



St Jude's News

#see the change

JUNE 2019



Developing Doctors in Dar es Salaam

[Story page 4](#)



Lessons in Compassion

[Story page 6](#)



Alumni Altruism

[Story page 8](#)



Three Generations of Giving

[Story page 12](#)



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

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



Top Hometown Hero: 18-year-old Daudi is a role model for his community, thanks to his St Jude's education.

Doing Dad Proud

Form 4 student Daudi strives to become an electrical engineer despite family tragedy. *Continued on page 2*



Doing Dad Proud

Form 4 student Daudi strives to become an electrical engineer despite family tragedy



Deep in one of the poorest and most densely populated parts of Arusha town, a St Jude's student is quickly becoming a hometown hero.

Admired for his determination and ability to overcome adversity, Form 4 student Daudi is a role model for his younger siblings who attend under-resourced government schools and his young neighbours who play in the street with a soccer ball made of plastic bags. He's also earned the respect of his elders since he joined St Jude's in 2009.

"I live with my mother and am the oldest of three boys and my young sister. We live in one room and there are many challenges in this area. Around the streets there are boys my age who are not attending school, they have a difficult life, so I thank God that I have the opportunity to study at The School of St Jude," Daudi explained sitting outside his family's brick room.

The 18-year-old is now well on his way to becoming an electrical engineer thanks to the teaching, resources and opportunities at St Jude's.

"I would really like to improve this area with electricity because everyone in this place needs to have power in his or her home," Daudi expressed.

Like many of the 1,800 students studying at St Jude's, Daudi's journey hasn't come without challenges at home. Last year Daudi's father, Stephano, became ill and the family were forced to move from a three-roomed home to their current single-roomed home to pay for his medical expenses. Sadly, Stephano passed away, leaving Daudi with a big responsibility as the oldest son in the family.

"I lost my dad who was one of my heroes, it really hurt my family as he was the one looking after us. What I can do to make my dad proud, wherever he is, is to take care of my family, especially my siblings and my mother so they don't have any obstacles in the future," Daudi shared quietly.

Right Doing it for Dad: Daudi with his father, Stephano, when he Daudi was accepted into St Jude's in 2009





The St Jude's community is supporting Daudi's family, while ensuring Daudi fulfils his dream of becoming a future leader of the electrical engineering industry.

Daudi stays in the Smith Secondary Campus' boarding house, which ensures he can attend school without any external pressures and barriers. It also gives him the independence and opportunity to explore his passion of basketball and the chance to do extra study after school.



Daudi's chemistry teacher, Mr Deusdedit, has watched Daudi grow during his time at St Jude's and couldn't be prouder of his improvement.

"I have known Daudi since Form 3 last year and I am teaching him currently in Form 4. In the midterm test which was done in March he got 83, which is an A, it's a good path towards engineering. He's also compassionate and I think he can do well. For me, if he keeps focusing on study and his goal, I have no doubt he will fulfil his dream of becoming an engineer," Mr Deusdedit said.



Left Biggest Supporter: Daudi's younger sister, Lydia, trying on his St Jude's tie.

Right Focusing on the Future: Daudi is well on his way to becoming an electrical engineer, thanks to St Jude's.

Daudi has also benefited from meeting industry leaders from across the world who generously support, and have visited, St Jude's; helping to open his eyes to the possibilities that he can work towards.

"St Jude's has changed my perspective on life. I get to meet a lot of people who can help, I've met engineers who work with sports cars and experts from an Australian software company," Daudi explained.

With plans to graduate Form 6 in a couple of years and go on to do a Community Service Year with the Beyond St Jude's program and then to university, Daudi's future couldn't be brighter. But no matter how far he travels, six-year-old sister Lydia will always be his biggest supporter.

Her admiration for Daudi is evident as she proudly tries on Daudi's St Jude's school tie when he returns home for school break.

She knows her big brother is driving change for their family, their neighbourhood and their country, thanks to St Jude's. Daudi is truly becoming a hometown hero.

