



The School of St Jude

St Jude's News

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AUGUST, 2016



Dorice on Community Service

Graduate, teacher and future doctor, Dorice is wrapping up her Community Service Year as the sole biology teacher at Sombetini Secondary School.

In 2016, this young leader charmed Australians on tour with Gemma and captured the hearts of her students with her grace and resilience. We caught up with Dorice to hear about her experience as a teacher:

How are you feeling now that your Community Service Year is coming to an end?

In some ways, I feel really good, really excited because I know I am soon going to start another journey in my life. In other ways, I feel very sad because of my students. I will really miss them! As you know there is a shortage of teachers and when I leave I don't know if they are going to have another biology teacher.

What has been the most challenging part of your job?

There is a very big difference, a very huge difference between government school and my education. At St Jude's, we have small classes, few students and enough teachers. We have electricity in classes, computers, and food at every mealtime. Here it is different, the classes have no electricity, and there are too many students – the books are also hard to get.

Most of the students when I came for the first time – they never knew English, so it was very hard. You know biology, it is all in English. Teaching them in English and then translating in Swahili, it was a very difficult thing. The difference now with my students learning in English is huge. Most of them are putting their hands up and speaking so much English.



Dorice reflects on a year of community service

Did you think you could master all this, at the beginning?

At first, I was scared. I went home the first day, I told my parents, "I don't think I can do it", because it is very hard to be in front of a class of 60 students. My parents, they were advising me and giving me hope saying "you can do it" and so I said "OK. I will have to do it and do it will all my heart because I chose it and I want to help these students." – And now I feel so good. I feel so proud of myself!

How do you think this year has changed you as a person?

Actually I feel like I am really grown up now because of dealing with different types of students, different personalities, and other teachers who are much older than me. Now I know I can face different situations and I can make tough decisions. So I feel like I have changed a lot.

I feel I can live and change to any kind of environment. Life in government schools is very hard but I can do it. For example, I can now stay for a long time without eating and still perform my responsibilities, which is a good thing actually.

How do your students feel about you leaving for university?

They say how much they will miss me because the way I live with them and treat them is more like a big sister. It's different with the other teachers. When my students have problems they come and tell me and if I am capable I will always help them. They say when I leave they don't know how they are going to find some answers in their lives, especially girls, they are more comfortable talking to me.

What is your proudest accomplishment as a teacher?

Now I can see most of my students have a real goal in their life. Last year when I came, I asked my class 'who wants to be doctors?' They were all quiet. 'Who wants to be teachers?' They were all quiet. They didn't understand themselves, what they wanted or how they could think about their future.

The way I talked to them and advised them over this year I think is why they come to me and tell me "in university I want to study this," "in VETA college I want to study this". So I feel like somehow they have seen what is going on in their lives and how they can have some power in that through education.

Want to help shape community-focused leaders, like Dorice, then donate to teaching at St Jude's today! <http://www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html> or call 0438 783 035.



With a little help from my friends

Pendo Jerimiah is a hard working member of the team at St Jude's Smith Campus. Not only is she the school registrar, girls welfare and character management mistress she also coordinates the peer mentoring program.

She enthusiastically explains to us what the peer mentoring program involves;

"Form 5 girls act as big sisters for the new Form 1 girls, helping them feel connected to the school, supported, offering advice on how to get help, tips and tricks to study and improve their academics and how to deal with problems or issues that may arise."

In a boarding school such as our Smith Secondary Campus; getting settled in and feeling at home is important. There is no one better to help a new 14 or 15 year old Form 1 student at the secondary school than an older student who has been there before.

When asked what she likes about the program, Pendo Jerimiah's eyes light up.

"They become like a family, the little ones are connected with the big ones, who offer all sorts of help and advice. Then the older girls who are friends will

spend time with all of their little sisters and they all become friends and care about each other".

Gloria, one of our Form 6 students likes to help her 'sisters' with the academic side of life at The School of St Jude.

"I teach them some difficult subjects they think they cannot do well and I advise them on the right path they can go through as youths".

