



# St Jude's News

JUNE 2017

Thank you for sharing our  
newsletter with your family  
and friends



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

## Answering the call—our supporters spread hope!



Leap into a fulfilling career

Story page 3



No place like a home visit

Story page 4



St Jude's Super Supporters

Story page 6

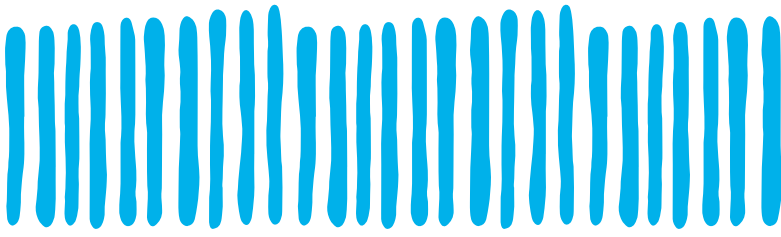




- **Wheels come full-circle:** Bus driver, Catherine, and Maddie celebrate St Aloysius College's generous \$5000 contribution to maintaining a school bus for one year!



- **Awestruck:** Maddie admires our students who have overcome so much in pursuit of an education.



## Nowhere else I'd rather be

Join Maddie and St Jude's—on the journey of a lifetime!

**T**wo months ago we welcomed a new staff member to St Jude's—Meet Maddie!

The curly-haired wonder hit the ground running—literally, running—after our students and staff.

As a Communications Officer, she is charged with supporting our fundraisers and sniffing out the best stories she can to share with our school community.

Maddie's St Jude's story had its start seven years ago in a South Australian high school classroom, where her teacher played the 'Africa Calling' - *Australian Story* episode.

"Mum and Dad raised me with a solid work ethic and moral compass. They always encouraged me to be kind; to believe one person could make a difference. Learning about The School of St Jude as a teenager brought that message home to me," Maddie recalled.

With the story of St Jude's planted at the back of her mind, Maddie set about making a difference to young people in Australia.

While completing university, she worked part-time for the Sisters of Mercy and at St Aloysius College in Adelaide, facilitating their Social Justice Program.

"Passion for the cause propels me. There's nothing more inspiring than a resilient attitude—gritting your teeth and getting an important job done, even if it's hard," she said.

The little seed sewn years earlier finally saw the sun, when Maddie received a phone call from her Mum late last year.

"If it weren't for Mum, I might not have had the courage to apply. She phoned me when she heard

about St Jude's for the first time on *60 Minutes* and said, 'You need to find a way to get involved.'

"I gave it a few days' thought, visited the school's website, saw the advertisement for Communications Officer and sent in my application," Maddie grinned.

The rest, as they say, is history.

"After finding out I got the job, I went online to see if Gemma and Winrose were planning a visit to Adelaide on tour. They weren't—but, they were booked in to speak at my best friend's church, a stone's throw away from her in Melbourne!"

"I wanted to visit loved ones there before leaving Australia, so the timing couldn't have been more perfect."

Maddie went to the talk at Holy Saviour Church, Glen Waverley, where she met Gemma and her now-friends and colleagues, Carla and Winrose.

"People representing St Jude's and all in the crowd who'd visited, spoke about the school with a twinkle in their eye and a burning passion that warmed my spirit. Everyone, regardless of age, race or religion, is united by a shared vision of 'Fighting Poverty Through Education,'" she insisted.

The woman who inspired that vision is thrilled to have Maddie on the team.

"Maddie is doing a WONDERFUL job here at St Jude's. Her Head of Department can't stop raving about her!," Gemma enthused.

When sixteen-year-old Maddie watched 'Africa Calling', she had no way of knowing it would be her first call to Africa.

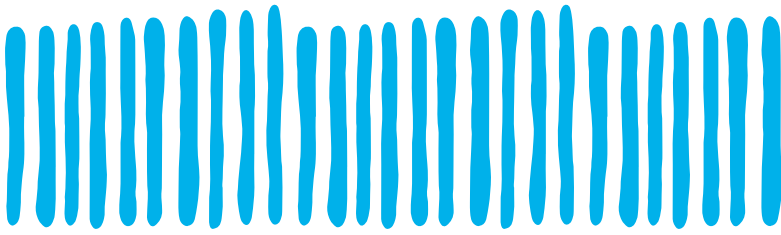
"Coming to St Jude's was a leap of faith that sent me soaring. There's nowhere else I'd rather be."

June 2017



Do you want to help 'Fight Poverty Through Education'? Join us today!





