



St Jude's News

JULY 2019



A New Chapter

[Story page 4](#)



A Reader Today, A Leader Tomorrow

[Story page 6](#)



An International Perspective

[Story page 8](#)



Kicking Goals

[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.



Top Leading The Way: 2019 tertiary graduates, Anna and Baba, at their University Campus in Dar es Salaam.

Making History

Anna and Baba set to become the first Beyond St Jude's tertiary scholars to graduate University!

Continued on page 2



Left Alumni Achievement: Anna and Baba couldn't be prouder to be part of the first cohort of graduating tertiary scholars.

Right Pipe Dream: Baba outside his traditional Maasai boma in 2003 shortly before joining St Jude's with dreams of attending university.



Making History

Anna and Baba set to become the first Beyond St Jude's tertiary scholars to graduate University!

2019 will see a much anticipated, major milestone for The School of St Jude. 24 tertiary scholars, supported by the Beyond St Jude's (BSJ) program, are giving themselves the best chance of a bright future by graduating from universities across Tanzania.

Just four years after graduating from Form 6 at St Jude's, and completing the Community Service Year as part of the BSJ program, these future leaders are setting the example for over 2,000 St Jude's students, interns and scholars that will follow in their footsteps.

For 25-year-old Baba, until he joined St Jude's in 2013 graduating from university was only a pipe dream when he was growing up in his traditional and remote Maasai boma (a group of huts made of mud and sticks).

Speaking from his tutorial hall at the University of Dar es Salaam, one of the most respected tertiary education institutions in Tanzania, it's a stark contrast to the shy boy of just five years earlier who only knew a few words of English when he started at St Jude's in Form 5.

"I have been able to give my family hope. The St Jude's environment, and now university life, couldn't be more different to the Maasai land I call home. The learning techniques at university are very similar to St Jude's so it really helped with the transition. My favourite part of university is being able to engage with different professionals," Baba beamed.

When Baba walks across the graduation stage in November to receive his Bachelor of Science with Education, he really will be breaking new ground for his family, community and The School of St Jude.

With a future now full of possibilities, Baba plans to use his degree to keep other young Tanzanians in school. On average, 74% of Tanzanian children are not in secondary school and Baba is passionate to change that. With his degree, he has every chance of being able to drive change in his country.

“I love teaching mathematics. I still feel very connected to St Jude’s and I would love the chance to become a teacher there in the future,” Baba shared.

Fellow tertiary scholar, Anna, completes her Bachelor of Commerce and Accounting this year after passing a series of final exams beginning this month. She’s also a trailblazer, forging a new path for Tanzanian women.

“Home was really tough, I lived with my parents and three siblings. My family is very proud, especially my father and he just can’t wait for me to graduate. I have been able to help my sisters; they have reached Form 6 with my help. I never thought I would be graduating university, but I wished for it very much,” Anna said.

Now 25 years old, Anna was among the brightest in her government primary school but, like so many children in Tanzania, the cost of a good secondary education was beyond her family’s means until she was given the opportunity to attend St Jude’s.

“I have friends that I went to government school with and some of them live on the street with no secondary education and they are struggling. Many of them wished to continue school but couldn’t because they didn’t have anyone to support them. I have also sadly had a few friends that have fallen into drugs after having a very hard life,” Anna said quietly.

Instead, Anna has thrived at university and continues the career counselling she began at St Jude’s. It has helped her to understand how best to use her major in Accounting and she now plans to become an auditor, a much sought-after job in Tanzania.

“Being at university in Dar es Salaam I have visited offices and organisations I never thought I would reach; it’s been an emotional transformation. Coming to university independently, but with the support of St Jude’s and my sponsor, has made me a stronger person,” Anna explained.

Both Anna and Baba couldn’t be prouder to be part of the first Beyond St Jude’s cohort graduating from university. They are defying the odds because less than 5% of tertiary-aged Tanzanians are enrolled in university.

St Jude’s mission has always been to educate poor, bright students to become leaders in Tanzania and this upcoming milestone makes Anna, Baba and their cohort of tertiary graduates exactly that!



Top Major Milestone: Anna and Baba are just two of the 23 St Jude’s tertiary scholars graduating university in 2019.

Support our students to follow in the footsteps of Anna and Baba and become university graduates by sponsoring a scholar’s tertiary scholarship today.





Top The First Day: William and Elizabeth on their first day at Smith Secondary Campus.



A New Chapter

Meet St Jude's newest secondary students, joining Form 5 for their final years of schooling

Wearing his crisp, brand new uniform, Form 5 student William flashes a radiant smile as he admires the facilities at his new school.

