




# The School of St Jude

## St Jude's News

*Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends*

NOVEMBER, 2015



### Your chance to give hope for a better future

*Charismatic Emanuel has a bright future ahead as he pursues an education at St Jude's.*

Bright-eyed seven-year-old Emanuel is a man of the people, as popular on the playgrounds of St Jude's as he is among the adults in the school's office.

"Everyone knows Emanuel because he comes into the office every day just to say hello and ask us how we are," says St Jude's Community Service team member Philomena.

The charismatic seven-year-old lives in one of Arusha's busiest slums. His family home is a single room he shares with his parents and two siblings. Their tiny unit is surrounded by seven others, all full to the brim with families. There's never a private moment, but Emanuel

embraces the company.

"Emanuel is always helping out," says his mother Miriam. "He is always reading with his brother (Meshaki, 4) and sister (Janeth, 2) and he helps the neighbours' kids with their English."

Miriam and her husband Nemence want to provide a better life for their children but they will be unable to put all three through school because they are stuck in casual, unskilled work paying less than AUD\$25 a week.

Find out more about Emanuel and the family that is benefiting from St Jude's on page 2.

**Help break the poverty cycle and support the most promising, poorest students in the Arusha region. We've selected 150 students to begin their St Jude's schooling in 2016, so now is your ideal chance to sponsor a bright student like Emanuel at [www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html)**



# The future is bright for students at St Jude's

"Because I don't have an education I can't get a job that pays any money," says Nemence (below), who, like his wife (right), did not attend high school. "There are a lot of people in this situation (unskilled workers) in Arusha and there is not much work."

Children in Emanuel's situation have very little chance of graduating in Tanzania, where the average person has only 5.11 years schooling and only 35% of secondary school-aged children are studying.

St Jude's is helping by providing the poorest families, like Emanuel's, a free high-quality education. Currently in Standard 1, he will be given everything he needs to succeed at a school that has consistently ranked in the top 10% nationally.

"I want to become a doctor," says Emanuel, who was ranked number one in his class in Swahili and Science. This dream would be impossible without St Jude's.

"Going to St Jude's means he can be whatever he wants to be," says Nemence. "If he wants to become a doctor, he can become a doctor. If he wants to become a teacher, he can become a teacher. Because he has an education, he can get a job and he can help make life better for his brother and sister."



**Sponsor a promising young student like Emanuel:**  
[www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html)







*The students have been working hard to be placed in the top 2% for their national exams.*

## Our Standard 7s make top 2% in Tanzania

Our Standard 7s have been put to the test and aced it!

From more than 16,000 schools in the country, our 135 final-year primary students placed in the top 2% for national exams, and we could not be more proud.

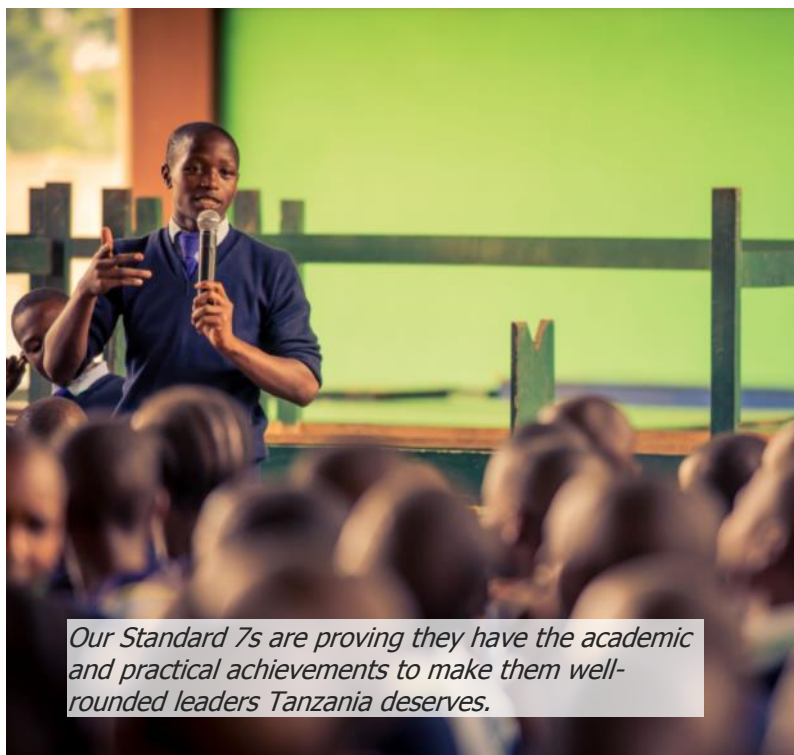
"The results are really wonderful, with 68 students achieving A's and 67 achieving B's," upper primary headmaster Peter Manjalla said.

