



St Jude's News

SEPTEMBER 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

A spring in our step— celebrating new things!



Meet Chris, our new American
friend Fighting Poverty
Through Education.

Story page 3



Our Beyond St Jude scholar
goes back as a government
school teacher.

Story page 4



Join our youngest students
on their very first safari!

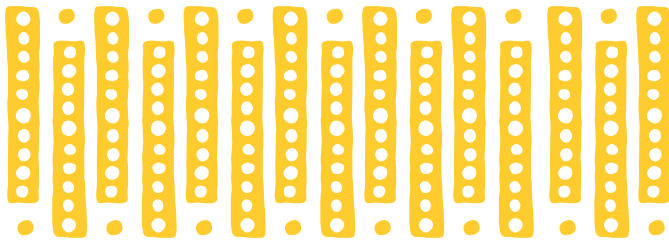
Story page 7



- **Home away from home:** Chris
- says he'll feel the impact of his
- St Jude's visit forever.



- **All-American all-stars:** We love
- making new friends from around
- the world!



American Chris-mas

It's the start of a friendship as sweet as apple pie!

The greatest gift our new buddy, Chris, brought to St Jude's was his magnetic presence.

Chris's passion for fighting poverty through education shone through smiling eyes and a radiant grin.

The family-man from Indiana had never been to Africa, but Chris was right at home from the moment he landed on St Jude's doorstep. It was a two week trip that changed his life.

"I read a quote about Africa once that said something like, 'the simplicity and the complexity of the culture, the interactions you have, will draw you in and get inside you, and not let you go. You'll always want to go back.' That is absolutely true," Chris said.

"I looked at the website before getting here and thought, 'this is a unique school, it's something I'd like to see, understand and experience.' It grows on you," he shared.

"It's just amazing. This was one person's dream for kids in Tanzania, funded by people in another country, and now by people around the world—including the United States! Unbelievable."

"You see students here that are extremely happy: drumming in music class, dancing, smiling... being 100% present and confident in themselves. Being able to touch a part of their life is fantastic," he enthused.

A visit to a student's home opened Chris's eyes to reality beyond St Jude's blue-and-gold gates.

"To really understand it, you have to experience it. You only get a snapshot, but what it's really about is an exchange of ideas and finding common ground," he said.

"I asked the student's grandmother how she made the tea she was serving. She showed me some grass the family grows outside. It looked just like prairie grass! It was a really great thing!"

"I kept thinking about going home and growing the same stuff. Then, the whole family started laughing at my friend who didn't want sugar in his tea! It was awesome," Chris laughed.

As a teacher, Chris appreciates the role of education in guiding young people towards a future of joy and prosperity.

"St Jude's has had three graduating classes. I'd say the next 10 years will be really interesting. We'll be able to see how the graduates progress through college and in their lives. So many will flourish as Tanzania's leaders!" Chris predicted.

Chris plans to keep his flame of inspiration burning brightly, and share it with students in the States.

"I can't wait to show them pictures and say, 'we've got a lot to learn from St Jude's. Don't look at these students as if they don't have much. In some ways, they have more than you—they understand so much about life.'"

"St Jude's students are growing their own food! They wash their own clothes. They are inventive. They take responsibility. To think of where they've come from is mind-blowing."

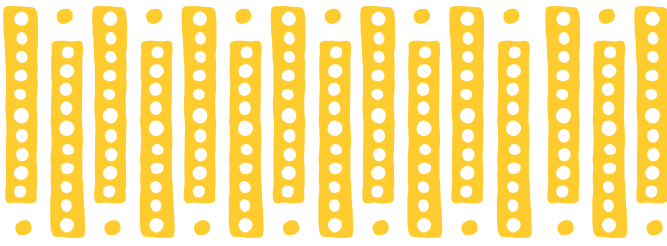
Although his visit is over, this is the beginning of a long-time friendship between Chris and St Jude's.

"It's just like that quote I read; yes, my shoes are dirty. My hair has dust in it. Tanzania is stuck under my skin. I'd come back here in the snap of a finger. It doesn't get any better than this."