This is greatly appreciated,

"The one thing I learnt from my sister is that she likes helping the younger ones. Like in class subjects she helps a lot, for example in mathematics!" Vanessa, Form 2, said.

As well as academic success, personal skills such as confidence and team work are important for a St Jude's student to succeed. This is greatly supported by the peer mentor program as Jackline, in Form 2 explains.

"I learn from my elder sister to be confident because at first I wasn't confident to talk to all people but I learnt from her. The confidence I have now is from her".

St Jude's peer mentoring program

Peer Mentors have also inspired their charges with their choice career path.

"The most inspirational thing about my little sisters is that at first I knew I loved children and the younger ones. Since I met them that passion has grown and I keep loving them every day" Gloria, said. She is inspired to continue working with children, possibly as a teacher.

Students at the school learn many different skills from each other and sometimes the lessons come as a real surprise! Karisma's was surprised to see her sister, Rahma, Form 2 perform at Careers Day.

"From my sister I was inspired by her confidence. The Career day that she went to sing at; her voice was amazing!"

The shared learning and academic support is also an opportunity to have fun with a new friend. Kareen giggles as she remembers the program's first day. She tried to stretch her arms over the much taller younger students in her care.

"The funniest day was the first day that I met my little sisters. They are tall and I am short!"

Vanessa remembers the fun her Peer Mentor friends have shared on the program. "We were playing chasing and she fell over!" When asked if she helped her sister up off the ground her reply was immediate and delivered with the warmest smile, "Yes I did!"

Boys will also soon be a part of the Peer Mentoring Program. As part of the Girls Welfare Team Pendo Jerimiah initially started the program just for the girls. However, she was soon approached by boys from Form 5 who wanted to be involved.

"The Form 5 boys approached me and said, it's not fair that the girls get to do this, we want to have this program as well. So that is very good, we are happy when our students show responsibility and that they care about each other," Pendo Jerimiah said.

The shared support, laughter and inspiration enjoyed by our students show the Peer Mentor Program to be a huge success! These strong friendships will be treasured memories of a happy time at The School of St Jude.



Gloria (center) and her younger sisters, Vanessa (left) and Tatu (right)



Kareen (center) and her much bigger little sisters, Jackline (left) and Janeth (right)



Karisma (center) with little sisters Ramla (left) and Rahma (right)

**Want to support our quality learning environment?
Donate to learning resources, [http://
www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html)
or call 0438 783 035.**



The A team: Norah with her beloved colleagues in St Jude's Accounts team.

Staff Spotlight: Norah!

When you support St Jude's, you aren't just providing free education to the poorest and brightest students in Arusha. You're supporting almost 300 talented, dedicated staff members committed to fighting poverty in their community.

Meet Norah! The face of the Accounts department; she enjoys interacting with visitors at the accounts window as well as her work behind the scenes making sure that every dollar and cent is accounted for.

A busy mother of one, Norah loves nothing more than relaxing and watching movies with her family in the evening. Norah and her daughter are particular fans of the zombie genre!

Though some may find accounting for a school the size of ours about as terrifying as zombies, Norah has found that it is her forte. Norah came to St Jude's with previous experience as a cashier and enjoys assisting visitors from around the world with exchanging their foreign currency.

With a smile that can light up even an accounting office, Norah especially enjoys the office camaraderie at our school. "St Jude's is a family" Norah said. "We are all here together. It's not just a job. We're all working together to do something important in our country."

Community service and engagement is paramount in Norah's professional and personal life. Instead of relying solely on a bank account for income Norah is part of a small local community co-operative (called a 'kikoba' in Tanzania).

Every month each member contributes an amount, for example 20,000 Tanzanian shillings (app. \$12 AUD) and this is managed by a voluntary chairman, accountant and secretary chosen from the group.

They meet every month to discuss the fund and to hear members' requests for loans to improve their homes or to start up local businesses. "This is common in Tanzania" Norah says. "The community comes together to help each other meet their needs and provide for the future."

The phrase 'ask a busy person and they will get it done for you' completely applies to Norah. In addition to her job, home life and further studies in accounting at Arusha University, she also helps those in need.