Help empower students like Daudi and see the change that their academic scholarship not only brings to them, but their families too.

Become a sponsor this month as part of our 2019 Annual Appeal.





Left Making a difference: Beyond St Jude's scholars who will become the St Jude's first qualified doctors in 2021.



Right Aspiring Doctors: Hosiana and Suleiman at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences.



Developing Doctors in Dar es Salaam

Meet the Beyond St Jude's scholars who will become St Jude's first qualified doctors

Among the hustle and bustle of one of the fastest growing cities in the world, five St Jude's tertiary scholars are working hard towards an achievement that Founder Gemma only dreamed of for her students, when she started the school 17 years ago.

In just two years Hosiana, Suleiman, Esuvat, Elizabeth, Joshua and Abdulaziz will be the first scholars to graduate from medical school, and on their way to being leaders in the medical field.

"The School of St Jude has built us to become people who can initiate change, so I thought if I am a doctor, I can help. Not only will we be the first graduating medical students from St Jude's, we'll also be the first doctors on the streets and in the villages we are from. It's not just about practicing medicine but if something is wrong in the system then you should be the first one to speak up and improve it," 25-year-old Suleiman reflected looking out over his university campus.

After graduating from St Jude's in 2015, the five bright St Jude's scholars are in their third year of the five-year degree at Muhimbili University, widely regarded as the top medical school in Tanzania. They are already making a difference to patients by spending some of their time out of the classroom and on ward rotations in the hospital attached to the University.

"We've just finished pediatrics and so far it's the most challenging department we have been to, but it is so rewarding to see a child come in very malnourished, for example, and to stay with them for eight weeks in the ward and then to see them go home nourished. As you move from one rotation to another you find you are actually able to do something, however small it is, to make a difference in a person's life," Suleiman shared.



Upon completing his degree, Suleiman will undertake an internship to become a licensed doctor and plans to practice medicine before starting a Master's degree.

"As a specialist you can participate in policy making, you will have a voice and can help create change in our country. In Africa there are a lot of infectious diseases and if you don't have a good medical team you cannot combat the cycle of infections in third world countries like Tanzania. For example, we have a problem with dengue fever and malaria, and in Dar es Salaam we have had a cholera outbreak in some neighbourhoods. We need the right people in place to make the correct diagnosis and also to influence change. If you are aware of the problems you will be passionate to make a difference," Suleiman said.

That passion is shared by all five scholars who radiate pride for their St Jude's education. For 25-year-old Hosiana the transition from her home made of sticks and mud, to city living, has been easy thanks to the St Jude's community.

"Our St Jude's family has continued onto Dar. The five of us share a home together, we study, eat and socialise together. Having St Jude's behind us supporting us with a scholarship, it feels amazing to be the first group of graduating doctors. I am still connected to many St Jude's students and I help where I can with career counselling," Hosiana beamed.

This bright young woman is not only leading the way for St Jude's students but is bringing the barriers of inequality in the medical industry tumbling down.

"When I was young I thought all doctors were men as we had two doctors in our village, both were men. The ratio of male to female doctors is about 3 to 1 but it is great that the number of female doctors is continuing to increase. When St Jude's first visited my home as part of the selection process I said I wanted to be a nurse, not because I didn't want to be a doctor but because I didn't think it was possible. They made it possible for me," Hosiana expressed.

One of the driving factors motivating Hosiana when 'med school' becomes tough, is something she was told while at St Jude's.

"The school has always had this philosophy of building future leaders and I once heard Mama Gemma talk about her hopes that one of her graduates would one day be her daughter's gynaecologist because her experience showed that there were far too few of them. How special that because of my St Jude's foundation, I could be that woman and help her daughter."

Suleiman and Hosianas' opportunity to excel is thanks to their Beyond St Jude's Tertiary Scholarships, which are supported by their long-term sponsors and covers tuition fees, students' living expenses, a laptop, textbooks, and study materials.

"To be able to start my professional career without the burden of a loan to repay is life changing. Having the chance to study in such a big city I get to meet a lot of professionals and I have received a lot of advice about what fields I should pursue," Hosiana elaborated.