September 2017



Our students and staff love welcoming visitors. What are you waiting for? Come and see St Jude's in action!



Gift that keeps giving

The 'Gift' of an education is a great one — just ask him!

Gift is one of Beyond St Jude's newest Community Service Year interns, serving his community as an assistant physics teacher at a local government school.

The Beyond St Jude's program is an optional stepping stone for St Jude's graduates. Those who choose to participate demonstrate leadership and generosity as interns in our school's business office, library, boarding houses, Visitor team, entrepreneurial program, or by teaching in under-resourced government schools.

St Jude's students don't take their gift of a free, quality education for granted. Gift is one such graduate, whose sense of service is innate.

"I studied at this government school previously, that's why I enjoy giving back!" the aspiring electrical engineer said.

"I joined St Jude's when I was in Form 5. When I was a student at this government school, I taught Form 4s mathematics in my spare time," he explained.

"Volunteering at my old school was what I wanted from the beginning. I decided to use this one year before university."

It takes Gift 45 minutes to walk from his home to work. In total, he's responsible for 182 students; Gift's largest class has 68 pupils in it.

"There are big differences between this school and St Jude's," Gift remarked.

"We only have 43 teachers here, but at St Jude's, we have many more, and more resources as well. I loved the learning materials. St Jude's really expanded my knowledge."

Gift hopes to nurture as many young scientists as possible during his Community Service Year.

"Sciences are key subjects because, in our country, these are important skills for employment."

"In government schools, we have a lack of science teachers. So, I will use this year to help the students achieve their goals. I know I can't do it 100%, but I know they'll appreciate my efforts," Gift said.

Being a teacher himself has also increased Gift's appreciation for St Jude's staff.

"When I came from a government school to St Jude's, I didn't know much English, which was a problem. During the activities at St Jude's, we learnt how to speak; we had to persevere. We learnt by speaking to our friends and teachers."

"Mr Meshack, a physics, ICT and mathematics teacher, was my favourite. I try to be like him. He encouraged me to face and solve any problem with maths. Because he did well in Form 6, he was counselling us to study. He was trying to help us learn to find resources in books, and how to work hard," Gift gleamed.

Through his giving, Gift's family has received abundantly. In fact, one of Gift's current students is his own brother, Ioishock!

"It is very nice having my brother as my teacher. I dream of becoming a teacher one day," Ioishock said.

Gift is proud to guide his brother through his schooling.

"In the future, I expect I will help my family to achieve a lot!" He insisted.

September 2017



The 'Gift' of an education is one which keeps giving. If you'd like to sponsor a Beyond St Jude's participant, please email sponsorbeyond@schoolofstjude.co.tz



- **Beyond expectations:** Gift credits his success and desire to help others to his education at The School of St Jude.
-
-
-
-



- **Stepping back, a step forward:** Returning as a teacher to his former school was Gift's goal.
-

- **Brave brothers:** loishock loves having his brother as a teacher so much, that he hopes to be one in the future as well.
-
-

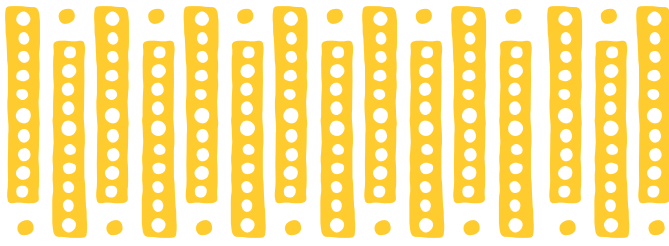




- **On the lookout:** It was clearly a tough day in the field for the keen young sightseers!

- **Ancient relics:** Students got up-close-and-personal with rare remains outside Tarangire.





Safari meets super standards

All aboard our yellow bus fleet for the school excursion of a lifetime!

It was a misty morning, yet nothing could dampen the mood of our youngest students as they set out for a great adventure—their very first safari.

