



The School of St Jude

St Jude's News

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends

ISSUE 9, 2014



Meet Juliana, a New Student Starting in January

Juliana is an incredibly bright and ambitious 6-year-old who is one of 150 new students starting at St Jude's in January.

We recently sent around a video showing what life is like for her and her family. If you haven't seen the video, visit our YouTube page today:

http://youtu.be/_0_ctkybKw4

About Juliana

Juliana lives with her family in a two-room, cement-block home, which has no electricity or running water. The family also has no reliable source of income. With Juliana's injured father struggling to earn enough money for rent and food, their future has always been uncertain.

Despite this hardship, Juliana has proved herself to be a highly motivated student, finishing first in her government school class of 47 and receiving perfect marks in four of her subjects.

Now, with a free, high-quality education at St Jude's she will be able to learn in an environment that has smaller class sizes, lots of resources and is designed to nurture her academic ability and help her to make the most of her skills.

A world full of possibilities has been opened to Juliana and she will now have the chance to escape the poverty cycle and make choices about her future.

We have officially launched our 2014 Appeal. In this appeal we are aiming to find 150 people like you to sponsor our new 150 students starting in January. These students have been selected because they are from the poorest families in the Arusha Region, and have shown that they have the ability and attitude to make the most of this opportunity.

If you are considering becoming a sponsor or sponsoring another student, now is the time.

By sponsoring and being part of their journey you really are opening a world full of possibilities. **Imagine the exciting future for these 150 students as they acquire a high-quality education!**

**Sponsor a student like Juliana
before the end of the year**

www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html

Young Artist Overcoming All Obstacles

When you walk into an art room at St Jude's it is easy to be taken by the creativity of our students. Many different types of creations are on display, from big bold African prints covering the walls to standout art pieces made from old phone vouchers.

Lightness in Standard 5 is one of our incredibly talented students. Born with Cerebral Palsy, Lightness has no use of her hands but has resourcefully learnt to use her feet to perform many tasks, using them to help her eat, write and indulge in her passion for painting.

As a talented artist, this clever young girl is determined not to let her disability stand in her way

"I love painting birds and people – I look in the book and see the colours and then go from there," said Lightness. "I

have liked painting since I was a little girl and I practice by drawing some pictures every day or every week."

Under the careful guidance of her art teacher at St Jude's, Lightness is able to develop her skill in painting, learning about depth, lines and how to enhance her art.

Upper Primary Headmaster Peter Manjalla discovered Lightness' talents when she was working on cards and stories as part of her extra curricular activities at our school.

"She had lots of cards and postcards of animals including antelopes, birds of different kinds, the big five and other pictures," said Mr Manjalla. "Her talent is very good and I think she has her job already."



Introducing St Jude's Jewelry

\$25 AUD



Purchase your St Jude's necklace made in Tanzania from Kanga designed by our students and recycled glass www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/merchandise.html

We are very excited to announce that we have just launched a St Jude's Shanga Necklace!

Each necklace has been made from Kanga material designed by students at St Jude's. The necklaces have been created by Shanga, an organisation not far from St Jude's providing employment opportunities for disabled

Tanzanians who are trained to make unique, quality products handmade from recycled materials.

For every St Jude's necklace you buy, all profits go directly to the education of our students.

St Jude's is on Trip Advisor!



Have you ever visited St Jude's? Tell the world about it! We're now on Trip Advisor and we would love it if you shared your experiences.

By doing this, you are helping spread the word about St Jude's and will help us find much needed supporters.

Head to the Trip Advisor website now and search for The School of St Jude under accommodation or attractions!

www.tripadvisor.com



My Experience Sponsoring Students at St Jude's



Above: Sponsor Deborah Hewes (centre), her husband Donald (far right) and daughter, St Jude's volunteer Rachael (far right) and their sponsored student Lebahati.



Above: Sponsor Deborah Hewes with Salome

When you become a sponsor at St Jude's, you become a key part of a student's amazing educational journey.

Your sponsorship covers the essentials like textbooks, accommodation and meals but so much more. You become an extended part of your sponsor child's family as they are so welcoming and appreciative that you have chosen to give their child the greatest gift: an education.

Want to hear directly from one of our sponsors? Read an excerpt of this great blog (below) written by one of our sponsors Deborah Hewes, whose daughter Rachael volunteers at St Jude's.