It's his first day at St Jude's, where he will spend the next two years completing secondary school, an achievement that less than one in three Tanzanian teenagers will achieve this year.

"I can't believe the resources and the library! The school that I came from is very different from this one, we had no library and very few teachers," the charismatic teenager reflected.

William is one of 30 new Form 5 students who have been chosen in a rigorous selection process run by St Jude's Community Relations team.

The newly selected students have been identified as the brightest, but poorest, students from under-resourced government schools in three regions of Northern Tanzania - Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara.

It's difficult to comprehend the enormity of these successful students' achievement to have made it this far in their education. Almost exclusively the first in their family to complete Form 4, they were the top scoring students in their local government school.

All this, despite the added pressures of long walks to and from school every day, fitting in homework around necessary household tasks like fetching water and having only candlelight or kerosene lamps by which to study by, they are breaking new ground.

"Life has been hard, in my community children are sent out to herd livestock and there is never time to study. I am looking forward to making my education a priority," William reflected.

It's also the first time William has a cosy bed of his own, hot water for bathing, three nutritious meals a day and electric lighting for studying, as part of staying in the Smith boarding house during school terms.

"In my Maasai community I share a bed with all of my four siblings and access to water and electricity is hard. My parents did not go to school and, because of the hardships my family are facing, two of my younger siblings are not in school now because of the cost. I would like to use this opportunity to be a good example to my family and community and help them in the future," William continued.



Top Staying at School: William settling into his new boarding room.

Bottom Community Leader: William with his family outside their Maasai boma where they live in the Manyara region.



Despite the Smith Secondary Campus being a long way from home – it's over three hours' drive from William's mud-hut boma in the Manyara region – he's now closer than ever to reaching his dream.

"I see myself doing well in my final exams and getting into a good university. I would love to be a doctor as I don't like seeing people suffering, so I want to help improve the medical services here in Tanzania," William shared.

Joining him in that dream is fellow new student, Elizabeth, who wants to help lift her family out of a life of poverty by entering the medical field as well.

She is all too familiar with the challenges of everyday life at home for her family as they only have access to river water for drinking and are unable to pay for her sibling's secondary school fees.

"I am going to study hard so I do not have to live the life that my parents are living at the moment. Their income cannot support our family so being selected to St Jude's is my only opportunity to get an education and achieve my dreams. I am so excited," Elizabeth beamed.

That excitement is evident during the induction sessions held during the first week of term which help each Form 5 student adapt to their new surroundings and the timetable of their new life.

"I think I will be very happy here. I am ready to start classes, grow my knowledge and I have even made friends on the first day," Elizabeth said.

Both students are already joining in the large range of extracurricular activities offered to St Jude's students like art, sport and even the school choir for William.

They are now presented with so many opportunities to achieve and become the future leaders of Tanzania, fighting poverty with their education.

"I never thought I would end up somewhere like St Jude's, it's hard to put into words what the school already means to me and my family," Elizabeth shared quietly before entering her first science class.

You can help change the life of our new Form 5 students whose academic scholarships are yet to be sponsored. **Sign up to sponsor today!**



Top Teacher Support: Elizabeth getting to know one of her new teachers at Smith Secondary Campus.

Bottom Achieving the Dream: William and Elizabeth during their first science lesson, a subject that will help them become doctors.





A Reader Today, A Leader Tomorrow

St Jude's youngest minds share their first books, as the library enters a new chapter.

US President Harry S. Truman famously once said, "not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers." As St Jude's Standard 1s learn to read and explore their first stories, they are taking their first steps towards leadership.

The literacy rate of Tanzania is reported by IndexMundi at less than 70%. Reading is not just a basic skill needed for everyday life but is also an avenue to develop critical thinking, imagination and even ambition.

While the wonder of leafing through a book remains an all-too rare experience for some students in Tanzania, St Jude's students are given every opportunity to expand their imaginations and skills. They can feel the warm glow of having a book and a space that is wholly theirs, and into which they can escape.



Top Left Agape's First Book: Standard 1 student, Agape, enjoying her first book at St Jude's primary school library.



Top Right Sharing Skills: Standard 1 student, Shedrack, shares his first book with classmates.

Bottom Milestone Memories: Librarian, Mr Forehead, asks Standard 1 students about their first books.



Standard 1 student, Agape, smiles when she remembers the first time she saw the rows of books that line the walls of the library at Sisia Primary Campus at the start of the year.

The first book that caught her eye was *Bilby Moon* by Margaret Spurling, where little Bilby's quest for the missing moon takes her on a journey of wonder and discovery.

"I like to learn about animals and reading helps me learn new words. I can't wait to move up to the bigger books. It's so quiet in the library, it's really nice for reading," Agape shared quietly, looking up from her book.