# Home visit is where the heart is

Our American Friends receive a warm welcome during graduation week 2017

**M** meet Pat & Willis Sutliff: Rapid City Rotarians, parents, grandparents, longtime supporters of St Jude's and members of 'The American Friends of The School of St Jude'.

It's been 15 years since the Sutliffs heard Gemma speak at the Rotary International Convention in Brisbane — for them, it was 'support at first sight!'

Pat and Willis have visited St Jude's multiple times, advocated for the school in America and sponsored three students.

Last month, the kind and humble pair visited us to see their sponsored student, Robinson, graduate and share in the Graduation Week celebrations with visitors from around the world.

One of the highlights of their recent visit was a bumpy bus ride with Robinson, a translator and skilled driver.

The St Jude's mini-bus was bogged on the way to their home visit, delaying the journey, but Pat and Willis were determined to get to Robinson's house on Arusha's outskirts.

The experience gave Pat an appreciation for our students' tenacity.

"During the drive, you see how far Robinson travels to reach the school, the state of the roads between the school and his home, and where he must walk to so he can catch the bus," Pat said.

"The home visit is a very special chance to meet a student's family. When you arrive at their home, it is very humbling – this proud child with you is working so hard to overcome poverty."

Robinson's mother and many neighbours rushed to greet the Sutliffs when they arrived and performed the Maasai vigelegele—a ululated song of welcome and celebration.

"During a home visit, you have a chance to share your pride of the student with people who love them. Seeing their gratitude and how much the whole family, as well as neighbours, value the student's education is truly amazing," Pat and Willis said.

The Sutliffs walked away from the experience knowing just how much of a difference their support makes.

"We are very lucky to be part of this young man's life. We have so much and they have so little as far as material things are concerned. But, he has great determination and is working hard to have a better life for himself, his family and his community.

What Robinson is doing with his life is very inspiring."

"The home visit really cements a special bond between you and the student you support."

You can have the same impact as the Sutliffs on one of our students—check out our sponsorship program today!



- **A 'Rapid' connection:** *The Sutliffs point out Rapid City on the world map.*

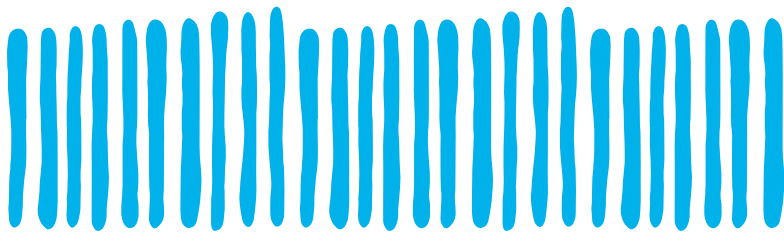
- **Neighbourly love:** *Robinson's whole community is grateful to the Sutliffs for supporting 'their boy'.*



- **Maternal connection:** *Pat is welcomed by Robinson's proud mother.*







## Super supporters

Where would we be without supporters like you?

This month, we cast the spotlight on a few members of the St Jude's community, 'Fighting Poverty Through Education' in creative and exciting ways!

### Miles Of Love

Students and staff at St Aloysius College in Adelaide strapped on their sneakers to raise over \$5000 for our school.

Funds raised from the Walkathon and Mercy Day Carnival will be put to good use, servicing and maintaining a St Jude's bus for an entire year.

"As a Mercy school, a commitment to justice is at the heart of all we do," Principal, Paddy McEvoy, said. "St Jude's mission to 'Fight Poverty Through Education,' makes it a true work of mercy in our world."

Year 12 students Maddie, Clare, Dimiti and Anna went the extra mile, making and selling blue and yellow ribbons to their peers.

"We feel proud to know that the money raised will go directly to where it is needed!"

The young leaders raised \$210, which will provide seven St Jude's students with a year's worth of fruit – it doesn't get much sweeter than that!

### Tech Won' Thanks To TechOne!

TechnologyOne employees from across the globe banded together to raise an amazing \$40,700 for our school!

A number of fundraisers were held throughout the year, and corporate donors were inspired by the school's story at TechnologyOne's annual December Fundraising Appeal auction and their Evolve Conference.

All money raised from these events was generously matched \$3 for \$1 by TechnologyOne.

Thanks to their efforts, we are able to upgrade our servers and update a computer lab of laptops with the latest licensing of Windows and Microsoft Office.

Three cheers for Executive Chairman, Adrian Di Marco and TechnologyOne supporters, who are powering our student's education and helping them stay connected!

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## Talking It Up

Our long-time friend, Noela, makes her mark by sharing the St Jude's story with anyone who'll listen.

The former Special Needs teacher has spent the last two years speaking at Rotary clubs on behalf of St Jude's, helping to raise thousands of dollars.

