



St Jude's News

MAY 2018



2018 Graduation
milestone

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Joining hands in a
common cause

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Everyone can make a
difference

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Stanford Scholar Graduates to Student Sponsor

Alex, one of our first students is now helping to support Abie's education in Standard 3

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Standing tall at Stanford: Alex with his Tanzanian compatriots on campus at Stanford University.



Bringing the journey full-circle: Uniform Day, 2003.

Alex, one of our first students is now helping to support Abie's education in Standard 3

When St Jude's Founder, Gemma Sisia, wrote Alex Elifas' introductory letter to his sponsor in 2003, she already suspected his future was going to be bright.

"I think we will be rewarded in years to come, as I have a feeling Alex wants to go VERY far with his education!" Gemma predicted.

She wasn't wrong. Alex has gone very far...all the way to Stanford University on a full time scholarship, in fact! Stanford University is the second top-ranked university in the United States.

The prestigious college has educated thousands of influential historical figures, including Nobel laureates and United States presidential candidates.

Alex may have aimed high and landed among the stars, but he has never lost connection to his Tanzanian homeland and The School of St Jude.

Alex has brought his St Jude's journey full circle by becoming our very first graduate to sponsor an academic scholarship for one of our students!

"I decided to become a sponsor in November 2017. After I graduated from St Jude's, I signed up to Gemma's newsletter list. Now and then, I'd visit the School's website and see what was happening but this day was different.

I was on the website and had begun thinking about how St Jude's changed my life."

"Ever since I was a child, I knew I wanted to give back to the School when I became successful, but then I remembered there were high school students in Australia who sponsored St Jude's scholarships," Alex said.

"I am working whilst completing my studies, so there's no time like the present to start giving back. I am already successful – I don't need to wait until I become a doctor."

Alex shares sponsorship for Standard 3 student, Abie, who, like Alex, enjoys studying mathematics and sciences.

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"I loved receiving my first sponsorship letter from Abie. It reminded me of times I used to write to my sponsor," Alex fondly recalls.

Alex will be visiting St Jude's in July, when he is back home for his summer break, and is looking forward to meeting Abie in person.

"The best advice I will give him is to study hard. We come from the same place and similar backgrounds. I never knew that studying hard would pay off the way it has for me," Alex said.

Alex is grateful to many St Jude's teachers who instilled in him positive core beliefs and encouraged him to pursue his dreams.

"Mr Mcharo [Acting Secondary Headmaster] was my neighbour. He used to walk home with me sometimes and once, he told me I would become one of the best students in the country. He saw my potential."

Another person Alex admires is Gemma Sisia, without whom, a free, high quality education would not have been possible.

"Gemma is very strong, starting a school in Tanzania without knowing where the money would come from, keeping faith that things would work out. I am so grateful to her.

She is making an incredible impact on Tanzania," Alex believes.

In Gemma's book *St Jude's*, published in 2005, she included a short passage about Alex.

"Alex is a gorgeous, hard-working boy, the youngest of many children. I know that things are often tight for him at home but his ambition when he grows up isn't to try to make his own life more comfortable, but to work with orphans whom he sees as having an even harder life than his own."

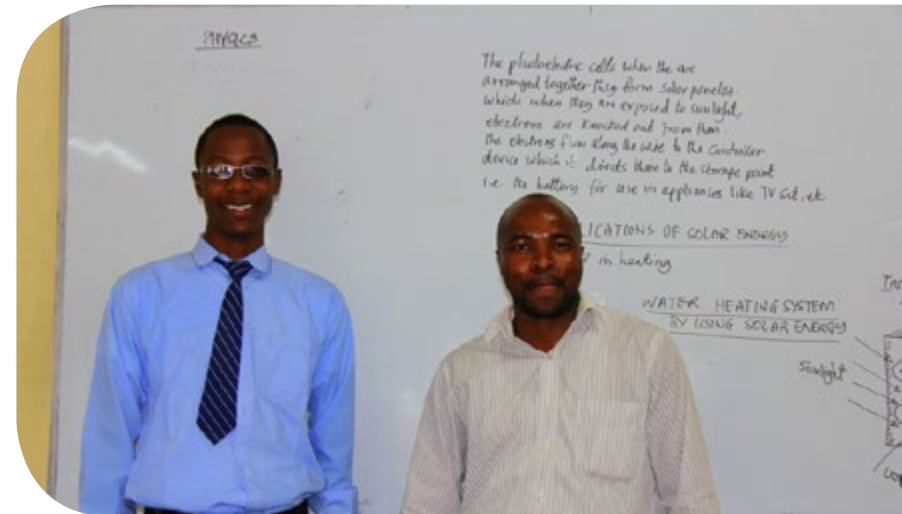
More than 10 years on, Gemma is seeing her dream for St Jude's, realised through the same young boy she remembers playing on a swing set.