In September 2012, our eldest daughter Rachael took up a volunteer position with The School of St Jude working as a photographer. Sending her off to Africa was an exercise in faith and trust for us, and we hoped that she would be safe and happy working so far from home in a country so different from where she had grown up. Rachael loved The School of St Jude as soon as she stepped through the front gate, and immediately felt a strong bond with the children she was photographing. We heard so many interesting stories about her experiences at the school and through her beautiful photography we experienced the amazing time she was having.

Rachael was able to explain to us exactly how the school was managed and how it stayed viable through sponsorship and donations. We were delighted that she was having this experience and we wanted to be part of it. Rachael wrote to us about a young student who she felt that we would be interested in sponsoring. She had been involved in his journey to be accepted into the school, through testing and house checks and taking his photo in his new school uniform. There was a connection with this boy that she wanted to continue and through sponsorship this would be possible. We decided to sponsor Lebahati after Rachael's recommendation. Lebahati is indeed a delightful boy and we were so happy to have met him and visit his family when had the opportunity to visit the school in May 2013.

Our visit to Tanzania in May 2013 was a life changing experience for us. We were able to experience first-hand what our daughter had been telling us about the country. Having a chance to stay at the School of St Jude and meet the children, teachers and staff was truly inspiring. We had the opportunity to meet Lebahati and visit his home and family. Lebahati is an only child and lives with his mother and Auntie. As soon as we met Lebahati we understood why our daughter had gravitated to him. While we were at the school we had the chance to have lunch with Lebahati and his school mates and we watched them play in the playground. Lebahati is an avid soccer player and along with the other boys a very animated and exciting soccer match is held every lunch time – we watched many games while we were there at the school.

One lunch time we sat next to Salome, a friend from Lebahati's class. Salome had a magical smile and laughed at all of my antics. She is a delightful and confident child and on enquiry we found out that she did not have a sponsor. We decided immediately that we would like to sponsor Salome too! So while we were there we had a chance to visit Salome's family as well. Salome is from a large family of seven children and her father is a proud tall Maasai who works as a security guard.

While at the school we also met a lovely teacher Juliet Mbuya. Juliet came with us as an interpreter on the home visit for Salome. Home visits can be challenging due to the language barrier but Juliet made this experience an enjoyable one for us all. Juliet is a grade 5 Social Science teacher and we had the chance while we were at school to visit her classroom. We decided that we would like to be one of Juliet's sponsors too!

**Sponsor a Student Today and
Open a World Full of Possibilities**
www.schoolofstjude.co.tz/support-us/sponsor.html

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

DECEMBER 2

St Jude's is excited to be an official partner in this year's #GivingTuesday, a global day of charitable giving that will take place on December 2.

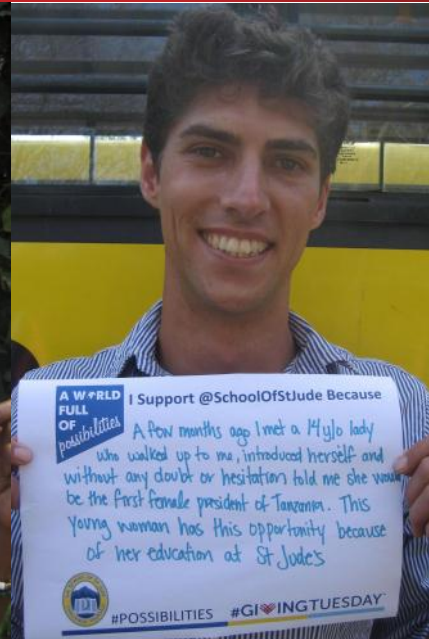
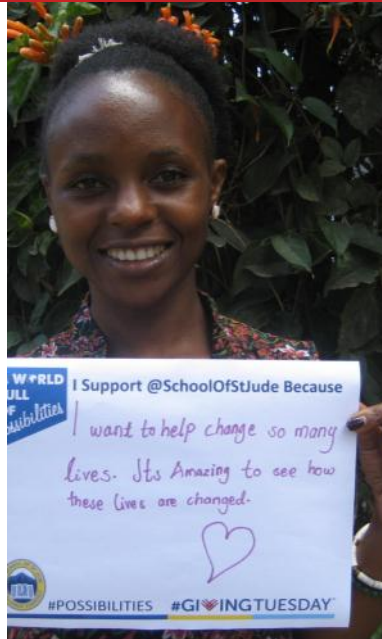
What is Giving Tuesday?