Her classmate, Shedrack, was engrossed in an early learner maths book, *X Marks the Spot*, by Lucille Recht Penner which he chose on his first visit to the library this year.

In the book, Shedrack followed characters Jake and Leo who reluctantly move into their grandfather's old house where they receive a mysterious postcard about

treasure maps in the attic. Books like this give students a chance to learn some beginner mathematics while also enjoying a treasure hunt story!

These entry level books are just two of the many that fill the libraries at both the primary and secondary campuses. To maximise the potential of these valuable assets, the library collections have been reviewed to determine which areas need most development.

Importantly, the school is also installing a new web-based library management system. Visiting librarian, Judy Gillespie, is assisting the staff with this major transition.

"The new system offers a more flexible and tailored method of finding suitable books for all students. By improving the cataloguing of books and allowing greater search options, the librarians can help students like Agape and Shedrack find the books that interest them and suit their reading level."

It is generous supporters who have helped build our libraries over the years, bringing donated books with them from all across the world. Now, our team of librarians say the greatest need is for higher level non-fiction books, to help students access the latest information for their studies and explore other interests having established a love for reading in their early years.

"St Jude's has some amazing books however, it needs more subject books to meet the local curriculum, particularly in the secondary school. Expanding the collection of African fiction is a priority too because it's important for the students to read books that reflect their culture and experience. With the new system, the librarians can also explore the possibility of students accessing ebooks, meaning more students can read the same book at the same time and have the most up-to-date information," Judy explained.

While the library is one of the quietest places on campus, it is within these walls that students develop their ideas and aspirations. If education is to lift our students out of poverty, it means they need to imagine another world and have the skills to excel in it, and that starts with reading their first book and the many that follow.

Thanks to those who help give the gift of literacy to the 1,800 students here, they are on the way to becoming the future leaders of tomorrow.

Help us broaden students' imaginations and skills by donating today, so our library staff can purchase the books that are most needed.



Left Learning to Read: St Jude's students are given every opportunity to expand their imaginations and skills.

Right The Gift of Literacy: Librarians who are implementing the new web-based system spend time with the Standard 1 students.





An International Perspective

St Jude's scholars set off for university abroad, taking their education to new realms

Standing in the departure hall in Kilimanjaro International Airport, Catherine and Erick, St Jude's graduates from the class of 2018, are about to embark on an educational experience of a lifetime.

They are two of the four St Jude's interns from our Beyond St Jude's program who've been offered fully funded scholarships to top universities around the world, as part of St Jude's partnership with the MasterCard Foundation.

"After I found out I had been selected, I sat for a minute, thanking God. I didn't expect it because there were a lot of candidates actually," Catherine recalled.

The 22 year-old credits St Jude's for changing the direction of her life and helping her family look forward to a better future.



"My first government school teacher actually encouraged me to study hard so I would be accepted, as she could see the value of St Jude's. I had no motivation to go to secondary school when I was younger but St Jude's changed that for me, it opened up my way of thinking and seeing life. I began to realise I could actually achieve my dream at some point," Catherine admits.

That dream of completing a business degree is only a few years away from becoming a reality, with her education costs covered and a laptop, mobile phone, visas and flights also paid for as part of the scholarship.

Like St Jude's, the MasterCard Foundation believes in supporting future leaders. After her graduation from the United States International University – Africa in Nairobi, Kenya, Catherine will return to Tanzania so that she can invest her knowledge locally.



Top Next Step: 2018 St Jude's graduates, Kate and Eric, at St Jude's before leaving for their international universities.

"There are a lot of opportunities, but the people don't have the knowledge to make ventures successful. So by me taking a business degree I feel like I will be able to actually help others to run successful businesses," Catherine proudly shares.

Packed in her suitcases bound for Kenya, is a reminder of those people.



"Someone very special bought me a Tanzanian crown and it's going to remind me of home as it has the Tanzanian flag and it's Maasai made, which is important to me because my mum is half Maasai," Catherine said, holding the treasured gift.

The crown will travel with Catherine as she reaches many milestones, her first plane flight, her first time outside Tanzania and, in a few years' time when she finishes her degree, the first person in her family to graduate from university.



Top Left Major Milestone: Kate with her mum at Kilimanjaro Airport as she leaves for Kenya.

Top Right Sticking to Your Roots: Kate with her Maasai crown that she will take to Kenya to remind her of home.

Bottom A Family First: Erick is leading the way for his family, especially his younger siblings, as the first to attend university.



This major achievement will be shared by fellow MasterCard scholar, Erick.