"It was a huge milestone for us when we found out Alex was becoming a sponsor. This is what we want to see - St Jude's students feeling compelled to give back to their own community. I can't wait to catch up with Alex again and tell him personally how happy and inspired I am by him," Gemma said.

With a Stanford degree ahead of him, it's just the beginning for our Alex, but already, he's left an indelible mark on St Jude's. He's left a legacy which, we hope, many graduates will carry forward.



Abie's all-star: Alex will meet Abie in July.



Memorable role model: Acting Secondary Headmaster, Mr Mcharo, is an inspiration to Alex.



You, like Alex, can leave a legacy at St Jude's. With our 2018 Appeal match until June 30, there's never been a better time to fight poverty through education and sponsor or donate today.



Grand Finale for Form 6 Graduates



**Class of 2018 gives us 70
reasons to hope**

They say a picture tells a thousand words, and it was indeed an image to be imprinted on the hearts of all who attended St Jude's fourth Form 6 Graduation: the sight of 70 Form 6 students, raising their arms in triumph and celebration at Smith Secondary Campus on May 26.

They have reached a milestone which is unattainable for many young people in Tanzania – graduating from secondary school.

The Class of 2018 joins the ranks of 325 bright, young leaders who have successfully graduated from The School of St Jude since 2015, venturing into the world as the moral and intellectual leaders of tomorrow.

In the words of School of St Jude Board Chairwoman, Bibiana Mardai, "our graduates paint the most beautiful picture of Tanzania's future."

St Jude's Founding Director, Gemma Sisia, honoured students and all supporters who have given them a hand up throughout 13 years of education.

"It is thanks to good people from all around the world that this day is made possible for our Form 6 graduates," Gemma insisted.

"The Class of 2018 hold all the tools they'll need to reach their ambitions and make a difference in Tanzanian society," she said.

Thousands of generous supporters who make education possible for all our students, were represented by 38 sponsors, donors and visitors from the international community in attendance at the Graduation Day ceremony.

Guest of Honour, Dr Richard Masika, Board Director for The School of St Jude, stirred the crowd with a powerful message for the graduating class, encouraging them to look towards the road ahead.

"Students are harvesting the fruits of their hard work. Finishing secondary education prepares you for the future. But, it is important to remember that finishing school does not mean the end of the road. It is the end of one stretch and the beginning of another," he began.

"Be patient in reaching success. To whom support is given, support from them towards others is expected. Remember your responsibility to support your family, your community and Tanzania."

Another highlight from the day was a passionate address from Christina, 2017 school captain and 2018 graduate, who reflected on her time at St Jude's with insight and gratitude.

"Academically, we have competed against the best schools in Tanzania. With the help of our teachers, we have worked diligently. We hope we pass our exams with flying colours, proving our efforts and achievements."

"We have learnt essential leadership skills. We have the knowledge to face the problems in our community as we go out in to the world."

"Our school values of Respect, Responsibility, Honesty and Kindness, have helped us become the leaders we are. Thank you, St Jude's, for growing our hearts and our minds," Christina said.

Monica, a long-time School of St Jude sponsor, spoke straight from the heart to our graduates.

"You are a true example of what you can achieve once the opportunity presents itself. You have proved that you are capable of reaching the heights that were once so unattainable. As sponsors, it is with such happiness that we take you into our lives, we take pride in

your work ethic, how you face your daily struggles, and your abilities to succeed."

"The way your parents felt when you were accepted – well that's how we felt when we were given your name."

"I met Mama Gemma 20 years ago, at my first Rotary conference and she was one of the guest speakers. There were over 1,000 Rotarians in attendance. There she stood, this one young girl, and she spoke from her heart. She had no money to build a school, faced many hurdles, but did she ever give up? No, she held her head high and look where we are today," Monica shared.

Where we are today was unprecedented when The School of St Jude opened in 2002. We are educating 1,800 students, with a cohort of 395 graduates, and hundreds of alumni who have already given back through participation in the Beyond St Jude's Community Service Year, teaching 30,000 students in Tanzanian government schools.

