



St Jude's News

AUGUST 2017

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends



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

Sustainable success—our roots go deep



Stamping out poaching—meet our conservation club

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Valentina's way—work, life and love at St Jude's

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Look how far we've come—hope and change side by side

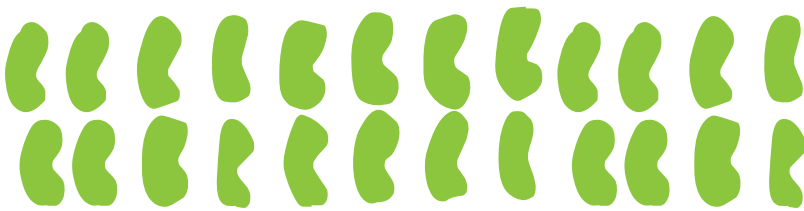
Gallery page 10



- **Rise and shine:** Shamba Club participants soak up their weekend dose of Vitamin D!
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- **What goes around, comes around:** St Jude's shamba feeds more than 1800 people.
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Reap what you sow

Staff and students have full bellies and nourished minds thanks to the school's shamba (farm) project!

Most teenagers treasure their sleep-ins, but 22 St Jude's students prefer to start the weekend soaking up sunshine among a bounty of fruits and vegetables at our Smith Campus shamba (farm).

Between 8.30am-12.00pm most Saturdays, farming tools slice through crisp morning air and the buzz of our chirpy Shamba Club rings across seven acres of lush harvest.

The club was formed in January this year and is overseen by Mr Ernest, the Head of Service at Smith.

"The shamba has really helped because we cultivate the vegetables and we are assured of the quality," Mr Ernest explained.

"When we buy the vegetables from outside, we are spending money. So if we are able to produce fruits and vegetables by ourselves, it is a great thing. We can use what we have."

"We grow eggplant, sukuma wiki (collared greens), cabbages, bananas, sweet potatoes, mangoes and tomatoes and other seasonal fruits and vegetables," Mr Ernest enthused.

As well as feeding our hardworking school community, students involved with maintaining the shamba attain valuable life skills and learn appreciation for their environment.

Denis in Form 4 helped with weeding on his village shamba, and being part of the St Jude's Shamba Club has piqued his interest in agriculture.

"I feel very happy because we can take what we have planted and nurtured. You have heart to give more and more, so you can get more and more," Denis said.

"After we have planted and harvested, we give the food to the kitchen and all of us eat it. They distribute produce to Moshono and Moivaro, so we feel proud because we can give to the younger ones. When they grow up, they can see where their veggies were from."

And it isn't all hard work for the eager environmentalists; the Shamba Club enjoys their bonding time too!

"We sing songs to motivate us to do more and more and we don't get tired or bored quickly. We talk and have fun. You can't always just be in the class studying. This gives us different activities and we get to know things. Even when we go back to the village, we can have something to work on," Denis shared.

Working on the shamba gives students a chance to serve both their school and local communities. Indeed, the agricultural industry is the backbone of Tanzania's economy, employing 67% of Tanzanian workers.

"Most of us studying here have shamba back at home, so with these skills we can improve our family farm. Also, we can help different people learn about the techniques of farming," Denis said.

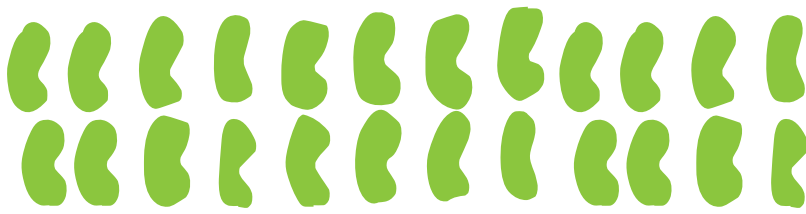
Importantly, Denis also feels that working on the shamba has heightened his sense of responsibility.

"We live in this environment. If we make it dirty, diseases may rise, so we should be caring and careful of our environment; we are living in it and it's living with us. We give to it, and it gives to us. You can see our school is beautiful and we want it to stay beautiful."

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Would you like to sample some vegetables from our shamba? Come and visit us!



Elephant in the room

There's an 'elephant in the room'... literally.

Thrill-seekers and animal lovers traverse the globe to catch a glimpse of Tanzania's tembo (elephants). Sadly, these majestic creatures face extinction as targets of ivory poachers.

A group of St Jude's secondary students is committed to stamping out tembo terrorisers by raising awareness about poaching in the community.

Tembo Club was started in February by impassioned student activists, who boldly approached their teachers with the desire to save one of Tanzania's national treasures.

"Poaching means we destroy natural resources that are beneficial to us. And of course, elephants have rights, so why shouldn't they just live?"

