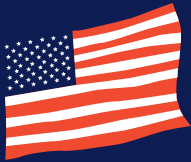




# St Jude's News

JULY 2018



14 years of American  
friendship

Story page 4



Handing over the  
Rotary wheel

Story page 8



Jill's got fundraising  
in the bag

Story page 10



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

Thank you for sharing our newsletter  
with your family and friends



## Introducing our Deputy Director

Angela Bailey, St Jude's first volunteer, takes on a new challenge

*Continued on page 2*



## Angela Bailey, St Jude's first volunteer, takes on a new challenge

There are few stories as compelling as Angela Bailey's. Since day one, she has been involved with every significant 'first' for St Jude's.

As an intrepid 19-year-old, Angela worked seven-day weeks so she could afford to come to Tanzania as St Jude's very first volunteer teacher.

She was there to walk our first three students into class, on St Jude's opening day – January 29, 2002.

She was one of the first Board Directors for the East African Fund.

Angela witnessed some of her first students graduate from secondary school during the inaugural Form 6 Graduation Ceremony in 2015.

She returned to St Jude's that year to launch the groundbreaking Beyond St Jude's program, mentoring graduates undertaking a Community Service Year and pursuing higher education.

Now, Angela is embarking on another first.

In May 2018, St Jude's Founder, Gemma Sisia, announced Angela Bailey as Deputy Director of The School of St Jude.

"I couldn't be more thrilled to take on this challenge and support Gemma as her deputy," Angela revealed.

"The School has seven managers overseeing everything from academics and maintenance, to finance, human resources and fundraising. Previously, all managers have reported to Gemma. Because I have taken on this role, Gemma will have more time now to focus more specifically on the top-scale, highest priority needs of the School."

Angela's journey with The School of St Jude takes its roots almost 20 years ago in an auditorium at St Vincent's College Potts Point – Gemma's former high school.

*Continued on next page*







Grinning graduates: Angela in 2016, with two students who had attended St Jude's since the early days.



Do you share Angela's dream? Make a difference today by donating or sponsoring a scholarship for one of our students or graduates.



Founding trio: Kim Saville, Angela Bailey and Gemma Sisia, celebrating 10 years of St Jude's in 2012.

"We had a series of talks from inspirational female speakers to my Year 12 class. Gemma was one of them. She told us about how she was funding the education of a number of students in East Africa and that she was taking a tour group to visit some projects there over the summer. I decided, instead of going to school leavers' parties or on a family holiday, that I'd go with her to Africa," Angela shared.

"I remember during our visit to Moshono Village, where Sisia Primary Campus is located, standing next to Gemma and looking out over a maize field. She said to me, 'Ange, I'm going to build a school here.'"

It took no further persuasion for Angela to choose her next steps. She decided to return to Tanzania and help Gemma build her dream.

Angela's impact on the School has evolved significantly during the 16 years that have since passed.

Although she left Tanzania in 2005 to pursue further education in Australia, Angela never found work as meaningful or sustaining as her work at St Jude's.

"I loved being at St Jude's so much in the early days, knowing all the students and their families personally,

that I didn't think I'd return to work here again after it grew into such a huge organisation. Then, my heart was taken by Gemma's idea for the Beyond St Jude's program, and it was something I was determined to be a part of," Angela said.

"Beyond St Jude's ensures the sustainability of St Jude's school values. Our graduates share these values with students they teach during their Community Service Year internships in local government schools. There is no program like this in Tanzania."

As Deputy Director, Angela will oversee the Beyond St Jude's and Academic management teams, improving and implementing strategies that will secure the School's sustainability for years to come.

Angela's dream for the School and Beyond St Jude's is simple, yet profound.

"I want all of our students and graduates to have a well-rounded education that gives them the skills to be leaders in their communities, and to go on and lead happy, successful lives, void of the daily struggle to provide food for their families or a roof over their heads."



# American Connection Continues to Strengthen

**See the 14-year impact of our American friendship**

Cindy Skarbek first visited Tanzania during a family safari in 2004. More than 14 years later, the journey continues!