St Jude's provides scholarships to students from the poorest homes in Tanzania, helping families who would not be able to send their children to school.

Since opening with just three students in 2003, the school has grown to offer almost 2000 scholarships and consistently ranks as one of the top schools in Tanzania.

Our commitment to world-class teaching standards paid dividends in May when our first ever Form 6 (final year of high school) graduates finished in the top 10% in Tanzania.

These students, who come from impoverished families, will now have an opportunity to go to university and develop into future leaders in their communities.



*Our Standard 7s are proving they have the academic and practical achievements to make them well-rounded leaders Tanzania deserves.*

**Help St Jude's produce future leaders in Tanzania by becoming a sponsor today. Go to <http://www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html>**

# The ripple effect of a St Jude's education

The spirit of leadership runs deep at St Jude's, with recent Form 6 graduate Tumaini using his 11 years of a high-quality education to help government school students to a better future.

He and a fellow graduate Peter, both teaching at Baraa Secondary School through community service, have launched a Mentorship and Networking Program where students will receive the step-up they need.

"When we started (at Baraa), we saw the students were getting an education but lacking something... I realised it is very important that we mentor them and expose them to job opportunities," Tumaini said, adding that the program is designed to build his students' expectations of what they can achieve. "We need to give them motivation because when they're motivated they study hard and have a self-driving force so they can continue to pursue their dreams."

The program links students to specific mentors who can advise them, and Tumaini also plans to encourage students to enter essay competitions and apply for scholarships.

"They are just the same as the students of St Jude's, only they lack self-confidence and the resources," he said, citing the support such as libraries and staff

available at St Jude's. "What they lack is information. So, we wanted to find different mentors (for the program). They may be Westerners or may be fellow Tanzanians from university who can come in and give an inspirational talk to the students."

Showing maturity beyond his 21 years, Tumaini chose to spend his community service year at Baraa, in the same village he grew up with his family in a mud and stick home.

His students are responding well to his efforts with some of them accompanying him to St Jude's recent Careers Day, where he gave a speech.

"Here at St Jude's, you are all given a quality education, you are given school uniforms, you are given free food, you are given shelter at the boarding houses," Tumaini said in his speech.

"What I want to tell you, is that when you step outside, you won't have the chance that we have here. That special chance. Your light is shining and I believe when you reach dark places, your light is with you. I went (to Baraa) to shine my light in a place that was dark so, at least when the time comes, you can play your part and serve the community."

Tumaini and Peter hope their community service time allows them to form a solid foundation for the program, so that it can continue with future facilitators when they leave for university.

**Support a rising star today and sponsor one of our developing leaders. Go to [www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html) for more.**



*Fellow St Jude's students also looked up to new graduate Tumaini, before he began teaching and implementing a mentoring program at Baraa.*



# Rebel strides ahead in support of education charity



Rebel stepped up to Ellen's charity challenge.

Our very own stylish ambassador, Rebel Wilson, proved what a champion she is when she conquered a charity challenge on The Ellen Degeneres Show.