"People think that conducting the black market of ivory is a good thing because they can get furniture. It's a disappointment," said Tembo Club President and Form 6 student, Christina.

The students are right to be disappointed and concerned. Tanzania is one of Africa's poaching hotspots. According to the Tanzanian government, between 2009 and 2014, the illegal activity reduced Tanzania's elephant numbers by 60%.

"This is a big problem. If there are no more elephants, it will lower the status of our nation," said Tembo Club Chairman and Geography teacher, Mr Fauz.

"We are the ambassadors for Tanzania. Protecting the natural resources of any country is an important thing to do. So I am proud to be one of them," Christina said.

- The club meets twice monthly. So far, 45 students and four teachers are a part of the group, but this number is set to increase.
- "Most students wish to join our club, although we limit the number and I'm sure even though they are not members, they are motivated to do something like what we are doing already," Christina said.
- Nickson, Emmanuel and Nasra are three enthusiastic members of Tembo Club.
- "I have a passion for art and this is one of the ways I can express my opinions to society. It can trigger someone to care about poaching," Nickson said.
- "We have good resources, good teachers, good mentors and good members among us. I can't even express how glad I am for this group," Emmanuel beamed.
- "The best part is conserving the environment, telling people more about wildlife and how precious wildlife is to our society," Nasra said.
- Deputy Chariman of Tembo Club, Mr Elias, believes the students' efforts will have a widespread impact, thanks to their opportunities at The School of St Jude.
- "With the support of the international community, we can all make a difference by saying no to poaching and saying no to buying products made from elephants."
- "We want the ivory market to be blacklisted and to disappear. If the market flourishes, the killing will continue. This is done by the very richest people in big business, so it requires a collective voice to say no to poaching," Mr Elias said.

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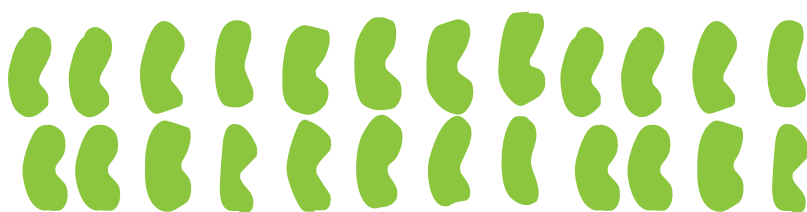
Pay us a visit and learn more about Tembo Club. You might even get the chance to see some tembo in Arusha's beautiful national parks!



- **Using their voices:** Tembo
- Club raised awareness about
- ivory poaching at Science Day
- in March.



- **Tembo tempo:** St Jude's students
- love visiting their four-footed
- friends in Tarangire National Park.



Vale-dictorious

Working at St Jude's—a tale of ambition, empowerment and...romance!

M eet Valentina. If you are a sponsor, you may already know her cheery tone and revel in her exciting emails announcing student awards. Commonly known as 'Vale', the superstar Sponsor Relations Assistant has worked at St Jude's for over 12 years!

The amazing mum-of-three young boys started working at St Jude's in 2004 as a cleaner. She spoke little English, but harboured big dreams and has now secured her place as a business office hero!

"I worked for one year as a cleaner and after that, my supervisor chose me to become the Head of Cleaners," Valentina said.

"After five years as the Head of Cleaners, I started going to secretarial classes at night. Around this time, a position in the Sponsorship Team was advertised and I decided to apply," she said.

"An international staff member, Joanne, said to me, 'Vale! Wow, you applied for the Sponsorship position. That is wonderful!'"

"I said to her, 'I will try my best.'"

The rest, as they say, is history.

"I was so excited when I started in the office. It was hard to communicate at first, but the international staff were so funny! At lunch and tea break, they would ask me for advice. They trusted me," she reflected.

Eight years later, Vale continues to thrive.

"Sometimes now, people joke that I have been here forever. But, I have no need to go away. This

place has taken me from nothing, to something," she said.

And it's not just our school that Vale loves. It was here that she met former St Jude's bus driver, Herman, her now husband and father of her sons.

"I was still a cleaner when I met Herman," Valentina said.

"He was very shy. He took my phone number from another driver and when he called me, at first, he refused to speak. One day, he had the courage to call again and invited me to meet his family. He said he loved me," she giggled.

"We have been together for more than ten years."

The School of St Jude's ripple effect flows far and wide; working at St Jude's has helped Vale provide for her family.

"Because of this school, my kids can also get a nice meal and education, as I can pay school fees. We are getting a good salary. I love Mama Gemma and the sponsors. They are helping this community, my country, and me too."

Vale's come so far, but she's still dreaming, daring and doing.