Both scholars hope their achievement, come 2021, will inspire the next generation of St Jude's students and staff.

"No matter their circumstances, if they come from low socio-economic areas or marginalised backgrounds, they're not obstacles. We have been there and now we are here." Suleiman enthused.

All five aspiring doctors are true trailblazers, breaking new ground for the school they still hold close.

Their graduation in just two years is yet another milestone highlighting how St Jude's graduates are challenging the status quo and finding solutions for the 12 million Tanzanians living in poverty.

"My family dreamed for me to be a doctor, but this experience has been bigger than I ever could have imagined. The future is bright," Suleiman beamed.

Top Trailblazing Students: The group of Alumni, studying at Muhimbili University are leading the way and inspiring the St Jude's community.

Bottom Challenging the Status Quo: The students' graduation from medical school is a major milestone for St Jude's and the graduates themselves.



Help other students follow in the footsteps of these aspiring doctors who are working to transform their community.

Sponsor a tertiary scholarship today.





Lessons in Compassion

Students show community spirit,
volunteering at local orphanage

Just a short 10-minute drive from our Smith Secondary Campus in Usa River is a local orphanage, a stark reminder of the realities of living in a country where up to 10% of the child population are orphaned.

St Jude's secondary students participate in monthly volunteering, giving back to the community on their weekends, as a way to spread the generosity they have received even further.

30 St Jude's students spent their Saturday morning washing clothes, cooking and putting smiles on the faces of those at the small orphanage. Around 150 St Jude's students have lost one or both of their parents and know the challenges these children face.

Form 5 student Zuhura looks forward to the visits because she knows she's been given a quality education and wants to drive change.



"We are going back into the community to assist other people because we have been given the chance at The School of St Jude that only a few get. Outside the school gates can feel a world away sometimes. I know I am only in the position I am in because my sponsor is giving back too," Zuhura said.

Zuhura was a natural with the younger orphans, initiating games to brighten their morning. The 19-year-old says that's because she knows what it's like to have very little.

"I certainly lived under hard conditions at home, sometimes me and my siblings missed meals, sometimes we went to school with no uniforms or books. It can hurt when you see other children getting opportunities, so now as one of the lucky ones, I can spend a bit of time to make others smile," she reflected.

Zuhura also shared some wise words with the young, bright minds at the orphanage, encouraging them to study hard at school and use education as their foundation.



Top Helping Hand: Zuhura & Deogratus wash clothes at the orphanage.

Bottom Left Looking Forward But Giving Back: Students spend one Saturday a month helping the community.

Bottom Right The Gift of Education: Students spend time teaching what they have learnt in their education.





Left Heartwarming Smiles: After chores students spend time playing together, a highlight for all!



Right Breaking the Cycle: Students from St Jude's and the orphanage stand together.

The volunteer program has helped shape Zuhura's ideas for her future. She is determined to be part of the 4% of Tanzanians enrolled in higher education and focus her studies where she can continue to have an impact on those less fortunate.

"I love the community and I have not forgotten where I have come from. I want to study social work or child psychology at university," Zuhura beamed.

The visits are all part of St Jude's, 'School Service and Self Reliance Program', instilling in each student the knowledge and belief that they too can help break the cycle of poverty.

"The school can only operate thanks to the generosity of people giving, so we want our students to do the same. This is all leading to their Community Service Year as part of the Beyond St Jude's program, but we start enriching our students with the concept of giving early on. We appreciate what is being given by sponsors and donors and that's what we want our students to develop, not just that giving is a good thing but that you are capable of giving in so many ways," Head of Service at Smith Secondary Campus, Mr Ernest outlined.

For Form 4 student Deogratius the visits are about giving hope to those who have the odds stacked against them, a position he admits he was once in.

"Before studying at St Jude's I had to walk long distances to school like these kids have to. My favourite part of our visits is seeing the kids smile. You can feel the whole vibe of the orphanage change when we start getting to work here and when we have time with the kids after. Thanks to these visits I even want to start my own orphanage after I finish school and am set up professionally because I see a lot of social-economic problems developing in Tanzania," Deogratius shared while soaking washing for the orphanage.