#GivingTuesday is a global movement dedicated to giving back. On Tuesday, December 2, 2014, people from around the world will come together for one common purpose, to celebrate generosity and to give.

The idea is simple, just find a way for your family, your community, or your organization to come together to give something more. Then tell everyone you can about how you are giving. We invite you to participate in #GivingTuesday with us.

How Can You Get Involved?

- Become a Sponsor!
- Make a General Donation!
- Spread the Word! Share a #UNSelfie on your social media pages with the reason why you support The School of St Jude. Find out how on our blog!



To learn more about #GivingTuesday and how you can participate as a member of the St Jude's family, visit our blog
<http://bit.ly/1t3eS07>



Young St Jude's Women Empowering Others



St Jude's students talking about women empowerment at our Careers Day



St Jude's students Irene, Christina and Joyce

Almost a quarter of young women aged 15-24 today (116 million) in developing countries have never completed primary school and, consequently, lack the skills necessary for gaining meaningful employment (source: UNESCO). Those who miss out on going to school soon lose hope, and are forced to give up their career aspirations. Yet, when you 'educate a woman, you educate a nation;' (old African proverb) and some special St Jude's students are making sure that Tanzanian women won't be left behind in their mission to fight poverty through education.

Joyce, Christina, Irene, Martha and Monica are passionate about empowering women. Their idea started off as a seed when they held an exhibit at our Careers Day on the importance of giving women a voice, and displayed inspirational quotes and pictures of women from across the globe that are making their mark on society. "We held a workshop, telling girls about their rights and that they're powerful even if they are not educated," said Irene. However, our students knew that there was a female empowerment message which needed to be spread far and wide in their communities. In nearby villages, many young girls are dropping out of school for a range of reasons including falling pregnant.

To combat this, the girls have used their own initiative and recently held a forum about topical women's issues at a packed church in Arusha. They divided the topics into two categories; for women it was 'Women and the family,' while for girls, it was 'Girls, do you understand yourselves?' They wanted to get rid of the sensitivities surrounding both topics so women of all ages could have a frank discussion on what needs to change or improve. "We also talked about managing your income if you're not employed; at least do something so you can get an income. In addition, we also talked about health and maintaining peace in the family because sometimes you find it is an issue in some African families," said Irene.

The issues began to run deeper, though, as the girls encouraged the younger women at the forum to be comfortable about their appearance. "I talked to the girls

about their black skin and most of them don't think it's good enough or presentable, and I told them that they should be proud of the colour of their skin and that they should never use chemicals to lighten it," said Justine. The students also talked about natural beauty, health, nutrition and taking care of one's self.

The forum took a different turn, however, when men decided they wanted to be a part of it. "That was something that was really interesting during that day. We thought it'd be a few women there when we started, but eventually we saw men coming in to give their opinions," said Joyce. The church became very full and people of all ages were contributing their ideas and input to the forum.

The forum was a big success and the pastor of the church praised the girls on their program and the information they passed on to the audience. Their project is continuing to flourish and they are now planning to head out to visit girls and women in rural areas of the Arusha region, including in the Maasai land. "We will go to those areas and tell them how they can succeed in this life, because no matter what their age is - 30, 50 or whatever - they can still do something with their lives," said Joyce. "Their age doesn't matter; what matters is their willingness and motivation to do something.

Some women choose to follow men, and some choose to follow their dreams!



Our First Form 6 Graduation



It is a very exciting time at St Jude's. Preparations for our first ever Form 6 Graduation are underway and we are really excited to celebrate this exciting milestone for our students and for the school as a whole.

We would love it if you could share in this experience with us. You can do this by keeping your eye on our website and social media pages so that you get all the updates during the week of the Graduation, or you could come to Tanzania and join in the festivities!

Graduation activities at St Jude's will take place from 27 – 31 May 2015. In addition, we are organising some incredible "Graduation Tours" which include safaris around the North and South circuits and trips to see the gorillas in Rwanda.

