



# The School of St Jude

## St Jude's News

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

JULY, 2016



## Alex and Wendy's Big 5!

Alex and Wendy first met school founder Gemma Sisia at a Rotary Conference in Auckland in 2005.

"We thought Gemma was wonderful. She was sitting next to us after the presentation and we got talking. We asked, 'where are you staying tonight?' She said she didn't know, so we said 'come home with us!' We had a marvelous time!," Wendy said.

"After that, we started sponsoring our student, Victor, and made plans, vague plans, to one day come over," Alex added.

Alex and Wendy made it to St Jude's more than 10

years later, and have definitely made the most of it!

We asked them about their top things to do in Arusha and number one was staying at St Jude's. Being woken up by students arriving at school, their room, school lunches, the volunteer kitchen community and the pub outside the gate... they loved it all.

"We didn't expect to find such a welcoming and warm community of staff," Wendy said. "It really has been the best experience, working at the school," Alex said.

**Read on inside to learn about the rest of the intrepid visitors' top five things to do in Arusha!**

**Why not come and see for yourself the impact your support is having, all while having the trip of a lifetime!? Visit our website [www.schoolofstjude.org/visit-us/making-a-visit.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/visit-us/making-a-visit.html), email our visitors team [visitors@schoolofstjude.co.tz](mailto:visitors@schoolofstjude.co.tz) or call +255 758 305 776 to find out more.**



# Arusha's Big 5 with Alex and Wendy

## Home visits

Alex and Wendy's sponsored student Victor is in Form 5 and has corresponded with them for more than a decade. He hosted his sponsors twice.

Alex's Rotary club also sponsors young female student Mwanahawa.

"It's just humbling, the families were so welcoming they really had so little, but took such pride in hosting us," Alex said. "Mwanahawa's family were fasting for Ramadan but for us they put out tea and mandazi (a donut-like snack). Her mother had taken so much care in every detail," Wendy said.



*Alex and Wendy meet Mwanahawa and her family on one of their home visits.*

## Safaris: Lake Manyara, Tarangire National Park and Serengeti National Park

"The highlight was actually driving out onto the plain at Lake Manyara and seeing all the zebras, wildebeests and Cape buffalo just there – you feel like you're in touching distance," Alex said.

Alex's boyhood dream of safari wasn't quite complete without seeing a big cat! "We didn't see cats until we went to the Serengeti. Then we saw four leopards, ten lions, two cheetahs and lots of small cats – we even saw lions mating right beside the vehicle," Alex said.



*Getting up close and personal with the Tanzanian wildlife.*

## Climbing Mountains: Mt Meru and Mt Kilimanjaro

Living in the shadow of Mt Meru, the daring duo decided it was a must-climb.

"On Meru the environment was so varied. There were giraffes at the base and beautiful lichen hanging from the trees like a rainforest. Then, when you pass through the clouds, you come out in the hot sun and you're in scrubland," Wendy said. "It was a beautiful experience, almost ethereal. The view of Mt Kilimanjaro, at sunrise, floating above the clouds."



*The ethereal view of Mt Kilimanjaro at sunset from Mt Meru.*



## Navigating Arusha/Moshi town

Wendy loved Moshi's markets with its fresh produce, novelties and tiny alleyways, rich with fabric. She marvelled at the natural history museum and enjoyed attending church "for the singing".

Alex enjoyed exploring both cities, especially after taking a few Swahili classes so he could spar with street hawkers. Now, almost at the end of their journey, the only thing left is the famous 'goat street' - a street where all the eateries serve goat!



*Enjoying their favourite part of the trip, staying at St Jude's and spending time with our staff.*





*Vivian visits Trinity College, one of the MasterCard Foundation partner schools.*

## Staff Spotlight: Vivian Deus

She's an in-demand fashion designer who teaches law in her spare time – but the thing that makes Vivian Deus a perfect role model for our St Jude's graduates is her commitment to making a difference in her community.

"I love what I do because I get to work with the graduates and help them become the leaders of Tanzania," Vivian says.

Vivian has been a key part of our Beyond St Jude's (BSJ) team since joining 18 months ago and helping our first Form 6 graduates during the inaugural Community Service Year (CSY).