“We were so excited; we could not sleep the night before!” squealed eight-year-old Jenifa.

Dozens of excited Standard 1s and 2s boarded our iconic animal-themed school buses to Tarangire National Park, a 158km drive away from The School of St Jude.

Bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, the chirpy youngsters hoped to catch a glimpse of wildlife royalty.

Hearts leapt at the speed of frantic wildebeests, as the students saw ‘The Lion King’ try to catch one for lunch!

“It was so surprising! We were afraid of the lion, and everyone was screaming, which was funny,” chuckled Daniel.

“After two minutes, the lion stopped chasing the wildebeest. Then, the wildebeest just continued eating the grass, like nothing had happened!” shared Joshua.

The eagle-eyed youngsters were impressed with everything Tarangire had to offer, from the

extraordinary to the mundane. Even observing the creatures’ afternoon nap was enough to keep them entertained.

“The best moment for me was seeing a giraffe sleeping,” said Jenifa.

“It surprised me to see the giraffe sleeping on the ground, and how big it was in real life. The school safari was my first time seeing animals like this. I did not think I would ever have this chance,” she giggled.

“I also loved the giraffe. It was very beautiful,” Joshua chimed in.

“I enjoyed learning about the elephants. Elephants have very good instincts, but sometimes they get killed. I want elephants to be looked after,” he said.

It was a day of love, laughter and learning.

“It was great to learn how important the animals are for our environment. They are so smart,” Daniel recounted.

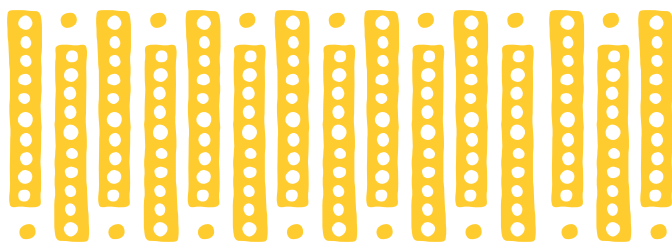
“To see these animals in real life was so good,” Jenifa added.

“Thank you to our teachers and supporters for making the safari possible,” she said.

September 2017



Arusha is the gateway to some of Africa’s most breathtaking natural wonders. Come and visit us before or after your own safari adventure!



High five for Form 5

Agness takes her first step towards a bright future!

In July, 42 new Form 5 students tied their shoelaces, pulled up their socks and adjusted their St Jude's uniform for the very first time.

The aspiring scholars have clung to high hopes through years of anticipation and perseverance.

One of these students is Agness. At 18 years old, she's on the cusp of reaching her dreams—pursuing her love for drama, and becoming an engineer.

Clever and confident, Agness was invited by the headmaster of her government school to take our Form 5 entrance exam at Sisia campus earlier this year.

Flashing a broad smile, Agness fondly remembered the life-changing moment she learnt she'd been accepted into St Jude's.

"I live with my grandfather, grandmother, uncles, aunties and sisters; I have two older sisters, and a twin!" Agness said.

"My family felt so happy, especially my grandfather. He was thankful for the St Jude's staff who visited us, and thankful to God for the opportunity."

"My twin sister still attends a government school. It's different for her, because the support you get from teachers in government schools is small compared to the support from St Jude's teachers," she recalled.

"I used to have to find answers to questions by myself, but at St Jude's, we collaborate with other students in discussion groups and the teachers always help us."

Acceptance into St Jude's opens the door to a bright future; however, in Tanzania, the transition from a government school to an English-medium school presents unique challenges.

"The first time I came through the St Jude's gates, I was nervous because it was a new environment. I didn't know anyone. I came here wearing my government school uniform, then I collected my St Jude's uniform. When I first saw myself wearing it in the mirror, I looked so happy," Agness said.

"St Jude's is good, the teachers are excellent, and I finally have enough learning materials. The students cooperate with the teachers, so we can all study and perform very well," she explained.

Unstoppable Agness, a self-taught English speaker, is learning new and exciting things every day from her school friends.