Here is a draft itinerary of some of the events that will be taking place for visitors during the week:

Monday 25 th May	Form 6 visit to Lower and Upper Primary Campus and assembly
Tuesday 26 th May	Choice of a trip to Maji Moto, safari in Arusha National Park or a hike to Arusha Waterfall
Wednesday 27 th May	Meet with Gemma and hear more about the Tertiary Programme, try your hand at an African drumming and join a dance workshop with students followed by a relaxing BBQ with Form 6.
Thursday 28 th May	The Best of St Jude's! You're invited to an "Achievement Exhibition" in the morning with a special lunch and guest speaker. In the afternoon the students will run their own final assembly which will highlight some of the students' successes.
Friday 29 th May	Fun Day! Sports day and a BBQ at the Secondary Campus with Form 6 teachers and students.
Saturday 30 th May	Let's Celebrate! Look on and feel proud to support St Jude's as our first students graduate from Form 6. It promises to be a memorable ceremony followed by a special celebratory lunch and dinner at Rivertrees Country Inn.
Sunday 31 st May	Lunch at Shanga and farewell or an onward safari trip!



Keep an eye on our website for more details

www.schoolofstjude.co.tz/visit-us/cultural-tours.html

September Visitors Experience a Meaningful Adventure

We're thrilled that a bumper number of visitors, including two Melbourne schools, MLC and PLC, as well as our September tour group, came to stay .

Being some of our most passionate supporters, they came to see for themselves how their generous donations have impacted the lives of some of the poorest children.

Our students enjoyed their participation in classroom activities, visits to their homes and dormitories and the little ones really enjoyed the balloon and bubble games before class in the morning.

Our visitors also enjoyed exploring the local area with excursions to see a Maasai choir, local markets and restaurants and, of course, you can't go home without heading off on safari to get up close and personal with the wildlife.

If you want a unique adventure of a lifetime and be involved in one of Africa's 'good news' stories, come over and enjoy the St Jude's experience!



Have you thought about becoming a volunteer?

Are you, or is someone you know, an experienced communications professional who would love writing and pitching stories about our school? We're currently seeking a skilled **Media Relations Officer** to build relationships with media contacts in Australia and around the world in an effort to promote our vision of fighting poverty through education.

Here, our current Media Relations Officer, Steph Fitzpatrick, shares with us her memorable experiences in this exciting role.

What caused you come to St Jude's? Two years ago, I had begun thinking about giving back somewhere instead of focusing on my career. I had heard about St Jude's after watching the Australian Story documentaries and thought it was an amazing cause to be a part of. I also wanted to work in a developing country which would give me a different perspective, and I have certainly gained that at St Jude's.

What were your first impressions? I was surprised and impressed by the sheer size of the school and after being here a while, I was taken by the mature attitude of the students and how amazing they are despite living in challenging circumstances. Interviewing them during the past year has really had a big impact on me.

What are the types of tasks you perform? I pitch stories about education in Tanzania, St Jude's achievements and its future direction to Australian and international journalists. It's

what I love about the job, as I pitch to a wide range of publications, including international, educational and volunteering magazines, travel publications and others. It's about finding creative ways to share the story of St Jude's. I also blog about a range of topics and help to coordinate our social media so our supporters can stay in touch.

What is your favourite part of St Jude's? The interaction with the students in my job. As I talk to them, I realise more and more how their education at St Jude's has really benefited them.

How have you seen St Jude's grow since you've been here? During the past year, we've been preparing for our Form 6 students to graduate in May 2015 so it's an exciting time. We are seeing the hard work of Gemma, volunteers, Tanzanian staff and the students culminating in our first graduation.

How has it shaped your career going forward? Before, I was working in Queensland, Australia, and I got to know the state well, but I have really enjoyed branching out and doing something completely different in Tanzania. It has developed my interest in working further in the humanitarian sector

See other volunteer positions
on our website

www.schoolofstjude.co.tz/join-us/volunteer.html



On the Road with Gemma, Felix and Kim



BeefEx Conference



St Joseph Primary School students in Leeton, NSW



UWCSEA's event in Singapore



Felix told us interesting information

Sophie, expresses her experience of Felix's presentation



Gemma, Felix and Kim have been travelling around catching up with supporters and past volunteers while speaking at conferences, schools and Rotary clubs.

Felix is now in Australia and will soon be in Hong Kong as well. Keep an eye on our website and see if there are any upcoming events near you.

www.schoolofstjude.org/about-us/calendar.html

Thanks you so much to everyone who has devoted time and energy to hosting events and accommodating our representatives as they spread the word about St Jude's.

Gemma will be touring again in March 2015, so if you're interested in hosting an event, please contact Sarah australia@schoolofstjude.org

Ylead trivia night



More amazing supporters

See more photos on our Facebook page! <http://on.fb.me/1zhMfRf>