The hard-working 27-year-old is the perfect example of versatility and living proof that you can always find time to follow your passion. "My step-mum was very crafty, and I learnt a lot from her. She made me grow that passion."

Vivian started designing in 2014, and when she wasn't in the BSJ office she worked many odd hours to pursue clothing design and production from home.

Vivian's clothing and jewellery have become a hit at St Jude's and word has been getting around town, so she has started a small business to keep up with demand.

On top of being one of St Jude's most dedicated staff members and a budding fashion mogul, Vivian teaches law part-time.

Her teaching internship is part of a plan to qualify for a

possible scholarship for her Masters, where she plans to major in Origin Integration law.

It's a lot of commitments to juggle, but Vivian's number one priority is her job at St Jude's, a position she wants to hold for the next 10 years.

"I love what I do and I'm so lucky to have the opportunities I have. I've already learnt so much in my time with Beyond St Jude's, especially from Angela (Bailey, BSJ manager)," she said.

This worldly woman, who has previously studied in Russia, is now venturing to North America to cement our school's upcoming opportunities with the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at African Leadership Academy.

St Jude's has qualified as a recruiting partner for the prestigious program, which means our graduates may be eligible for their international scholarships.

Not only do these scholarships open our students up to a world of possibilities, the program is in line with St Jude's mission of creating future leaders of Tanzania by ensuring all scholarship recipients return to Africa after finishing their higher education.

**You can help support high-quality education and the future leaders of Tanzania by donating to our Area of Greatest Need! Call 0438 783 035 or go online at [www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html)**



# St Jude's super supporters

We love our supporters here at St Jude's! Check out these awesome ideas on ways you can help us help our promising students!

## Michael and Kim's wonderful wedding

Michael and Kim recently tied the knot, and while planning for their big day they also thought of others. The couple decided to sponsor a St Jude's student instead of purchasing wedding favours for their guests. On the big day guests were given a postcard and shown a short video demonstrating the impact of their support. The happy American couple also had the novel idea of setting up a card-writing station for guests to write short notes of goodwill to student Hawa.

With Michael a teacher and Kim a physical therapist they "understand the importance of giving children a chance to shine and grow". Kim's family sponsor two St Jude's students and her father has visited the school, a trip that he swears "changed his life". We wish this generous couple the happiest of years ahead!



*The happy couple on their wedding day and (left) family and friends who shared in the special day.*



## Neat Nadia nails the Duke of Ed!



*Nadia meets Dorice, one of St Jude's first graduates, earlier this year at the Rose Bay Church.*

Nadia is a dedicated Year 11 student at Kincoppal Rose Bay School of the Sacred Heart in Sydney, where the enthusiastic 17-year-old is supporting St Jude's through participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Program (an international course that encourages excellence in youth achievement).

She chose us because she believes "education is the key to solving many problems in our world, so everyone should be given the opportunity".

Nadia first heard about St Jude's at Rose Bay Church, when Gemma visited and shared our story. Her family have supported us ever since, and now Nadia is helping spread the word by producing a newsletter and undertaking various fundraising activities that have already raised \$5,000!

Nadia will continue fundraising throughout next year, and we wish her all the best as she completes the Duke of Edinburgh program.



# St Jude's super supporters

## Showing Spirit with Two Bun Tuesday for Tanzania

The tremendous Student Representative Council of Holy Spirit College Bellambi in New South Wales organised a terrific fundraiser with Two Bun Tuesday for Tanzania. Staff and students adopted the tasteful look, and even the boys got into the action! Students set up a salon which generated \$270... not bad for a day's work!

This event followed a visit to the school by Gemma and Dorice on their March trip to Australia, where they shared the St Jude's story with Year 12 students. The inspired students wanted to give back and "help play a role of changing the lives of the disadvantaged". We look forward to continuing our relationship with the students and staff of Holy Spirit College.