To help make a positive change in her community Norah does not rest on Sundays. Instead she is part of the Catholic Women of Tanzania Association (WAWATA) that provides much needed community services and social economic empowerment activities to many in Arusha.

"People here are very poor and sleep in poor conditions. They can have five kids and sleep in one room," Norah says "The father may be jobless and the mother may only be able to work small jobs such as washing clothes for 2,000TZS per day (\$1.20 AUD) so I volunteer wherever I can."

Why not pay us a visit and discuss the exchange rate, women's empowerment or World War Z with Norah! Visit our website, www.schoolofstjude.org/visit-us/making-a-visit.html, email our visitors team visitors@schoolofstjude.co.tz or call +255 758 305 776



Five things you should know about Tanzanian culture

St Jude's recently celebrated our 7th Annual Cultural Day! Our students are letting you know what you should (but probably don't) know about Tanzanian culture.

"People may know that we have many different tribes with their own traditions, like Maasai, but what they don't know is that unlike other countries, people in Tanzania are not limited in showing their different cultures. We combine so many different traditions to make one very good national culture." - Evance, Form 4

Environment

Tanzania is known for the highest mountain in Africa, Mt Kilimanjaro, the cradle of Mankind, Olduvai Gorge, and of course the Serengeti.

"I think that people should know how Tanzanian culture is very close to nature, most cultural things are made of nature, handmade and derived from the environment in which people live," Evance said.

"We have the most protected natural areas and national parks in the world and the most precious wood in our mpingo tree."

Community

The literal translation of the Swahili word 'undugu' is 'relative' but our students say it means much more than that.

"The most important part of our culture is community, we are all joined together," Evance said. "If you get successful you should help those that are behind you so you can also bring them to success. That is the meaning of our word undugu – we should all be like lights to each other."



Natural beauty: Our budding fashion designers drew inspiration from their world renowned environment.



A winning combination: Evance wants you to know about the strength his country finds in cultural diversity.

Five things you should know about Tanzanian culture

Language

There are over 120 languages spoken in Tanzania. Swahili is the most spoken language, as well as the most spoken African language on the continent.

"I wish more people from outside knew Tanzanian culture through our shared language, it is so special. Our food and dressing style, they can see when they visit, but Swahili is so beautiful, it gives shape to our shared culture and is so full of respect and goodness," Robert in Form 4 said.

"For example when you meet someone who is older and that you should respect, you say 'shikamoo'. Its meaning is 'I kneel to you'."

Respect for elders

Honor the elders, even if they are not yours. - Swahili proverb

"It is our culture to respect elders and it is good because they know many things that you do not know yet and they can teach you good and bad things," Pascal in Form 4 said.

"Our culture is firstly about respect. This means that different religions and classes have peace between each other; it is not possible for fights to happen with other countries because of our culture of respect, everything is settled within ourselves," Rehema in Form 4 said.

Politics

Tanzania's first President Julius Kambarage Nyerere, was known as Baba wa Taifa – Father of the Nation. Nyerere was a key player in forming the Organization of African Unity, which later became the African Union.

"Other countries in the world, when they got independence there was fighting and wars. Tanzania, ever since independence, has been peaceful, there is respect between tribes and religions," Shani in Form 1 said.

If you'd like to learn more about Tanzanian culture from our students or see Cultural Day 2017 for yourself – come visit us! Visit our website, www.schoolofstjude.org/visit-us/making-a-visit.html, email our visitors team visitors@schoolofstjude.co.tz or call +255 758 305 776 to find out more.



Love for language: Robert says that Swahili shapes a shared Tanzanian culture of respect and goodness.



R.E.S.P.E.C.T. is key: Rehema is proud of her nation's peaceful past.



Tanzanian first: Shani wants you to know about Tanzania's first president, Julius Nyerere.

United States of Vivian

You may remember Vivian from our Staff Spotlight last month.

The outstanding role model is perfectly placed as a coordinator in our Beyond St Jude's team. Her St Jude's duties include supporting graduates through their Community Service Year, offering career guidance and assisting with university, loan and scholarship applications.

Vivian has recently returned from the United States where she was presenting on the accomplishments of our school and students to cement St Jude's participation in the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at African Leadership Academy. The trip was a huge success!