"Of course I get nervous on each occasion; however, the story of St Jude's must be told. I am telling the story for the students. It is my duty to encourage anyone who'll listen."

Recently, the Gladstone Rotary Club generously presented Noela with a cheque for \$1090.

The Rotary Club of Mt Isa were also more than happy for Noela to drop by and introduce them to St Jude's, "they donated all the coin and a few notes from a Sergeant's session that very evening," Noela said.

"With hundreds of local charities requiring Rotary's support, it's an honour to accept donations for St Jude's! I always think of how I would feel living in the shoes of Tanzanian children who have the same hopes, dreams and aspirations of a better life as we do, but are denied an education because they are poor."

"This is reason enough to act and assist in any way I can."

To invite Noela to speak at your next event, contact her at: [nphil4@gmail.com](mailto:nphil4@gmail.com).



## Big Art From A Huge Heart

A visit to The School of St Jude in February 2016 inspired Gerrit Faber to use his awesome artistry as a way of raising funds. Gerrit is the father of past St Jude's volunteer, Thomas. Big Art From A Huge Heart

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Gerrit hosted an exhibition of his portraits in December, titled 'Sterke Mannen – Strong Men'.

"Thomas spoke on the night and sparked everyone's interest in the way St Jude's changes children's lives with education. The event was a great success!" Gerrit said.

Each painting was whisked off the wall and \$1500 was raised – enough to provide a classroom with internet for a year and fund our security for a season.

We thank these two 'sterke mannen' and all our supporters in Amsterdam for their generous contribution!

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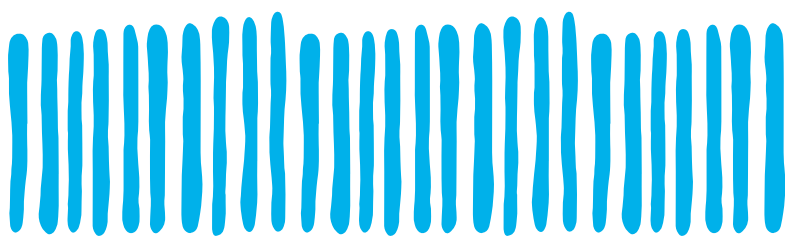
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You too can be a super supporter – why not think of creative ways to host a fundraiser?



## Staff spotlight: Ms Anna

**A creative and engaging educator and Joseph's favourite teacher!**

**M**eet Anna—at just 26 years old, the impassioned teacher, is earnest, forthright and a quiet inspiration to our Primary students.

Ms Anna was chosen for this month's staff profile by our Appeal Ambassador, and Grade 4 student, Joseph.

"She knows where she came from; she told us that she started learning under a tree, so she reminds us we are having a free, private education and should always study hard, for everyone," Joseph said.

Now it's time for you to hear from Anna herself...

### Why did you apply to work at St Jude's?

It is a very happy place to be. I love all my students so much—I always wanted to work at this school because it helps our community in such a big way, with so many students and families.

You went to a government school and now you teach at a private school. What are the key differences you've noticed between the two?

Government schools didn't have enough resources or materials for all of us to learn well. Here at The School of St Jude, we have everything we need for the students to receive a good education. As teachers, we need to be able to have examples of work to show the students; we need books and supplies for them to learn. It is very hard for teachers and students in some government schools without these things.

### Did you learn to speak English during your time at government school?

It is really challenging for children in government schools to learn English because, in primary

school, lessons are taught in Kiswahili. I taught myself to speak English and dreamed of becoming a teacher. I learned by reading books under a tree in the school yard. My friends and I used to have discussions about our studies at break times. Some of them spoke a bit of English, so I was able to learn from them. My mother is a teacher and she helped me too.

### Did you have any teachers who inspired you?

I had two female teachers who really inspired me and encouraged me. I knew I wanted to be just like them when I grew up. Now, I try to use the qualities I learnt from them to inspire my students. A student once gave me a gift and thanked me for being one of her favourite teachers. I felt so proud—like I had made a difference to her. It helped me realise I was doing a good job. I always tell my students stories about when I was at school. I want to be a role model, especially for the girls.

### What are your hopes for your students?

I would encourage my students to always follow their passions and believe in themselves, even if they fail at something. I always tell them their strengths and encourage them so they can have more self-confidence, especially when they face challenges, which we all do in life.