Not only did Rebel take Ellen's Fashionable Charity Challenge in her high-heeled stride, she did it to win USD\$10,000 for our school.

Rebel appeared on the hugely popular show to talk about her new fashion line, Rebel Wilson for Torrid, and to confirm her role in Pitch Perfect 3. We're so fortunate and excited she had the time to think of us, and are so grateful to Rebel, Ellen and Shutterfly for this donation!

Join Rebel and Ellen in fighting poverty through education by making a tax-deductible donation to our school. Australian, British, New Zealand and Canadian supporters, please go to [www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html). American supporters, please go to <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/schoolofstjude>.



Rebel has been a great supporter of our school for years. Here she is, on campus with students in Tanzania, in 2014.

## Leave a lasting legacy with the gift of charity through education

**Make a significant and lasting contribution towards quality education by remembering St Jude's when writing your will. Our bequest program is aimed at ensuring the future**

**sustainability of future generations of children in poverty who can make a difference to Tanzania. Find out more here: [www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/wills-bequests.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/wills-bequests.html)**





*St Jude's is proud to partner with Shanga, an organisation that provides disabled people with fulfilling employment.*

## People the big winners in partnership

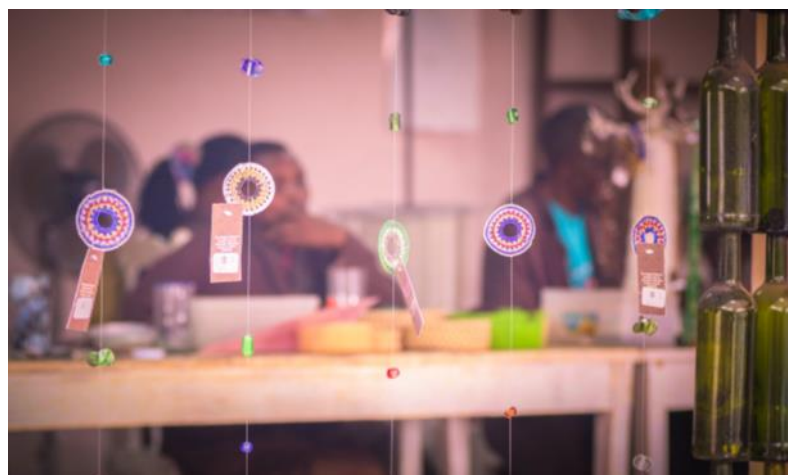
Hand-in-hand, St Jude's and Shanga are bringing hope to Tanzania's future.

The two organisations share a vision for a better Tanzania, with Shanga providing supportive jobs to people with disabilities and St Jude's giving underprivileged students a free, high-quality education.

"The partnership between Shanga and St Jude's has developed through mutual respect of each other's work," Shanga General Manager Amy Tew said. "For a long time, Shanga has welcomed visitors from St Jude's and greatly admired the work they are doing to give opportunities to people who are disadvantaged. By working with disabled people, or by educating those who cannot afford school, we are both striving to help people achieve independence and be in control of their lives without relying on handouts."

One such person is Amani (pictured above), whose life has been improved immensely by opportunities from this partnership.

Amani was born with brittle bone disease and was unable to complete primary school as he was in and out of hospital throughout his young life. He fortunately had the opportunity to study tailoring at a vocational training school, and was employed at Shanga in early 2013.





"Amani is very creative and enjoys the designing aspect of his work," Amy said, adding that his role focuses on making jewellery using different types of beads.

"I really like working at Shanga, especially working with other people who have disabilities," he said. "Working at Shanga has helped me overcome lots of challenges in my life and makes me very happy."

Amani dreams of creating his own business to employ disabled people, and is planning to buy land this year to start working towards his dream.

It is part of St Jude's philosophy to help our students, and other organisations and individuals in our community work towards solutions to overcome the problems facing Tanzania.

