3 a month. Edward's father works as a casual gardener, moving around to pick up work where he can. His mother earns a small amount of money as a casual worker washing clothes. They don't own a shamba (garden) to grow or sell their own food nor do they have any animals or livestock. It can be a daily struggle to find ways to feed and support their family.

Despite the hardship, Edward is determined to fulfill his goals of one day becoming a teacher and help other students. His education at St Jude's is bringing him a step closer to realising his dream. Edward is able to build on his knowledge and learn in well-resourced science and computer laboratories at St Jude's, as well as having access to dedicated, Tanzanian teachers.

**Edward is part of our inaugural graduating class who will celebrate the completion of their St Jude's education next year. *Save the date for 30 May 2015*—we would love for you to join us in Tanzania for this very special event.**

**Email [visitor@schoolofstjude.co.tz](mailto:visitor@schoolofstjude.co.tz) if you would like to book your place.**



# Celebrating National Volunteers Week

Earlier this month, it was National Volunteer Week and we celebrated our volunteers who are making a difference in Tanzania by working at one of Africa's largest non-profits schools—The School of St Jude, 'fighting poverty through education.'

In 2010, Melbourne resident Paula Selway decided to leave the comforts of home behind to begin a long-term volunteering stint at St Jude's in Arusha.

She initially thought she'd only stay a year or two but her passion for being part of a cause which is helping underprivileged children in Tanzania, led her to stay for the next four years.

During that time, Paula has worked in a variety of roles from arranging tours for visitors to coordinating and implementing a new business database at the school.

She has lived with and bade farewell to countless volunteers at St Jude's, cherishing the lifelong friendships she has made with them.

"After a few years at St Jude's not only do I have a new family of amazing people, but I have gained so much professionally and personally," said Paula. "I have been able to pass on the skills I have gained in my work life, but more importantly I have learnt so much from the people I have been fortunate enough to work with. I will take these lessons with me when I leave, and will be forever grateful."

St Jude's was founded by an Australian woman, Gemma Sisia, who was inspired to start a school after volunteering in Africa. Gemma realised that a high-quality education, especially for children from the poorest of communities, was the key to breaking the poverty cycle.

The school started off with three students in 2002 and it now provides a free, high-quality education to more than 1,800 students. Paula is one of 32 international volunteers and over 400 Tanzanians, creating a widespread ripple effect that is extending far beyond the school gates.

"I am so grateful for volunteers from Australia and across the globe that have put in a massive effort to develop the school, from building the first classrooms to mentoring Tanzanian teachers on how to creatively use resources," says Gemma.

Volunteering life has made a big impression on Paula. "If you can open yourself up to a whole new culture, new country, new work environment, you will be amazed at how much it can change you," she says. "No matter how big or small the change, I guarantee you will learn a lot about yourself and others, and all for the better," she says.

Left: Angela Bailey, one of our original volunteers when St Jude's had just three students enrolled. Right: Paula Selway, current volunteer who has been with the school for over 3 years.



# What is 42 kms long and attracts \$1000 an HOUR?

When James (Jimmy) Kelly a student from St Patrick's College Shorncliffe, visited St Judes in Dec 2012, little did he know that a single moment would immediately change his life. He met one of our younger Primary students in the Library where James was invited to assist with matters of 'English'. "His thirst for learning and his eagerness to discover surprised me", said James, but not as much as when he asked, "I saw you running around our oval yesterday. Can we have a run together after school?" James met the youngster and together they ran three laps of the oval.

The seed had been sewn. James would not only sponsor GASTON MWASE, but he would run for him!!

Anyone who has run 42.2 kms before, knows it is not the actual Marathon that is the biggest challenge. It is the hard slog of pounding the roads for hours every week just to steel your legs for the latter stages of this most ancient of Olympic events. Having 'hit the wall' in Auckland during his first Marathon, James approached the Canberra Marathon of April 12 with hesitation, but confidence that despite the geographical separation with Gaston, he was running it with him... all the way. The rest is history!

In a smashing performance, James took 18 minutes off his personal best and broke the magic three hour mark for the first time in his life, and in the process raised over \$3000 for Gaston's education. His aim is \$15000 and with



the Gold Coast and New York Marathon's to come, he is confident he will get there.

When quizzed recently about his amazing effort, Jimmy's reply was simple, "No matter what the pain, those three hours were made a heck of a lot easier by \$3000 and the thought of this little Tanzanian boy running beside me. Gaston spoke to me throughout the race, just quietly urging me to find the strength. We did it Gaston! We did it Buddy!"

The next Marathon chapter featuring James and Gaston will occur on Sunday July 6 at the Gold Coast. Stay tuned for an update!

<http://run.gofundraise.com.au/page/Whythetrot>





# Understanding the same language: from Tanzania to the UK

This article was a guest blog post from Sandra Ford, the wife of the St Jude's School Director.

When my daughter Rachel, and her husband, David, came to visit her parents here at St Jude's, they were excited to meet many members of staff and students.

Suleiman in Form 6 is one who she will certainly remember. After watching him lead a Form 6 assembly, over at the Smith campus, Rachel had a brief opportunity to meet him so that they could exchange their stories. She uses sign language back in the UK, while Suleiman described how he taught himself to sign to help children here in Tanzania.