"This month, I will start a certificate in Procurement and Supply at university. Then, I want to do the diploma and later, the degree. St Jude's is helping me so much. I am confident."

It's been 12 long years, but Valentina hopes this is still the beginning of the journey.

"This school was my very first workplace. It is the best place to work and I'll stay a long time—I wish to stay even 20 years!"

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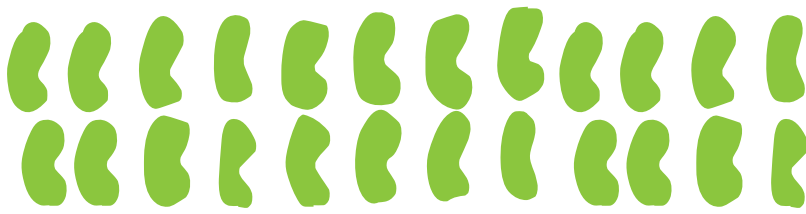
Check out our current vacancies if you'd like to join Valentina and the St Jude's staff!



- **Community role model:** Valentina has helped to fight poverty through education for more than a decade.

- **Dream team:** Vale is a valued member of the business office staff as a Sponsor Relations Assistant.





A medical marvel

Introducing Renatus—another of our students' sustainable solutions to societal ills

Renatus spends a lot of time in the St Jude's infirmary, but it's not because he's ill. In fact, the Form 4 student uses the space to prepare a medicine which combats cold and flu symptoms. According to the World Health Organization, respiratory diseases are a leading cause of death in Tanzania.

Renatus makes his medicine using organic produce. So far, he's helped 10 people—seven of his friends at The School of St Jude, and three people in his local community.

"I started the project earlier this year because my brother was sick for two months with a throat and chest problem and the medication he used wasn't working. I wanted to come up with a different way to help him and help society in general," Renatus said.

Renatus conducted a lot of research before starting his project and in doing so, he learnt about Tanzania's healthcare system. He's determined to make a difference to his country.

"Many medical services aren't available in our country, so some people have to go far away to find assistance. Tanzania needs good doctors. I believe I will be one of them someday. I want to be a Neurosurgeon, and produce medical products."

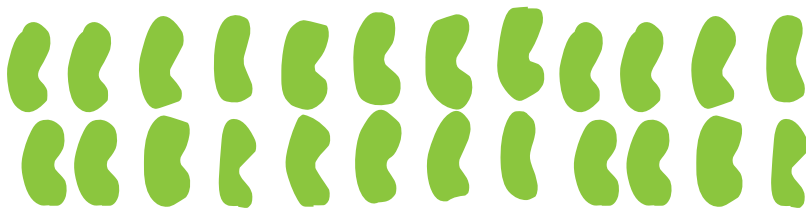
The compassionate, young, science enthusiast is determined not to let any challenges overcome his willingness to help others.

- "I am trying to determine how to preserve the medicine, so the people using it can do so for three days at morning, afternoon and evening. I would like to speak to a doctor at one of the big hospitals in Arusha to see if I can find out how to overcome this difficulty."
- Renatus's eyes sparkled as he spoke about the kinds of people he admires.
- "I am inspired by those who work and struggle hard for what they want, such as American Neurosurgeon, Ben Carson. People like this inspire me because even though at certain times in life I have faced difficulties, it is possible to overcome them," he assured.
- So far, everyone who's tried Renatus's home-made remedy has praised him for his efforts.
- "Renatus has already reported very good progress with fellows who have tested [the medicine]. While this is impressive he may need an expert's advice to know what he needs to focus on as he progresses, and how to do documentation. I am looking forward to hear what he says next," said Academic Coordinator and Physics teacher, Mr Mcharo.
- Renatus says he owes a lot of his dream-making to The School of St Jude.
- "The school is providing me with the supplies I need and it has become easy for me to work on the project here at school."
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Have you come down with a cold or flu this season? Consider a visit to St Jude's so you can try Renatus's organic medicine for yourself!



Future proofing Rotary

St Jude's youth Rotary clubs the key to a sustainable future

Rotary has remained an integral force behind the success of St Jude's for more than 15 years. A number of initiatives are ensuring that a new generation of Rotarians are ready to pay it forward!

It's never too early to act!

Our youngest members are the Earlyactors, the first Earlyact club in East Africa!

Since their installation late last year, 39 Earlyactors have undertaken a paper recycling project and fundraised to supply solar lights to community members in need.

"Our goal is to instill a creative community service mindset from a young age," Rotary Coordinator, Sebastian Cox said.

What's next?

The Club is currently scripting and rehearsing a music video. The video will be produced as a fundraising appeal for their upcoming project providing much needed supplies to a local orphanage.