*Above: Students of Holy Spirit College get into the spirit with their Two Bun Tuesday for Tanzania event. Left: Students and staff join in the fun.*

## Inspiring Inner Wheel District A50



*Over 200 ladies enjoy fashion and fun for a good cause at the Blaney fashion luncheon. Inset: Daniel, the group's very lucky sponsored student.*

The lovely ladies of Inner Wheel District A50 have been hard at work for the last year hosting a range of fundraising events, all in the name of spreading our story!

The A50 ladies chose St Jude's as their International Project for 2015 to 2017 and have organised a range of events, from a fashion show in Blaney (which was a highlight of Gemma's Aussie visit this year), to hamper raffles and partnerships with fellow clubs.

With more than \$14,000 raised the A50 ladies can continue sponsoring Daniel, who they started sponsoring in 2010, till 2022 when he will graduate from high school!

**Want to host a fundraiser? Get in touch with our fundraising contact in Australia on 0458 691 668, or go to [www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/fundraising-events.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/fundraising-events.html) and register your event online.**



# Dedicated Daniel dares to dream



*Daniel and the hardworking students chosen to participate in the BUILD in a Box program.  
Inset: Daniel offering suggestions to St Jude's students.*

After earning an international scholarship for his hard work at St Jude's, Daniel returned recently to mentor his former classmates in entrepreneurship.

The mature, more confident 20-year-old took to the front of the classroom to run the second BUILD in a Box program offered at St Jude's by former students. BUILD stands for 'Believe, Understand, Invest, Listen and Deliver'.

Daniel says he really enjoys teaching with BUILD in a Box because it provides a much needed set of tools for young people.

"We teach them how to start a business, how to pitch to investors and how to successfully run a business," he said. "We condense what we learn at the academy into this two-day program."

BUILD allows current students to teach youth entrepreneurship, seen as a way of finding youth-led solutions to local problems and fighting unemployment.

Daniel was particularly impressed with one of the St Jude's groups who had plans to develop a mobile education tool that also offered access via social media. "If they manage to create it, it would be very cheap and could have a big impact," he said.

Daniel is living proof of the impact you can make when you provide a high-quality education to the poorest and brightest students.

He was selected for a St Jude's scholarship because of his commitment to school and his parents' inability to pay for his education. After excelling at St Jude's, Daniel earned an international scholarship and plans to use his education to give back to his community.

Daniel plans to study economics in either the United States or Canada, he wants to "concentrate a lot on business and economic studies and mathematics".

The dynamic future leader is well on his way to becoming an economics wiz, undertaking an internship this summer at Equity Bank in Dar es Salaam.

The internship is just the next exciting step for a passionate economist who started a microfinance program in his village which helped 30 women raise money to get their children through school and pay for their homes.

"What really sets St Jude's apart is that it gives you the foundation to succeed in your goals," Daniel said. "I meet students from different schools all around Africa and when I tell them about my story and St Jude's they are really impressed."

**To help St Jude's continue providing a high-quality education to future leaders, sponsor a student by visiting [www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html) or by calling 0438 783 035.**





## Education and adventure in one!

Smiles are readily shared across the St Jude's campuses... come and get yours by visiting us on your next holiday!

Each year, hundreds of visitors are warmly welcomed to St Jude's and see first-hand the impact our 100% charity-funded school has on education in Tanzania.

More than 1800 students receive a free, high-quality education here at St Jude's – an opportunity they would be unlikely to have without the enduring backing of our many generous international supporters.

A visit to St Jude's can be catered to your liking, whether it be a taste of school life via participation in drumming lessons and other extra-curricular activities with our students, enjoying school lunch with them, or taking a school tour and visiting classes. See first-hand the quality teaching that has recently seen our Standard 7 (Grade 7) placed in the top 2% of Tanzania's national exams.

Our inaugural Form 6 graduation class finished in the top 10% in the country in 2015, with a 100% pass rate and more than 50% getting the highest mark of distinction. More than 80% of these graduates spent the year before university volunteering in their local communities through the Beyond St Jude's Community Service Year, which addresses the severe teacher shortage in Tanzania by placing graduates in government schools.