Suleiman shared some of his insights into how in his younger days, at a local government school, he saw some of his peers struggling to be accepted because of the communication difficulties they experienced through hearing impairment. He was pleased when a progressive head teacher integrated the children into mainstream classes, out of the unit that was attached to the school.

Initially, the uniform was different to show the children were from the unit but he eventually changed it, so their uniforms were the same as the wider school community and to help them feel more included.

Suleiman learned to sign and spent time helping some of the children overcome difficulties in learning and socialising. Today, he retains that commitment to help people out in the community, who struggle because they have additional needs. Rachel was pleased to be able to pass on some beautifully illustrated books which a primary teacher friend in the UK sent over to provide visual stimulus for children with hearing impairment. It was a great encounter!

As well as having a good heart, Suleiman is also passionate about his studies and won a prize for his soil project at last month's Science Day at St Jude's.



Head over to the St Jude's In Action section of our website for more great blogs posts, media articles, videos and more!

[www.schoolofstjude.org/our-stories/our-stories.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/our-stories/our-stories.html)

# See you in Australia!

Felix will be heading to Australia in a few weeks to join Gemma, Kim and the team at the Rotary International Convention in Sydney. We're thrilled that Felix is able to return down under and spend a few weeks on the road talking to schools, Rotary Clubs, work places and more. If you'd like to catch up with Felix, check our website for public event listings at [www.schoolofstjude.org/about-us/calendar.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/about-us/calendar.html)



We've got a few surprises up our sleeve for the Rotary Convention and one of those involves borrowing a goat for a day! If you, or someone you know, has a goat in Sydney that we could loan on the 1 June, please let us know. We promise to have it back safe and sound by the end of the day!

Email us at [australia@schoolofstjude.org](mailto:australia@schoolofstjude.org)



If you're heading along to the Rotary Convention in Sydney from 1—4 June, be sure to catch up with the St Jude's crew.

Catch Gemma and Felix in their breakout session on Monday 2 June at 3.30pm or pop over to the St Jude's booth in the House of Friendship.



# Q&A with Bibi Anna, head of St Jude's Parents Committee

St Jude's Parents' Committee acts as a voice for parents of our students. It has been running since 2004 and headed by a strong, Tanzanian woman, Bibi Anna. Our Media Relations Officer Steph Fitzpatrick caught up with Bibi Anna to find out more about what the Parents' Committee does at St Jude's.



## **Firstly, can you explain the role of the Parents' Committee?**

The Committee is a vital part of the school and it is why we have 49 parent representatives representing many areas in the Arusha and Meru district. Our role is to hear any complaints, concerns and ideas from the students' parents, and then present to the management at St Jude's with a list of issues for them to work on. Each parent representative holds a monthly meeting in their area where parents can ask questions or submit an issue for the school to review. Each student's family is visited at home throughout the year and we note any welfare issues and to check that their living situation is genuine. If a student has any academic, behavioural or boarding issues, the school works with the parent representative of that area to visit the student's family and work with them to resolve the situation.

## **What are the benefits of the Committee?**

It is of big benefit because it is just like a bridge between the parents, students and the school. I can say, we are like the messengers for the school, to the parents, because every information or issue which comes in, it comes to the Parent's Committee and we then pass it on to St Jude's and work with them on ways to resolve it.

## **In what ways does the Committee help the students?**

We are often going out to the areas where our students

live and meet with the families and find out any difficulties that they are having. The Committee also goes and crosschecks a student's background and if there are welfare issues. The Committee alerts the issue to the Welfare Deputies who look thoroughly into it and they will also refer us to do further investigation. If the students' families are struggling to buy basic items, St Jude's supports those students by giving them a pack with oil, sugar, rice, beans, washing and cleaning soap, toothpaste and other essentials. Our priority is making sure that these students are supported and are getting everything they need like the other students.

For background, the Health & Welfare program operates on the foundation of assisting students who require extra needs or those living in extremely difficult situations.

## **Tell us more about how the Committee is an important component of St Jude's and how it's unique compared to other Tanzanian schools.**

St Jude's has a very good system. Even people from outside, when they see us calling meetings in the area, and they say '*ah why are you doing this?*' and we say we want to update our parents with what is going on at school. It's a model that is working well.





# In other news

## Farewell Adellah.... and good luck!

The team at St Jude's bid farewell to a loved member of our Visitor Team recently. Adellah was known by colleagues and visitors alike for her warm, friendly (and often cheeky) personality. We wish Adellah all the best for life beyond St Jude's and thank her for all of her hard work here over the past 4 years.



## Shining Sports Stars

St Jude's students excel in the academic field but also on the sporting field and we're so proud of their excellent performance at the UMITASHUMTA competitions.

The lower primary students recently competed against Baraa Primary school in football and netball, winning both games. In football they scored 8 to zero while in netball they scored 26 to 2.

The competition is organised by the Tanzanian government and students can go on to participate at a District, Regional and National level. Overall, 54 St Jude's students will compete in all games.

Their involvement in sporting events not only gives them a sense of pride for their school but also gives them the chance to develop their confidence, skills and fitness levels.





# Our July Tour is just around the corner!

There is still time to book your place and experience the very best of St Jude's and Tanzania.

16 or 21 day itineraries available.

Check out our website for all of the details:

[www.schoolofstjude.org/visit-us/cultural-tours.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/visit-us/cultural-tours.html)