"We are so excited, this partnership opens up a whole world of opportunities for our graduates, quite literally," Vivian said.

Joining the Program means that, every year, up to five fully funded scholarships are available to our most impressive students at partner universities all over the world!

On her tour de force, Vivian had the chance to visit some of these universities that our graduates will be eligible for as part of the program.

"The universities I visited in the United States were amazing. It took me over an hour and a half to finish a campus tour". I can't imagine what it will be like for our students to set foot on campuses in Mauritius, Germany, Canada, Kenya or Zimbabwe!"

"Did you know, Hillary Clinton went to Wellesley University? I visited there as well as Trinity College and Marist College – beautiful universities, who knows one of our graduates may be the first female President of Tanzania!"

At all these venues she made connections, shared St Jude's story and asked a million questions for our students.

"I am so excited for our hardworking applicants; scholars who are accepted into the program will have the full cost of their university education covered; from textbooks, a laptop and a mobile phone, to visas and flights, including trips home for the summer," Vivian said.

The program also offers ongoing academic, pre-professional and personal support for the participants. This support will continue with professional development from the African Careers Network after graduation from university.

Students who are chosen will have demonstrated academic excellence, strong leadership skills and evidenced the ability to bring their ideas to life.

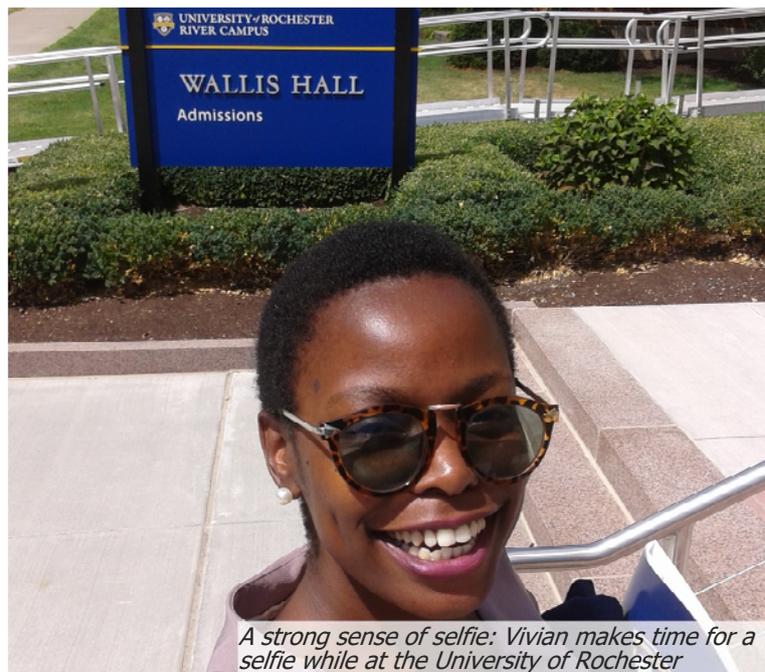
Like St Jude's, the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at African Leadership Academy believes in supporting the future leaders of Tanzania and Africa.

After graduation, the scholarship students will be required to return to Tanzania and share all that they have learnt at universities around the world with their communities.

We are so excited about this partnership and look forward to all that we know our graduates will achieve, thanks in part to the work of Vivian and the Beyond St Jude's team!



Vivian explores the Trinity College campus



A strong sense of selfie: Vivian makes time for a selfie while at the University of Rochester



Vivian shares a laugh with other African Leadership Academy partners

St Jude's celebrates careers day 2016



Fairly amazing: Students wait for the annual Careers Day celebrations to begin.

"A musician must make music, an artist must paint, a poet must write, if he is to be ultimately at peace with himself. What a man can be, he must be." - Abraham H. Maslow
With this quote, Mr Mshauri, our impassioned career guidance counselor, opened St Jude's Careers Day 2016!

This year's theme was 'Let your arts and talents become your career.' Careers Day at St Jude's always boasts an electric atmosphere of enthusiasm and ambition.