*Our community service intern Suleiman loves taking selfies with our visitors.*



**Want to see more of Sule's selfies? Check out our Flickr album at [www.flickr.com/photos/133385067@N06sets/72157671480813366/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/133385067@N06sets/72157671480813366/)**



# Education and adventure in one!

Long-time Aussie supporter Glenys was one of 41 international visitors who flew in mere months ago to be part of our jubilant Form 6 graduation.

"My first day I was greeted by two handsome young lads... and with flowers!" she said. "I was warmly greeted, every day was an adventure and I can't wait to return."

But it's not just the students you'll meet on your visit here.

The families of our students are happy to welcome visitors into their homes (with 48 hours notice) for a chat, perhaps a snack and some traditional Tanzanian hospitality. It's an experience you'll never forget, and a rare opportunity to see what life is like for those financially disadvantaged families whose promising children are offered scholarships at St Jude's.

In Tanzania the average years of schooling for a population of almost 50 million is just over five, and 92.6% of the total population above 25 years has no secondary education.

Of the 1.63 million students who entered Standard 1 in 2002, only 38,853 graduated Form 6. That's just 2.4%.

You'll also meet our staff members – almost 300 locals whose salaries support 1,895 people in the Arusha community.

At St Jude's we work hard to instill the concept of giving back to the community, and these amazing academic, administration and maintenance staff members lead by example by spending 19,256 hours volunteering in their local community each year.

St Jude's is situated in Arusha, otherwise known as the "gateway to the Serengeti". With major national parks right here on our doorstep, safari is the most popular activity our visitors combine with a visit or stay at our school. There are plenty of safari operator options available, including safaris-R-us (school founder Gemma and her husband Richard's safari company), which donates US\$50 to St Jude's for every person who books through them.

Karibu ('Welcome' in Swahili)! Come along - have an African adventure, meet the real people of Tanzania and see the amazing impact St Jude's is having on education and the future for yourself!



*Glenys meets her sponsored student Amina.*



*2015 graduates Enock and Daudi greet Glenys on her arrival.*



*See Tanzania's amazing wildlife on an exciting safari.*

**Plan your very own Tanzanian adventure with us today! Call +255 758 305 776, visit our website at [www.schoolofstjude.org/visit-us/making-a-visit.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/visit-us/making-a-visit.html), or email [visitors@schoolofstjude.co.tz](mailto:visitors@schoolofstjude.co.tz)**



# Join us!

## Health Check team 2017

At the beginning of every year, our students have a medical check which includes:

- Height and weight measurements;
- Vision testing;
- A brief physical examination;
- Documentation of findings and recommendations.

Be part of the team involved in this process! There are three types of volunteers needed:

- Health professionals with experience in undertaking medical assessments of children and/or adolescents. (6 positions);
- Health professionals who can undertake vision assessments. (3 positions);
- Individuals who are highly organized and enjoy working with children and adolescents. An understanding of medical terminology is desirable, as are skills and experience working with people with disabilities. (6 positions).

The position is for two weeks and you must be available from Feb 27th – March 10th. For more information, visit our website at [www.schoolofstjude.org/join-us/health-check-team\\_2017.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/join-us/health-check-team_2017.html) or email our Community Relations Manager [charlotte.p@schoolofstjude.co.tz](mailto:charlotte.p@schoolofstjude.co.tz)



*Our Health Check team in action earlier this year.*



*The 2016 Health Check team and some of our high school students.*



*Join our team!*



*Help us grow!*

## Major Gifts Manager

The School is currently seeking applications from creative, organised and enthusiastic individuals to lead their Supporter Relations team. The Supporter Relations team prides itself on producing engaging, informative and highly personalised communication to our major donors.

### Key Responsibilities

- Developing communication plans for major donors, to be edited and approved by the school's Founder;
- Familiarising yourself with all of our major donors and their history;
- Regularly discussing and developing donation allocation ideas based on the school's needs, donation amounts and donor history;
- Managing "special projects" and liaising closely with other fundraising teams;
- And more!

For more details, visit [www.schoolofstjude.org/join-us/MajorGiftsManager.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/join-us/MajorGiftsManager.html) or email [hadmin@schoolofstjude.co.tz](mailto:hadmin@schoolofstjude.co.tz)