St Jude's students know their education is a valuable gift and that their good fortune can be shared with others, much like the thousands of people worldwide who keep St Jude's running each day.

Be a part of our students' inspirational journeys and help them give back to their community.

Become a sponsor today.





Alumni Altruism

St Jude's alumni to become regular donors through new voluntary giving scheme

Standing in the middle of New York City, gazing up to Times Square Ball, St Jude's graduate Enock knows he's a long way from home.

The charismatic graduate is about to commence his third year of study at the University of Rochester, majoring in Finance and Economics. A dream made possible by his hard work, the Beyond St Jude's program and its partnership with the MasterCard Foundation.

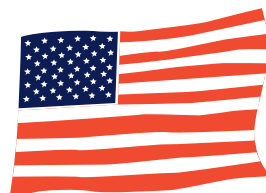
"I always wanted to study abroad, I even wrote that dream down and put it in a time capsule while I was still in primary at St Jude's, and it is still buried somewhere on Sisia Primary Campus," Enock remembers.

As part of his scholarship Enock will return to Tanzania at the completion of his degree to drive change in his country, but in the meantime there has been some major adjusting for the 25-year-old, from his rural home in Arusha, to the bright lights of America.



Left Leading the Way: Enock visited Sisia Primary Campus during his summer break to give back to the school.

"There are a lot of cultural differences; the food, the accent, the dressing style and the technology. I have had to save up to get my dad a smartphone so we can call regularly. My university is famous for diversity and there are so many different people from different parts of the world. The people are really, really nice," Enock smiles.



But no matter the distance, Enock is still very much connected to The School of St Jude as a founding member of the St Jude's Alumni Committee. He recently gave a stirring speech to this year's Form 6 graduates and reflected on the importance of an Alumni program.

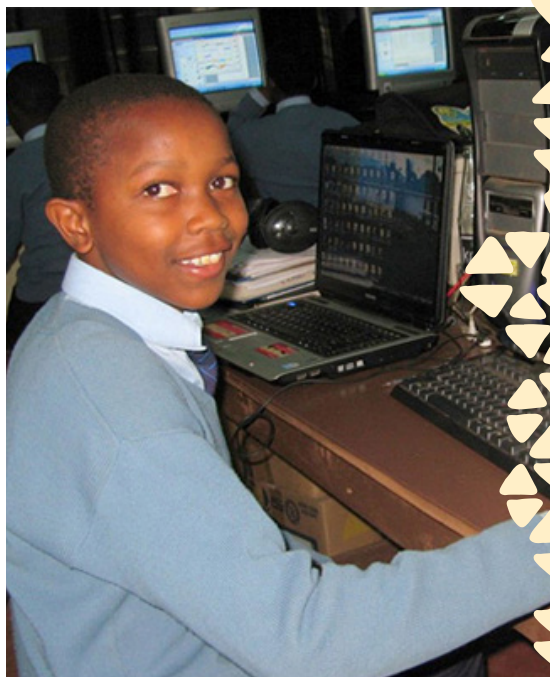
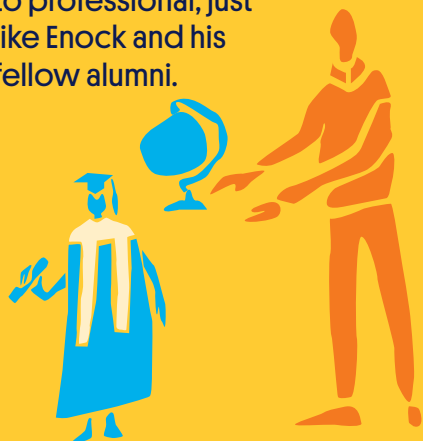


Right New York State of Mind: Enock in New York City where he is now in his third year at the University of Rochester, majoring in Finance and Economics.