Cindy, now President of the American Friends of The School of St Jude, our American-based fundraising arm. She is the daughter of Helen and Gordon Smith, who contributed millions of dollars towards the construction of Smith Secondary Campus.

“During our first safari, the tour guide showed us a number of projects in Tanzania that could use some extra support. We visited tilapia farms, maasai bomas and severely under-resourced schools. We knew immediately that we wanted to support something relating to education here. We were on the airplane going home and Dad put the big question out to all of us: ‘What are we going to do?’” Cindy recalled.

“I offered to explore some opportunities for us to help out in Tanzania.

*Continued on next page*





The thing is, there were some limitations on us because we are just one American family. We wanted to support a project that already had good teachers, resources and strong leadership, yet needed further contributions. So when we heard about St Jude's, it came out as the clear winner!"

Today, growing support from our American Friends, means St Jude's impact is recognised more widely than ever before.

It means our graduates studying in the USA have a ready-made network of friends, eager to support their transition into a new country.

It means potentially thousands more people joining us to fight poverty through education, through a partnership uniting diverse nationalities: Tanzanians, Australians and Americans.

This partnership began with the construction of Smith Secondary Campus. Australians donated funds to purchasing land through St Jude's fundraising campaign, and the Smith family provided funds for the construction of buildings.

"A great thing is that Smith Secondary Campus was designed by both American and Tanzanian architects, sharing skills and knowledge and creating the beautiful school grounds students enjoy today," Cindy said.

The 2014 launch of American Friends of The School of St Jude, our USA-based fundraising body, further advanced the School's relationship with international supporters.

"We wanted Americans' donations to be tax-deductible – an incentive for more people to give – and a legitimate way for board members to raise awareness for St Jude's. Currently, we have four extremely dedicated board members, and we hope our numbers continue to grow in years to come."

With a growing cluster of St Jude's graduates studying in the United States on MasterCard Foundation scholarships, through a partnership with African Leadership Academy, the School's connection with supporters based in the United States is destined to strengthen.

"Almost 15 years ago when we decided to partner with St Jude's, we only dreamed about prospects for the School's future graduates. Back then, the first Form 6 graduating class was in Grade 3. Now, we have Alex Elifas studying through the MasterCard Foundation at Stanford University."

"Alex is also the first graduate from St Jude's to open a sponsorship for another student. This kind of outcome demonstrates our ethos to create community-minded leaders."

"If you can get students to qualify for international scholarships, while maintaining a connection to their homeland and giving back to their community, you're doing something right, and the answer to the question, 'why invest in education for Tanzanians?' is rather simple. If you love humanity, and you value an education for your children, why not value it for every child in the world?"



Thinking about your next holiday or adventure?

Visit St Jude's so you can see our beautiful Smith Secondary Campus and spend time with inspiring

students just like Alex Elifas. Contact our Visitor team at [visitor@schoolofstjude.org](mailto:visitor@schoolofstjude.org) for more information.



Once a maize field: The lush grounds of Smith Secondary Campus in 2018.



A dream fulfilled: The Smith-Skarbek family with Gemma and St Jude's graduates who are studying in the US.





## Read, Lead, Succeed

**St Jude's new Academic Manager, Liz Host, explains how reading is life's sustainable gift.**

Is anything sustainable in this impermanent world in which we live? Yes. Growing our hinterland of thinking is the one key element to success in life. I am not talking about material success. I am referring to success as living with contentment and love and laughter and enjoying what we do and who we are.

I want St Jude's to deliver dreamers. Our world needs dreamers. And dreamers are not only the ones who want to break the ties that bind them to their physical reality, but they are the people who can imagine another space, or time, or way of being.

The modern world, so intent on describing everything and measuring it in minuscule terms, I think has gone horribly askew! We need to shift our thinking away from using check boxes and trite statements. We need to shift our gaze to the hearts and minds of those whom we seek to educate.

We have to recognise that sustainability, itself, a big, but somewhat non-descript word, must not cloud our awareness. I want our children to understand themselves and become habitual imaginers, able to create a reality out of precious little.