"We can join so many clubs and do activities here! I like drama, singing and I want to be a volunteer," she grinned.

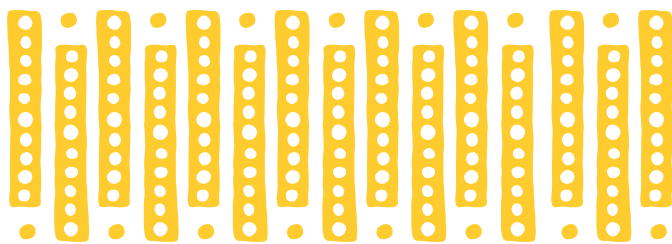
"I believe anything is possible if you work hard. I always had hope for myself, but my goals are only really possible now because of St Jude's," Agness remarked.

"I want to say thank you to The School of St Jude's supporters for giving us the chance to come here. I didn't expect to get this opportunity. Even though I don't have a sponsor yet, I am hopeful. This feels like a dream come true."

September 2017



Would you like to help a new student's dream come true? You can today, by becoming a sponsor!



The future depends on the present

Introducing St Jude's Future Fund - an announcement from Mark Cubit, Chairperson of the East African Fund board.

Last month, we shared stories of sustainability, conservation and growth.

Sustainability is not a buzz word to us and questions of the future confront us every day as our students step off the bright St Jude's buses and towards a bright future...

How can we be sure to meet our commitments to the students in our care?

When a student enters St Jude's in primary or secondary school, we must be sure that we can fulfill our promise to support them throughout their academic scholarship and beyond.

Our dream is for our school to have a multi-generational impact on the education system in Tanzania. We have achieved so much in our first 15 years and we believe the next 15 years, and beyond, promise to be even more fruitful! While the students may be with us for 13 years, we are committed to driving effective change in Tanzania for many decades to come.

No matter how generous our supporters, or how frenetic the pace of our fundraising roadshows, we have no guarantees that from year to year we will be able to meet the costs of educating over 1,800 students and our proud and growing cohort of graduates in the Beyond St Jude's program.

Our financial sustainability is informed by our mission, values and the facts:

- We will not charge school fees to the poorest families in Arusha.
- We rely on you for continuing support.
- We will continue to communicate with you about what we are doing, in the hope that you will continue to partner with us on this long journey.

- We will continue to be the most diligent stewards of the financial support you give us.
- We will keep costs down, we will plan and budget for the future and we will ensure tight financial controls are in place.

To ensure the long term future of St Jude's and the future of our school mission, we have established St Jude's Future Fund.

The Future Fund

While we currently budget and forecast costs and income, working towards sustainability means that we also put aside any surplus funding to secure the School's future.

Whenever we receive more than we need, be it a bequest, or a supporter wishing to provide funds for long term support, we put these funds into a separately managed account.

The funds are invested in secure long term growth assets such as Australian and international share index funds.

Management fees are kept to a minimum because we have access to pro bono financial expertise on our volunteer board.

Income from the fund is reinvested and used to cover the three cents in every dollar of your donation that is spent by our overheads in Australia.

The future depends on what we do in the present—and we hope that all of our supporters are proud of the steps we are taking to pave a secure path for the future moral and intellectual leaders of Tanzania.

If you have any questions about the Future Fund, how we manage the school's finances, or wish to provide support, please contact Mark Cubit



Student Selection 2017

Smarts and a smile are always in style!



- **Top: Sea of dreams**
- Hundreds of government school
- students turned up on our two
- testing days.
-
- **Bottom: High hopes**
- Loved ones waited patiently
- at St Jude's gates, wishing for
- the best.



- **Top: On top of the world**
- Parents of students who progressed to selection round 2 hoisted their children sky-high, cheered triumphantly and wept tears of joy.

- **Left: Lining up for a bright future**
- Young students excitedly received their test results.
- **Right: Proud parents**
- Those who progressed were met with exuberance in this long awaited happy moment.



Be a part of St Jude's selection process: catch a first glimpse of some of Tanzania's brightest students!