Our achievements so far are a testament to the combined effort of thousands of people worldwide, who take our students' hands and lead them through the gateway to a bright future.

What are you waiting for? Give us a hand and in turn, you'll give young Tanzanians a chance to succeed. Donate or sponsor today.



Top Gemma's joy: St Jude's Founder couldn't be more proud of our fourth graduating class.

Middle left Looking forward: 2018 graduate, Christina, expressed gratitude on behalf of her classmates.

Middle right Guest of Honour: Dr Richard Masika is a Board Director for The School of St Jude.

Bottom Harts united: Monica is a long-time sponsor and was thrilled to be a part of the celebrations!

Joining Hands in a Common Cause

**Meet four mothers going
above and beyond to support
St Jude's**

Some quotes translated from Kiswahili

Janelle, Clorinda, Timuana and Octavia are uniquely bonded by their shared devotion to one of our 2018 graduates, Denis.

Janelle has sponsored Denis since his first day at St Jude's in Standard 1. She, along with her two daughters, Timuana and Clorinda, travelled from Queensland, Australia, to be by his side as he finished secondary school.

Janelle and her husband, Peter, who passed away in 2016, were inspired to help fight poverty through education when they heard about St Jude's through Rotary.

Janelle decided to pay tribute to her husband by attending Denis' graduation and bringing her two daughters with her, so they could understand their parents' passion for our cause.



Janelle and Denis shared an emotional reunion at Sisia Primary Campus on Monday May 21, having last seen each other in 2005, and later that day, he took them to visit his home and meet his guardian, Octavia.

At Form 6 Graduation on May 26, Octavia joined hands with Janelle, Clorinda and Timuana, in celebration of Denis' achievements.

Several years ago, due to difficult circumstances in Denis' home life, Octavia agreed to open her home to him, whilst he completed his education at St Jude's.

"When I took in another son, I wanted him to feel secure and not lonely. Now, Denis has a family and I want him to succeed in his life. Denis has brought joy to us. He helps Alexander with his chores and I am so proud to see him graduate," Octavia shared.

Octavia is a dedicated member of St Jude's Parent Committee and has been a passionate advocate for St Jude's in the local community since her son, Alexander, earned his academic scholarship in Standard 1, nearly 16 years ago.

Alexander graduated from Form 6 at St Jude's in 2016. He completed his Beyond St Jude's Community Service Year in 2017 as an intern in our Visitor team and is now studying his Bachelor in Economic Science and Communications, through Beyond St Jude's Tertiary program, at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's top university.

"Without help from St Jude's, I could not have afforded to give my son the same privilege he has now. I have other children to support and I would not have been able to afford to send Alexander to university," Octavia said.

Janelle and her daughters were profoundly moved by Octavia's generosity and passion for the School.

"Octavia is a beautiful person. This lady has given Denis the gift of a family home. Denis is a special young man — a young leader — and he is so grateful for the gift of an education. My husband Peter would have been proud to meet him as the wonderful young man he has become," Janelle revealed.

After 13 years of sponsorship, she is passing the beacon of hope to Timuana, who has agreed to financially support Denis through his Beyond St Jude's Community Service Year.

"I always knew this was a special cause, but being at St Jude's and seeing the community impact first-hand has changed mine and Clorinda's lives. There was no way I could walk away from this without giving something back, and Denis will always mean so much to our family."

"Meeting his guardian, Octavia, was an amazing experience. This mother is so kind and genuine. She has taken in this young man and raised him as her own. She deserves to receive so much gratitude in her own right," Timuana said.

Octavia, Janelle, Timuana and Clorinda may be separated by oceans, but they have joined hands to give an opportunity to one of Tanzania's future moral and intellectual leaders.

Will you take someone's hand too? Share their story and sponsor a student or make a donation during our 2018 Annual Appeal.



Leaving a legacy: Janelle and Peter first met Denis during their 2005 visit to St Jude's.



Long-awaited reunion: Janelle visited Octavia and Denis in their home, two days before Form 6 Graduation.



Ripple effect: Timuana and Clorinda's lives have been changed by their visit to Tanzania.

Meet Sasha, St Jude's Youngest Sponsor

At just 10 years old, Sasha is helping to change the life of a St Jude's student her age.

Sasha is a student of Walford Anglican School for Girls in Adelaide, South Australia. She was recently nominated in the prestigious Channel 9 Young Achiever Awards, for her dedication to fundraising for the sponsorship of Alice, also aged 10, in Standard 3 at The School of St Jude.