It will be in their understanding of themselves and the lives they create for themselves, that we will find the true, sustained, impact of our work here.

Since coming to St Jude's from South Africa three months ago, I am convinced that our measure of sustainability will be best seen if our children at St Jude's become avid readers. Readers of novels, fiction! If we can expose small children to make-believe, fantasy and fiction, we give them the opportunity to construct something in their minds out of words on a page.

*Continued on next page*



Holding a book, even when my arthritic hands get sore, is still a reminder, especially when the book is wonderful, of the gravitas of a good book. I have just finished reading a wonderful biography of a movie director. I have never seen any of his films, but I feel now that I know him and in fact, feel that I have seen his movies. All of this, from reading his words.

The modern world thinks that sustainability must be measured, but the crucial indicator of success will be visible in those of our students who not only read, but who love to read. Reading for the pure pleasure of it, will be a true test of St Jude's impact and sustainability. If one has to use the infamous checklist, then it should have one statement: "The children who went through St Jude's love to read." Nothing more and nothing less.

If education is to lift our children out of poverty, it means they need to imagine another world. How can they imagine another world, another feeling that they do not know, if they do not build their imagination? How can they build their imagination? By reading! It is so very simple. It sounds a bit like a cliché, but it is most certainly so that readers become leaders. And, any really good leader, is almost certainly going to be an avid reader. It is something of a litmus test. We have seen this time and time again. Reading deposes despair, nurtures grace and strengthens our souls.

I want our kids to value their silent space, even amidst the loud chatter and noise of the market and the spaza shop. I want them to put reading before movies. I want them to seek out books to read. I will live with their reading kindles. But I will be overjoyed if they read books.

I want St Jude's descendants to feel that warm glow of having a book and a space, even if it is on a cramped bus seat, that is wholly theirs, and into which they can escape.

If our St Jude's students are avid readers, we will have succeeded in putting into Arusha, a sustainable life-giving force. Somebody once said that we read to know we are not alone. We will not only all be alone and very lonely, but we will rapidly lose our humanity, if we do not hold tight onto the reading thread, fragile though it may be.



Click here to take a look at our book wish list - give today to help us broaden students' imaginations!



The sustainable gift: Academic Manager, Liz Host, believes reading opens the doorway to students' success.



Imagine this: Books open minds and hearts.



Lost in stories: St Jude's students have access to well-stocked libraries, full of tales to inspire them!





## Handing Over the Rotary Wheel

**St Jude's Rotary leaders, Seb and Laura, on their shared endeavour**

Laura joined St Jude's as our new Rotary Specialist in March, guiding the School's EarlyAct, Interact and Rotaract clubs, which were founded by former Rotary Specialist, Sebastian, in 2016.

Already, Laura has made her mark on our school and community. Almost as soon as she stepped off the plane, she literally landed herself in the mud – planting fruit trees at a local community school with the Rotaract Club of St Judes, just two days after her arrival in Tanzania.

The tree-planting initiative is inspired by Rotary District 9211's Mission Green, which promotes environmental awareness and sustainability.

"Everyone involved with St Jude's Rotary programs is passionate about the environment and they see the value in taking care of their home. Mission Green is an avenue for them to act on that passion. They care about waste management and Rotary is the vehicle they use to realise that passion. It's a synergy," Laura said.

The synergy between St Jude's and Rotary has brought the School's vision to life, and through the efforts of young leaders like Laura and Sebastian, it continues to grow.

Laura has embraced her role at St Jude's with sheer determination, embarking on the exciting challenge of nurturing community relationships that were initiated by Sebastian.

Sebastian has returned to Tanzania for two months to reconnect with his friends at St Jude's and within Rotary.

*Continued on next page*





Mission Green, super keen: Members of St Jude's Rotary community have planted dozens of trees so far!



Working together: Seb and Laura's shared passion for Rotary keeps the wheel turning at St Jude's.



Inspiring future Rotarians: St Jude's primary students are enjoying the EarlyAction!



"I'm really happy to be back here and to see the amazing work Laura has already done to ensure Rotary's sustainability at St Jude's. There is so much room for expansion and I know she's the right person to lead the way," Sebastian said.