"St Jude's is my family, it is home. I spent more than 50% of my life there. I am one of the school's first Form 6 graduates and I want all graduates to benefit from a strong alumni network. I am thinking of jobs, internships and connections. I want the alumni to be a top resource for graduates. Some alumni members may start their own businesses and they can employ other St Jude's graduates in the future," Enock shared.



Join our tertiary scholars and **make a donation today** to change the lives of St Jude's students from poverty to professional, just like Enock and his fellow alumni.



After a successful alumni reunion last year, scholars stay in touch by running activities, sharing professional learnings and visiting St Jude's during university breaks.

"One key difference between us and alumni of other schools is that their parents had an opportunity to get a good education and go on to good jobs so they have bigger professional networks. Most of our parents didn't even get to secondary school, so it's our responsibility to set up networks for our fellow and future alumni. As we become professionals we need to support each other," Enock explains.

The scholars now want to take their involvement with their former school, that gave them so much, to the next level.

The Alumni Committee are set to launch a voluntary giving scheme at the annual alumni reunion, to be held later this year.

"Alumni members can offer their time and come back to St Jude's, volunteering in various school departments, and, if they wish, they can contribute financially to the Unsponsored Student Fund."

"St Jude's alumni may give back to St Jude's and be formally recognised for their contributions." Alumni Coordinator, Maddie, explained.

For Enock the scheme gives him a way to contribute to St Jude's despite a hectic university schedule in which he is thriving.

"Everyone is excited about the opportunities. Australian schools sponsor St Jude's students for example, so why can't our alumni help those that aren't sponsored? I have also seen what a difference alumni can make in America. As we become professionals we have more of an opportunity to support each other."

The new alumni-driven initiative aims to bring the school values full circle and spotlight the community and school spirit of St Jude's, as our graduates make their impact across the world.



Top Giving Back: Enock with fellow alumni at this year's Form 6 graduation.

Bottom Humble Beginnings: Enock studying at The School of St Jude in 2009.



It takes a village

Committed parents work behind the scenes to keep St Jude's flourishing

There is an age-old African proverb, 'It takes a village to raise a child' and at St Jude's we not only have over 290 committed staff, we also have a group of dedicated parent representatives, who on behalf of almost 2,000 students' families, work to better the school.

The Parent Committee started as a 'working bee' with parents planting the grass that students walk on and harvesting the maize and beans staff ate when the school began. As the school has grown, so too has the parents' involvement. Forty-nine parents represent the different areas in which students live across Arusha and surrounding regions, to investigate any issues at home and keep parents informed when students stay in boarding.

Elizabeth, the Committee's Chairperson, is giving back because she is grateful that a stranger from a foreign land, and the St Jude's community, believe in her daughter's potential.

"We follow up any issues by visiting homes, we look after the little primary students at the bus stops and we also arrange for parents to come in to school to help in the kitchens and maintain the gardens," Elizabeth explained.

Top Parent Representatives: The Committee meet regularly at the primary campus to discuss issues and report to school management.

The father of Form 1 student, Irene, couldn't be prouder to be on the Committee and loves sharing the St Jude's story in the community.

"We have Committee members who update parents and talk to those in the community interested in St Jude's. We also meet every month and all parents can attend. It's very important in Tanzania to be culturally sensitive and we help with relationships between the school and parents. The Parent Committee has helped the school make lots of follow-ups. We are very involved."





Left A Mothers' Love: Committee Chairperson Elizabeth with her daughter Nice, who is now in Form 1.



Middle Proud Parents: Each Committee member represents each area where students live.



Right Creating Change: The Parent Committee are a vital part of the school system, meeting with management regularly.

#see the change

2019 Annual Appeal Edition

“We are proud to be part of the St Jude’s community; it surprises many people how this school helps bring hope to poor families. It is a very unique thing,” Charles said.

Assisting with welfare matters is also a key part of the role; representatives might visit a students’ home if a teacher identifies an issue with a student in the classroom to see if there are any underlying reasons for this in their home life. Parent reps are also involved in the student selection process, helping to identify and reach students in remote areas and in the greatest need of education.