On Friday May 11, the inspiring young leader was presented with her nominee award by the Honourable Rachel Sanderson, Member of Parliament for Adelaide.

The Channel 9 Young Achiever Awards were established to recognise, encourage and reward the positive achievements of young South Australians, up to and including 29 years of age.

"I felt so proud and happy to help Alice," said an overjoyed Sasha.

Sasha heard about The School of St Jude from her mother, Tamara, who had seen a segment featuring St Jude's, on 60 Minutes Australia in 2016.

Keen to make a difference, and wanting to know that her donated funds would directly improve someone's life, Sasha chose to fundraise for our school by sewing headbands and selling them, under the banner of 'Headbands for Girls' Education'. The Walford community has supported Sasha by helping her sell the headbands in the school.

"I am lucky to go to a good school. It is not fair that just because you are a girl, in some countries, you don't get an education. I wanted to help a girl my own age and show them that we like the same things, even though we are around the other side of the world," Sasha said.

Insightful and articulate, Sasha reflected upon words of wisdom from her grandmother, which helped inspire her to fight poverty through education.





All for Alice: Standard 3 student, Alice, is receiving a free, quality education thanks to supporters like Sasha.



Headbands for education: Sasha's headbands have helped her raise more than \$800 for St Jude's!

"My grandmother always says knowledge is power and work makes life sweet. The more we learn, the more we understand each other." Sasha's grandmother has always told Sasha to be grateful for the education she is getting and how special it is to help change one girl's life.

When Sasha signed up for sponsorship of Alice's scholarship, she was pleased to learn that their shared favourite animal is a dog, and that Alice aspires to grow up and be a business leader.

Sasha's mother and grandmother, couldn't be more proud of Sasha's efforts in helping provide opportunities for someone else's daughter, on the other side of the world. It shows the power of kindness.

"I would like this to change one girl's life and make a difference — everyone can make a difference if you just help a little. Education is the key to making change," Tamara and her mother believe.

One day, Sasha says she dreams of meeting Alice in person.

"If I got to meet Alice, I would tell her that, 'I'm so excited that I am helping to give you an education and I hope it helps you.' I would really like to give her a hug."



Sasha is a moral and intellectual leader of tomorrow, who is making a difference today. Like her, you can give a helping hand to one of Tanzania's future leaders. Sponsor or donate during our 2018 Annual Appeal.



Long-time Sponsor's Words of Wisdom

**Robyn's stirring speech
inspires students**

Robyn has been sponsoring an academic scholarship for Form 4 graduate, Zahra, since 2009. She recently came all the way from Queensland to Arusha, to attend the Form 4 Graduation and shared some inspiring words with our student. Read her full speech below.

"Today it is my honour to speak on behalf of all sponsors, donors and supporters.

With the free high quality education that is being provided [at St Jude's] you all have an equal opportunity to aim high and achieve your dreams.

St Jude's vision is to educate future leaders of Tanzania and for communities to work towards self-sufficiency and independence.

This one chance in your life is made possible by the generous support of your sponsors and donors who have made a commitment to make a difference.

Sponsorship, to my mind, is an investment in your futures for improved living standards and opportunities.

Not only do you have the benefit here at StJude's of a top class education, you have the added bonus of nutritious meals provided daily, clean water, annual medical check-ups and top class resources.

Fighting poverty through education is a two way thing. Not only is there a commitment from your sponsor, you have a responsibility as a scholarship recipient, to not take anything for granted, but see it as an opportunity to grow and bloom.



Proud as punch: Robyn was ecstatic to meet Founder, Gemma Sisia, and see Zahra graduate from Form 4.



Heartsong: Robyn's speech was well-received by St Jude's students, visitors and staff.

Allow yourself to dream and with hard work and perseverance anything is possible.

Speaking for myself, I made a decision some 10 years ago that I wanted to make a difference and I'm here today to witness my sponsor student graduating.

Donors and supporters also play a major role in the success of St Jude's. To sponsor a student is a financial sacrifice, but a worthwhile investment.

The gratification is to know the difference it will make for your futures, if you work hard to achieve your goals and ambitions.

Being a Form 4 Graduate here today, is the culmination of 10 years of study. The next chapter of your lives should be about giving back to your families and wider communities. I know this is already happening in part through the Beyond St Jude's program.

I wish you well with the next two years of study here at Smith Secondary Campus and I hope you will always have gratitude for your sponsors, donors and supporters who have come together to make that difference.

I congratulate you all. Please show your appreciation through acclamation."