Laura is equally grateful for the opportunity to learn from the man himself!

"Having Seb here for a month has given me the chance to ask important questions and learn more about the relationship between Rotary and St Jude's. You really need that foundational understanding," she said.

"Seb has taught me a lot about persistence. He simply walked around any brick wall he encountered during his time here as Rotary Specialist, and found a different solution. It's been very encouraging," Laura added.

Reflecting on his time as Rotary Specialist, Sebastian recalls an achievement which sets a high standard for projects to come.

"In January, I nominated the Rotaract Club of St Jude's Vijana Poa (Youth is Cool in Swahili) youth employment program in the 2018 Rotaract Outstanding Project Awards. To our club's amazement, we won for the Sub-Saharan Africa region!" Sebastian explained.

"Coming back to Tanzania and seeing the progress of Vijana Poa participants has been a highlight. One participant, Carlos, started 2017 unemployed. We helped him secure an internship and by the end of the year, he was awarded Customer Service Assistant of the Year for the organisation."

"Seb and I are both looking with anticipation towards the future. There is always more to be done. Rotary is a way for St Jude's students to develop leadership and networking skills, and it complements what they are already taught in class about citizenship and society. We hope that Rotarians and Rotaractors from around the world will come to Arusha and see how our clubs are making a difference!" Laura said.

**Spread the word about St Jude's at your local Rotary or Rotaract club, and encourage them to visit us!**







# Jill's got Fundraising in the Bag

## Meet a super supporter helping the planet and fighting poverty

Jill is a long-time supporter of St Jude's who has used her skills to address a local challenge, serve the environment and raise funds for St Jude's.

Recently, the Queensland state government announced a ban on plastic bags in supermarkets, in a bid to promote eco-friendly habits.

Jill, a Toowoomba resident, turned her hand to sewing reusable shopping bags and selling them. Inside each bag, she places St Jude's brochures and fact sheets, so buyers are well-informed about who their money is supporting.

So far, Jill has raised an impressive \$2200 from selling the bags!

"I actually see the work of educating students at St Jude's as another form of sustainability," Jill said.

"Without sponsorship, these bright young minds would never have the opportunity to reach their full potential and go on to be shining lights for Tanzania in the future."

Jill feels that the Queensland government's new regulations have offered a new opportunity to raise awareness for the cause she and her husband, John, have passionately supported since 2009, when they met Gemma at a fundraising event in their hometown.

"I have enjoyed sewing most of my life and was taught growing up that it's valuable to share one's talent with others. With the decision by our State Government to introduce a ban on single use plastic bags in all supermarkets and department stores, I could see a ready market for a simple but attractive alternative shopping bag. Now, I simply can't keep up with the demand!" Jill said.

Jill's environmentally-friendly project comes at an apt time. Recently, Rahel in Form 3 won an internal essay competition for Smith Secondary Campus students, exploring, 'how environmental conservation can enhance development in developing countries.'

Rahel concluded her winning essay by imploring readers to use their creativity to address environmental concerns.

"If conservation of the environment goes wrong, nothing else will go right. Environmental issues cannot be addressed without widespread participation, so people need to be informed that conservation is not a burden, but a source of innovation, job creation, creativity, economic development and sustainability, benefiting us today and in the future," Rahel wrote.

St Jude's Founder, Gemma Sisia, was thrilled to hear of Jill's contribution!

*Continued on next page*



"Supporters like Jill never cease to amaze me with their efforts to raise money for our school. I am sure her story will inspire others to use their skills in such a way that makes a difference in the world!" Gemma said.

"It really is easy to promote the wonderful work of St Jude's, the staff and students. If I can sit at my sewing machine doing what I love for such a good cause, knowing every cent is being spent wisely, others should try it too!" Jill explained.



Best-selling beauties: Jill's shopping bags have been a hit with family and friends!



Joy for Jill: Coupling creativity with compassion is a great combination!



Like Jill, you can make a difference to the lives of young Tanzanians. Make a donation today!