"It is of the utmost importance that in this day, as with every day, you examine yourself, explore who you are and what you want to become," Mr. Mshauri said in his opening address, "Tanzania needs you, the best you, you can be". Mr Mshauri spoke on the different industries crying out for a new generation of skilled professionals in Tanzania, particularly national priority sectors such as agriculture, IT and tourism.



Winners are grinners: Journalist Club writing their way into St Jude's history.

He beamed a broad, proud smile introducing the day's key note speaker, Faith Marunda. Faith recently joined St Jude's Visitors department after an impressive career across Tanzania's tourism sector.

The young professional's address captivated the crowd. Ms Marunda touched on her personal career accomplishments, the flexibility and opportunities available in Tanzanian tourism as well as the challenges facing the sector in the 21st century.

"Whether tourism is your dream or not, it accounts for 20% of our country's Gross National Product and 90% of that is reliant on international visitors," Faith said.



Form 4 student Paskal shows off his screen printing business

"So it is important that all of us in our careers consider our environment and act against climate change. It is all of our responsibility to make sure we conserve our general national brand to encourage sustainable tourism."

Our students also presented on employment prospects in Tanzania and their own entrepreneurial endeavors. The most enterprising individuals hosted booths exploring journalism and new media, music production, graphic design, screen printing, architecture, engineering and self-employment.

Olson in Form 6 said the day has always been a highlight on the academic calendar. "We get to meet different people with different careers like doctors and engineers and ask them how is their work, how is their career? And we get a much better understanding of different career paths from those discussions."

"For me it is difficult because I want to do everything. I want to study anesthetics and also something to do with chemical engineering," Olson said.

"That is why this day is so good for me. Here at St Jude's, there is everything that a person like me should need to get answers for all the career questions that I have."

Want to help us support our students to be the best they can be? Sponsor a student today <http://www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html> or by calling 0438 783 035.



Sponsor Simon shares his visit with Mwajina's family

Simon Scott started sponsoring the lovely Mwajina in 2011; this long term supporter of St Jude's has visited us many times over the years. A highlight of his trip is always a home visit with Mwajina and her family.

Simon said "It is always great to see Mwajina and how she has grown. Spending time with her family and getting to know them is also great". He laughed, "even with the language barrier".

"A home visit at St Jude's is so easy, they organise everything, I'd recommend everyone who's thinking of visiting St Jude's to do it!"



*Above, hasn't she grown?! Simon, Mwajina and her family during July this year; 2016.
Below, during Simon's first visit to the family in 2011.*



Just like Simon, you can sponsor a student. Visit <http://www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html> or call 0438 783 035.



Gemma announces the 2017 Australian tour!

Get excited! Gemma will be back in Australia in 2017!

Together with a special guest, Gemma will be sharing the story of how access to a free, high-quality education is changing the lives of approximately 1,800 disadvantaged, bright students in one of the world's poorest countries.

Gemma started our school in 2002 with just three students, one volunteer teacher and the belief that education is the best way to fight poverty.

In 2017, we'll be celebrating our 15th anniversary and this tour will be a celebration of everything we've achieved together.

Gemma and one of our students will be travelling all over the country between the beginning of March and early April 2017. "I can't wait for you to meet another one of our amazing students! Don't miss your chance," Gemma said.

If you are interested in organising an event, or know of any local conferences, organisations or media contacts that Gemma can share St Jude's story with, please let us know.

Be sure to contact our tour organiser at australia@schoolofstjude.org to register your interest.

Please give us as much information as possible about your proposed event such as date, time, location, number of attendees and whether it will be public or private. The more details the better and we will do our best to work our itinerary to accommodate you.

Helping us to spread the word about St Jude's is vital to our mission of providing a free, high-quality education to the poorest and brightest students here in Arusha!

Keep an eye on our website (schoolofstjude.org), social media (<https://www.facebook.com/schoolofstjude>) and newsletter for more upcoming information, especially our very special reveal introducing the student who will join Gemma in Australia!

Can't wait to see Gemma next year?

Find out when Gemma will be in your area!

Keep an eye on our events page. We'll keep it updated in the lead-up to next March.

<http://www.schoolofstjude.org/about-us/calendar.html>

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