Interesting Interacting

With their base at Smith campus, 29 Interactors have been enthusiastic agents of change, presenting to the District Rotary Conference, organising a walk to raise awareness for Polio eradication and participating in the region's first Interact Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA).

"I was so inspired working with the Interactors at RYLA. They had such innovative ideas.

They have such broad minds, they just need to be encouraged and empowered", Interact Officer and 2016 graduate and Rotaractor, Miriam said.

What's next?

- Next up our young guns plan on recording self-devised, inspirational anthems in a local studio, supporting local orphanages by producing and supplying practice exam papers as well as creating 200 more of their 'signature' recycled blackboard dusters for schools. Closer to their home (in boarding) they will be rolling up their sleeves and holding their noses as they throw themselves into a Smith campus composting project.

Serious Rotaraction

- At the helm of our youth clubs are Rotaract. Their Rotary Vijana Poa project has educated and empowered unemployed youth through workshops on entrepreneurship and employment skills as well as work placements and business startup grants. The majority of participants who previously struggled to find any work, are now gainfully employed or operating successful business ventures.

What's next?

- Always up for having fun while fundraising, they will hold a pool competition to raise money for upcoming projects focused on women's rights and maternal health.

- Those that work together grow together, and this is what the three clubs plan to do. Literally! Rotaract will soon be leading their junior clubs in 'Mission Green'—a District-wide tree planting project.

- "I am so impressed by the initiative of these future Rotarians, what they have already achieved and their ambitions for the future. I truly hope every Rotarian who lent a hand to our mission over the years shares in my joy over the enthusiasm and accomplishments of our young clubs," Gemma said.



Help our students make a difference to others, by making a difference to them—sponsor one of our bright students!

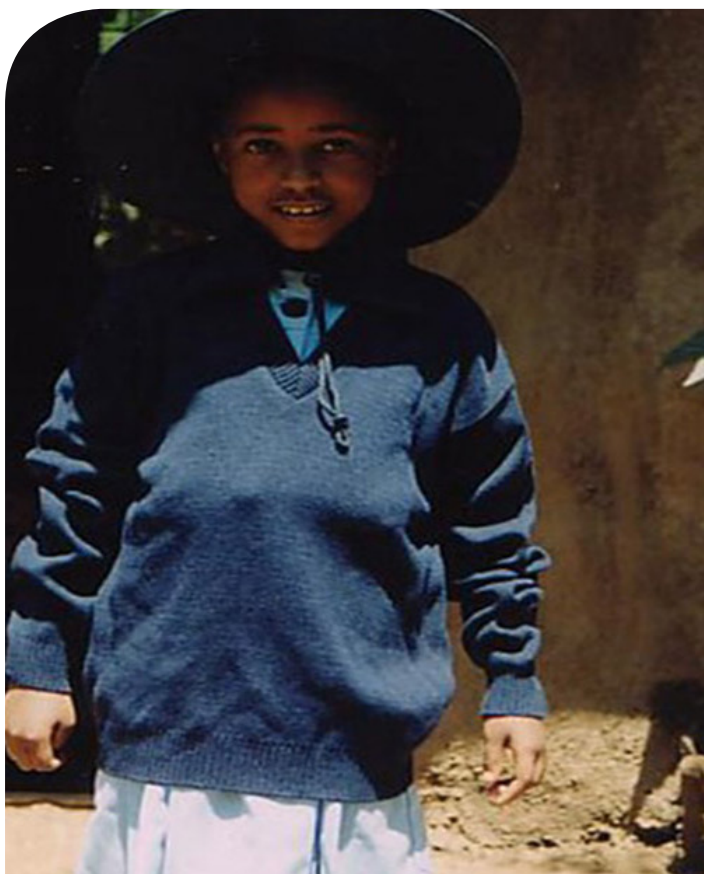


The journey

15 years gone, many more to come. See the changing face of The School of St Jude.



- **Top: Promised land** At the foot of a Tanzanian mountain, one woman's dream of building a school for the poor came true.
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- **Bottom: Moving along** Our bus fleet and school have expanded just a little since 2002.
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- **Above, left: If the shoe fits.** Mama Gemma needn't choose fashionista Miriam's shoes anymore! Miriam is currently one of our Community Service Year interns in St Jude's business office, with aspirations of studying Law at university through the Beyond St Jude's program.

- **Top: Glowing graduate.** Young Winnie started at the school in Standard 1 and is currently a Beyond St Jude's Scholar.
- **Right: Some things never change.** 2017 graduate and incoming Beyond St Jude's intern, Olson, has always been a cheeky lad!



Be a part of our ever evolving education revolution—
donate, sponsor, visit or spread the word today!