### What is Joseph like to teach?

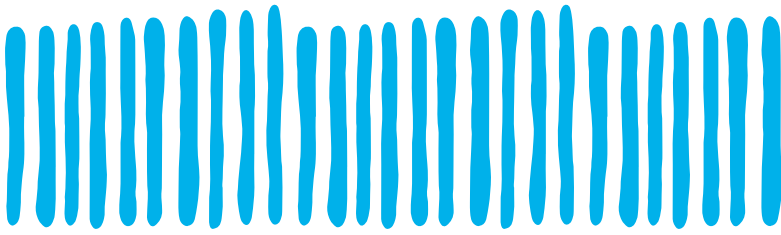
Joseph is so enthusiastic and always raises his hand to answer questions. His class is one of my favourites to teach because they are so charming and love to have discussions. I want Joseph to always grow and develop, to have confidence in himself, to be a leader, to be doing whatever makes him happy in the future. I wish for him to stay as enthusiastic, curious and hard working as he is forever, he will be a great man for his community.

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**Help Anna to educate her charming and curious classes—  
donate to our 2017 Appeal**





## Rise up for Rotary!

From May 3-6, Arusha hosted the 92nd Rotary District 9211 Conference.

**N**ot many primary school students could say they've sung for a Queen, a President and a Prime Minister, let alone in the same room and at the same time!

Our School of St Jude choir had that chance at the 92nd Rotary District 9211 Conference in Arusha, held in early May.

The captivating performers passionately delivered the *Tanzanian National Anthem* for Her Royal Highness Queen Sylvia Nagginda of Burganda, Rotary International President Nominee Sam Owlori and Tanzania's Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.

Leadership and pride echoed in their tune, setting the score for an exciting three days!

The conference showcased the best that Rotary International has to offer. Clubs provide an environment for people of many ages to develop new skills, and have a lot of fun, while practicing the Rotary motto: 'Service Above Self'.

On Saturday May 6, delegates braved the morning chill and painted the town red, marching through Arusha's streets donned in bold 'End Polio Now' t-shirts which were generously donated by Rotaractors from The University of Canberra.

Our Rotary Coordinator, Sebastian Cox, glowed with pride as he walked side-by-side with St Jude's Interactors.

"The Polio walk gave Interactors the opportunity to be exposed to Rotary's largest project—*End Polio Now*."

"The eradication of Polio has been Rotary's largest project since 1985. Even though the incidence

of Polio has reduced by 99.9% since 1985, an additional 1.5 billion dollars is needed to eradicate it completely."

"The walk was a highlight of the conference, given that the Rotary Foundation is celebrating 100 years," Sebastian added.

More than \$2000 was raised at the march through the sale of 'End Polio Now' Caps.

Vivian Deus, Treasurer of the Rotaract Club of St Jude, says our students' contributions over the weekend were appreciated by all.

"Earlyactors were the superstars of the whole conference! Their enthusiasm and stories brought most of the attendees to tears."

"They are living proof that our backgrounds don't define us—our future does," Vivian enthused.

St Jude's boasts the first Earlyact club in the whole district, although many have formed since.

Our young representatives spoke fervently on what Earlyact is, the projects they have accomplished and what Rotary, as one of St Jude's founding partners, means to them.

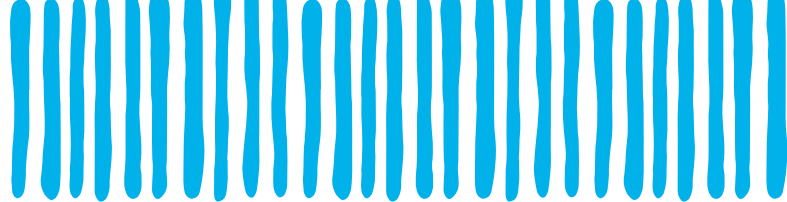
Interactor and conference delegate, Irene agreed with Vivian naming the Earlyact presentation, by far the most inspiring.

"They were amazing, fearless and confident. Noreen and Miriam made everyone at the conference smile and laugh."

"It's clear that St Jude's is producing excellent future leaders!"



Spread the word about the success of St Jude's at your local Rotary club!



## We love visitors!

The School of St Jude is extremely lucky to welcome so many wonderful visitors through our school gates all year round!



- **Above:** Margo and Tina enjoy a friendly rivalry during the graduation art project, The Big Picture.



- **Above:** Deonne couldn't be happier to have time with our students.
- **Left:** We love Americans! Check out these 'unique' visitors on tour with 'Unique Safari's'!





- **Above:** *There's no day like graduation day! Smiles*
- *abound as our students and visitors celebrate*
- *great achievement.*



- **Above:** *Amanda and Arafa share*
- *a big laugh on the big day.*

- **Below:** *Sophie and Form 6 graduates giggle*
- *over their different artistic skills.*