“I am the first in my family to go to university, they are very excited. I had to explain to my mum what university is. I want to work hard so my young sisters do not face the same problem,” Erick explained.

The 20-year-old will study a Bachelor of Accounting in Botswana, after completing a one-month induction at the University of Rochester in New York with other MasterCard scholars. It’s a world away from the government school Erick attended before starting at St Jude’s in 2012, where there were 70 students in a class and three to a desk.

“I am looking forward to meeting people who will challenge my views on life and learn from them. I want to use my degree to begin an accounting firm and boost jobs in Tanzania,” Erick beams.

Whilst excited, Erick is also preparing himself for some cultural differences he might face both on his trip to America and when settling into university life in Botswana.

“My fellow St Jude’s alumni who are already studying abroad have told me that the food can be a challenge because it is different to what we’re used to, so I’ll have to adapt to that,” Erick laughed.

But with each challenge, both Erick and Catherine will have the support of the St Jude’s community, through the Alumni Association, and of course through the combined effort of thousands of generous St Jude’s supporters worldwide.

“I will miss this place; it has been my home - but I’ll be back. I can’t wait to see what the future holds for me,” Catherine added.

Would you like to support a St Jude’s student to become a leader of the future?

Sponsor the academic scholarship of an emerging leader today!





Left National Pride: Smith soccer players supporting the national Tanzanian team during AFCON this month.



Right The Next Generation: Form 2 student and school team wingman, Yohana, works on his form at training after school.



Kicking Goals

Soccer fever soars at St Jude's after Tanzanian team features in international competition

St Jude's staff and students paused with the rest of the nation as the Tanzanian soccer team competed in their first international competition in 39 years!

The 'Taifa Stars' thumped East African rivals Uganda 3-0 to reach the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals held this month, an achievement so significant the country's Prime Minister gifted each of the national team players a parcel of land as a token for qualifying for the competition held in Egypt.

As Tanzania began to play on the international stage, fans were on the edge of their seats and 'football' was the word at St Jude's.

For St Jude's Physical Education teacher and secondary soccer coach, Mr Amasi, the school's extracurricular program, which includes soccer, is about helping students kick goals inside the classroom too.

"We have found that physical exercise improves academic performance inside the classroom. Soccer helps improve reaction time and confidence. Through playing a team sport like soccer, students learn how to work together and communicate in other ways of their life as well." Mr Amasi shared.

Since Tanzania's appearance in AFCON, Mr Amasi has noticed a boost in player numbers for both girls and boys.

"Our students were very inspired by the competition and I think the team's efforts have really created national pride. We certainly have players who could make it on the international circuit and many in the emerging area of women's soccer," he proudly explained.



One of the young women taking part in this movement is Form 2 student, Mariam, who has played soccer since the age of 10.

“I love soccer as it empowers us, the skills are useful when we go back into our communities and helps keep Tanzanian teenagers away from gangs, theft and the drug culture. I proudly watched our team in AFCON and we should be proud as the international movement will only grow from here,” Mariam reflected.

Yohana, Form 2 student and star wingman for the Smith secondary team, was watching the competition closely with dreams to enter the professional sporting arena.

“After completing university I want to play for my country, I base my game on Mbwana Ally Samatta who was the captain of the Tanzanian team for this tournament and he plays on the international team for Belgium,” Yohana said as he made his way out to the playing field for training after school.

“Playing soccer helps keep my mind active in class and helps me deal with stress. We have a lot of talented players in St Jude’s, I certainly think we have the next big player at our school,” Yohana smiled.



The school’s recent results confirm this, with St Jude’s students making up a third of this year’s National Junior team which represented Tanzania last month. Impressively, the school was also the Under 15’s champions in both the regional girls and boy’s divisions last year.

While the ‘Taifa Stars’ failed to make it to the second round of the tournament, their three goals against rival Kenya gave hope to the nation looking for something to believe in.

“I hope the team’s success will encourage our country’s decision makers to invest more in sport. If they do, there will be a time when Tanzania will be in a good position, just like Senegal who beat us and then went on to the final,” Miriam stated.

Watch this space, the next generation of soccer stars could well come from St Jude’s, leading their country to victory! And if not, well they’re certainly well placed to succeed in whatever profession they choose.

Thanks to the generosity of our school’s supporters, students will continue to shoot for the stars in all kinds of fields. You can help expand their opportunities by [making a donation.](#)



Top Female Footballers: Mariam is part of the growing number of girls signing up to play.



Middle Doing it for the Girls: Female students take to the field at Smith Secondary Campus



Bottom Soccer Support: Form 2 students cheer on the school and National team.



The School of St Jude

Fighting poverty
through education



schoolofstjude.org