School Founder, Gemma Sisia, meets with the representatives regularly and values their involvement. She explains the essential role they play in ensuring the welfare of students and in continuing the ethical and transparent legacy of the school.

“I believe they are the eyes and ears of what’s happening. Statistics have shown me that 99% of the problems they have reported are accurate. Their feedback has created change around the school, manuals have been updated and contracts have been changed. They are very honest with what they tell us and I think that’s precious,” Gemma reflected.

So just like the African proverb describes, an entire community is boosting and caring for each St Jude’s student, helping them to become the future leaders of their chosen industries and of Tanzania.

“The parents’ involvement and information comes from the heart as, in the end, they just want their kids to have the best education. They truly love our school,” Gemma concluded.

When you donate to St Jude’s you help ensure that the unseen but invaluable parts of the school, like the work of our Parent Committee, can continue.

Donate today and help create change for a whole community.





Three Generations of Giving

Victorian Grandfather brings 11 members of his family to St Jude's

Coordinating a family get-together can be tough in 2019 with competing schedules and commitments, but one longtime St Jude's supporter decided to tempt his family with travel, inviting 11 of them on a trip of a lifetime to Arusha, Tanzania, to visit a place very close to his heart.

Brian Moloney has been involved with The School of St Jude for 15 years, sponsoring two students' academic scholarships as well as supporting additional boarding and transport costs.

His friendship with Gemma and the school has had such a profound impact on the Australian from Canterbury in Victoria that he and his wife wanted to share the experience with their children and grandchildren.

"I saw Gemma on the ABC and I was so taken back I started sponsoring a student's scholarship. Visiting here I am so impressed where the money goes. Students are dressed well, the campus is spotless, the food is great, the opportunities everyone is given, it's just outstanding," Brian said standing next to one of the school buses he helps maintain.

Brian is passionate about the ethos of giving back to those in need and wants to instill that idea in the next generation.

"I think it's very important that Australians get behind the school as Tanzania is a country that is struggling and there is a lot of unemployment. This is an opportunity to change that, we could help make the future very bright."



Top Spanning the Decades: Brian with his daughter, granddaughter and St Jude's students at Sisia Primary Campus.

Bottom Life Changing Experience: Brian's daughter, Danielle, says the school has had a profound effect on the family.





Top Family Affair: Brian is passionate about the ethos of giving back to those in need.

Bottom Trip of a Lifetime: 12 members of the Moloney family visited St Jude's in Arusha.



Part of that future is Brian's granddaughter, Georgia, who's already planning to follow in the footsteps of her Pa after visiting St Jude's.

"Being here has opened my eyes. I've grown up with Pa sponsoring the students' scholarships, I've seen all the letters and photos so it's been amazing to actually be here with him. The highlight has been seeing the resilience of the students who have done it tough. I want to come here more times in my life and keep up the connection to St Jude's," Georgia shared while enjoying lunch with the students.

For Brian's daughter the family's jam-packed itinerary visiting the homes of St Jude's students, joining them in extracurricular classes and exploring the wider community has been life changing.

"Thank God Dad saw Gemma on the TV and he's been able to share this school with us. This trip has been a big wake up call for me. St Jude's has really embraced our family. The students are respectful, disciplined, keen and are invigorated by coming to the school," Brian's daughter Danielle reflected.

While St Jude's has over 1,500 visitors each year, the majority coming between May and September over high season, this special intergenerational interaction was one to remember, bringing together the past and the future.

It's safe to say the whole Moloney family are on board with Brian's retirement plan to use his newfound spare time to fundraise for St Jude's, after seeing the educational institution's impact and their grandfather's contribution come to life for themselves.

Brian and the Moloney family can see the change St Jude's is creating. **Join them and visit St Jude's** to see firsthand the impact that people from all over the world have achieved together, changing the lives of 1,800 students, over 500 graduates and 290 staff and their families.





The School of St Jude

Fighting poverty
through education



schoolofstjude.org