Since its establishment in 2002, St Jude's has become a pioneering leader in East African charitable education, providing a free education to the most impoverished bright students in Arusha, Tanzania. Founder Gemma Sisia makes it a priority to help and partner with other organisations who share the same goals of helping disadvantaged people in Tanzania.

The Shanga Kanga necklace is the perfect symbol of this partnership towards change for a better future.

Shanga has sold the special necklace, which uses the St Jude's Motif Kanga (designed by St Jude's students and supplied by the school), ever since a school volunteer requested one.

"The necklaces have been a big success and one of the most popular designs of all the Shanga Kanga necklaces," Amy said. "We believe that partnership is important to the community because it enables people to share resources, knowledge and connections to achieve greater results with more cost efficiency. We are proud to partner with St Jude's and know that it has helped to bring awareness and funds to the very special cause of St Jude's as well as ensuring jobs are secure at Shanga for people who have nowhere else to go."

**The St Jude's Kanga Shanga Necklace (right) is a perfect gift for Christmas and can be ordered online for \$18 each on Shanga's website at <http://shanga.org/products>. For every necklace purchased, Shanga donates \$5 towards St Jude's.**



*Artists with various disabilities are employed at Shanga.*



*A variety of glassware is produced on-site at Shanga.*



*St Jude's very own Shanga kanga necklace.*

# Sarge has students in safe hands

The safety of St Jude's students, staff and visitors is in good hands.

For almost five years Andrew Hives, or 'Sarge' as he is affectionately known in St Jude's circles, has coordinated Emergency Response Plans for all campuses and teaches evacuation education to students during annual visits to the school.

The Australian police officer said it was vital to bring St Jude's into line with emergency management plans used in all Western schools, and said 'Little Sarge' has been on-hand to ensure that goal is achieved.

Little Sarge, a puppet with a wealth of safety knowledge, has helped Sarge get the message across in his classroom lessons since 2012.

"Knowing what to do in the case of an emergency is critical for the safety of all students, staff and visitors," he said. "I started using Little Sarge in my evacuation training sessions with the Standard 1 classes and he proved to be an effective tool. The students got very involved with him. They remember the lessons because they remember Little Sarge."

His newest addition, Fritz the Fire Dog, appeared in the line-up this year thanks to Cindy Skarbek, President of the American Friends of The School of St Jude board.

"I couldn't find Little Sarge when I came over this year and 'Fritz' (who was Cindy's son's childhood puppet) was brought over in case I couldn't find him," the Senior Sergeant with Victoria Police and a Station Commander at Lilydale Police Station said. "As it was, Little Sarge was found loitering in a brown paper bag on top of a cupboard in the Maintenance Office, which led to an increase in my puppetry repertoire!"

Sarge has also trained local staff member Reginald Mongi so that he can teach new students and staff members about evacuations between Sarge's visits.

In further efforts to get the message across, educational stickers have generously been provided by Lyndon Fire and Rescue in Louisville, Kentucky, Winston-Salem Fire Department, North Carolina and Country Fire Authority Victoria in Australia.

"The stickers promote good habits, regarding smoke in



*Sarge and Reginald (below left) entertain and educate the young students of St Jude's, with a little help from hand puppets Little Sarge and Fritz the Fire Dog.*



a room, the danger of fire, etc," Sarge said. "They serve to reinforce the 'take-home' message for the students because they love stickers!"

We're very thankful for our volunteers here at St Jude's, and so fortunate to have people like Sarge return year after year to ensure everything is running smoothly.

**We're launching a Short-Term Volunteer Program in January, 2016. Visit the school, see Tanzania's amazing wildlife and help our students. Find out more [www.schoolofstjude.org/visit-us/cultural-tours.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/visit-us/cultural-tours.html)**





# Education opens doors for Lopoi and his family

*Lopoi, a 20-year-old Maasai, is looking forward to his education at St Jude's.*



*Lopoi's mother and father are very proud of their son.*

"I need to succeed with my education so I can fight poverty and my family can live a sustainable life," says Lopoi, a 20-year-old student from the Maasai region of Monduli, one hour outside Arusha.

Lopoi is the third oldest of 19 siblings in a family that is trapped in poverty. Neither of his parents went to school and they have spent almost everything they own trying to give their children an education."

"I wish all our children could go to school but we don't have the money," says Lopoi's father Kuresoi, who has 14 children under the age of 18.

"Before we had children we had 70 cows; now we only have 15. We sell cows to put (our children) in school, but we can't sell them all or we will have nothing."

Lopoi is a gifted scholar dedicated to becoming a doctor and helping his family.

"I studied at a government school where I was in a class with 100 students," he says. "In government schools we face problems like a shortage of books and not enough teachers. If we got one book we shared it with at least 20 students."



# Lopoi on his way to becoming a well-educated leader



"We had one chemistry teacher in the entire school, and this was a problem. But the people who wanted it enough would follow the teacher, even during the night, to ask something. It depends on your effort."

Lopoi passed Form 4 (Grade 10) with a distinction and was rewarded for his dedication with a scholarship to St Jude's, where he will receive an education that consistently ranks in the top 10% in Tanzania. He will also be supported through tertiary education so he can fulfil his dream of becoming a doctor.

"I am so happy today because I have been thinking about this for a long time," Lopoi said after hearing the news. "It will change my family positively. When I get my successful education I can come back to my family. I can help them and not only the family, the society around me."



"We will not sleep tonight," Ngipoyoni said after hearing her son had been accepted into St Jude's. "This is a day of celebration. My son will now get an education."

**We have 150 new students who you can help reach their full potential. Go to [www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html) to find out how you can help.**



*There was a celebration when the family discovered Lopoi had been accepted into St Jude's.*



# Raising the standard of literacy in Tanzania

St Jude's is raising the standard of essay writing in Tanzania, with our students taking out six of the top 10 spots in a recent national competition.

Our talented students placed 1st to 3rd and 5th to 7th at the 2015 annual World Standard Day Essay Competitions ceremony in Dar es Salaam. The competition is open to all secondary school students, college and higher learning institution students under 35 years and pursuing their studies in Tanzania.

The win is yet another example of how St Jude's is battling, and winning, Tanzania's education crisis.

Our students regularly win national and international essay competitions and are consistently ranked in the top 10% in national exams.

Form 5 student Ayubu finished 1st, followed by 2nd-placed Pius (Form 5), 3rd-placed Arnold (Form 6), 5th-placed Denis M (Form 4), 6th-placed Denis T (Form 5) and 7th-placed Damson (Form 5).

Quietly spoken and shy about their achievement, the six students explained how they were able to complete their entries in just "a couple of weeks" after the competition theme was changed last-minute. "Our essays were all about Standards: The World's Common Language," Denis T said.

The six students were cheered during an afternoon assembly upon their return from the three-day trip to Dar, where they were accompanied by teacher Lightness Isojick. The top three were presented with high-tech rewards - Ayubu with a tablet for his efforts, Pius a laptop and Arnold a smart phone.

Lightness, who often coordinates academic competition entries for St Jude's, was very proud of how they performed. "They have done so well. Everyone wanted to know the secret behind our victory," she said. Lightness responded by reminding people of St Jude's track record in the annual competition – six top 10 students in 2012 (including Denis T, who came second) and three last year (including Pius).

She said it would not have been possible without the support from school management, and so many individuals who can "share our students' victory, and that is the best reward we could get".



*Sixth-placed Denis T has a laugh with Ayubu, who placed first and was rewarded with a tablet.*



*Damson, Denis T, Arnold, Pius, Ayubu and Denis M.*

**Help us create the next generation of Tanzanian leaders. Donate to The School of St Jude at [www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html)**