



St Jude's News

NOVEMBER 2018



A Gift to Last
a Lifetime

Story page 4



Acts of Rotary
Service

Story page 6



Looking Forward
While Giving Back

Story page 10



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

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



The Joy of Hope

St Jude's celebrates annual Feast Day

Continued on page 2

The Joy of Hope

Each year, The School of St Jude community comes together for a day of celebration in honour of its namesake, the patron saint of hopeless cases.

Founder, Gemma Sisia, chose the school's name nearly 20 years ago as a nod to her own faith and belief that there is hope for every child to live a good life, rich with knowledge, love and compassion.

These three values were demonstrated at the 2018 St Jude's Day celebration, celebrated on Friday October 26 at Smith Secondary Campus – two days before St Jude's official Feast Day.

Our school's students come from some of the most economically disadvantaged corners of Arusha. From families who hold on to steadfast hope that their child's education will spread a ripple effect throughout their community and help them to navigate their way out of poverty.

Inspired by the gift of the free, quality education their child has received from St Jude's, these families donate household goods and simple food items to others in even greater need within Arusha.



Students offered the gifts during a special Mass held at the beginning of St Jude's Day and, in the days following, the gifts were distributed to orphanages and community centres.

Erick, a current Form 4 student and winner of the 2017 Young Scientist Tanzania competition, is aware of the importance of giving back.

"I could not be where I am now without support from St Jude's. We as students will do whatever we can to spread the school's message beyond our families.

We want to help the community through the gift of education we have received," he said.

St Jude's Day was also a chance for the school's youngest students to meet with their older peers.

"I love seeing the secondary students in costume and dancing on the stage. They are very talented," Emmy, a Standard 5 student at Sisia Primary Campus, said.

"Another good thing is the food. We eat royo (roast beef), bananas, rice and vegetables. It is delicious!" Emmy described.

To end the day of celebration, the school gathered after lunch for a concert, when primary and secondary student groups performed cultural dances and songs of gratitude to Mama Gemma and St Jude.

Top Offerings of goodwill: St Jude's families donate small gifts such as soap, flour and oil to other families in need.

Class 2C from Sisia Primary Campus and the Ngoma Dance Club from Smith Secondary Campus emerged as the overall concert winners. Their combination of enthusiasm and the message their performances conveyed sent them soaring to the top of the judge's lists!

The day concluded with an impassioned vote of thanks from Academic Manager, Ms Liz, whose words drove home the premise on which St Jude's was founded.

"St Jude is the patron saint of hopeless causes. I want each and every one of you to know that you are not a hopeless cause. You may face situations and circumstances which seem hopeless, but you must always hold on to the hope that you will be triumphant."

Top A sight 2-C! Our young students impressed all with their enthusiasm and musical talent.

Bottom School spirit starts young: Primary and secondary students join together for a day of celebration.

Be a part of our students' triumphant journeys and help them give back to their community. Become a sponsor today.



A Gift to Last a Lifetime

Your gift will spread more than joy this festive season

With Giving Tuesday almost upon us, we are calling upon all people of goodwill to help create lasting change for our students.

You are giving a gift to support St Jude's to deliver a free, high-quality education and improve the lives of 1,800 of Tanzanian students who come from backgrounds of severe poverty.

There are several significant ways you can join the cause and deliver opportunity, hope and prosperity to people in need this holiday season.

One of the ways you can help is by signing on to sponsor an academic scholarship for one of our students.

You may remember Kevin, one of our very first American St Jude's supporters, who featured in our August newsletter. Kevin and his wife, Mary Beth, began sponsoring an academic scholarship for young Musa during their initial visit to St Jude's in 2004.

Musa is currently a Beyond St Jude's participant who, as a part of his Community Service Year, voluntarily teaches mathematics at an under-resourced government school near our Sisia Primary Campus.

His scholarship is still sponsored by Kevin and Mary Beth, who could not be more proud of Musa's success.

"Through sponsorship, we have affected areas of Musa's life we never imagined. [His family] lives very modestly but had previously been exceptionally poor. Because we were paying for Musa's education, they saved enough money to build a home," Kevin said.

"It's important for Mary Beth and I to continue supporting Musa's scholarship into his Community Service Year, because I'm aware that people can be given a great education through high school and when it's over, they have no integration. This is a brilliant part of Gemma's master plan, because these graduates have fertile ground to grow from rather than being left on cold pavement outside the door," he explained.

Sponsorship means our students have access to safe, private transport via our fleet of 29 school buses. It enables 1,372 students between Standard 5 and Form 6 to have a safe and conducive environment for learning in secure boarding accommodation.



Bottom American all-star: Kevin had the chance to meet Musa during his visit to St Jude's in July.



St Jude's serves 29,000 free, hot meals per week to students and staff, keeping students' stomachs full and fuelling their appetite for learning.

While many of our students' scholarships are either fully or partially sponsored, there are still some who do not have their scholarships fully sponsored. The gap is covered by our Unsponsored Student Fund.

Your donation to the Unsponsored Student Fund helps us to close the gap and open our gates to 1,800 students each year, even if we have not managed to find people to fully sponsor all of them.

Sponsorship, however, is not the only way to make a tangible impact on our students' education.

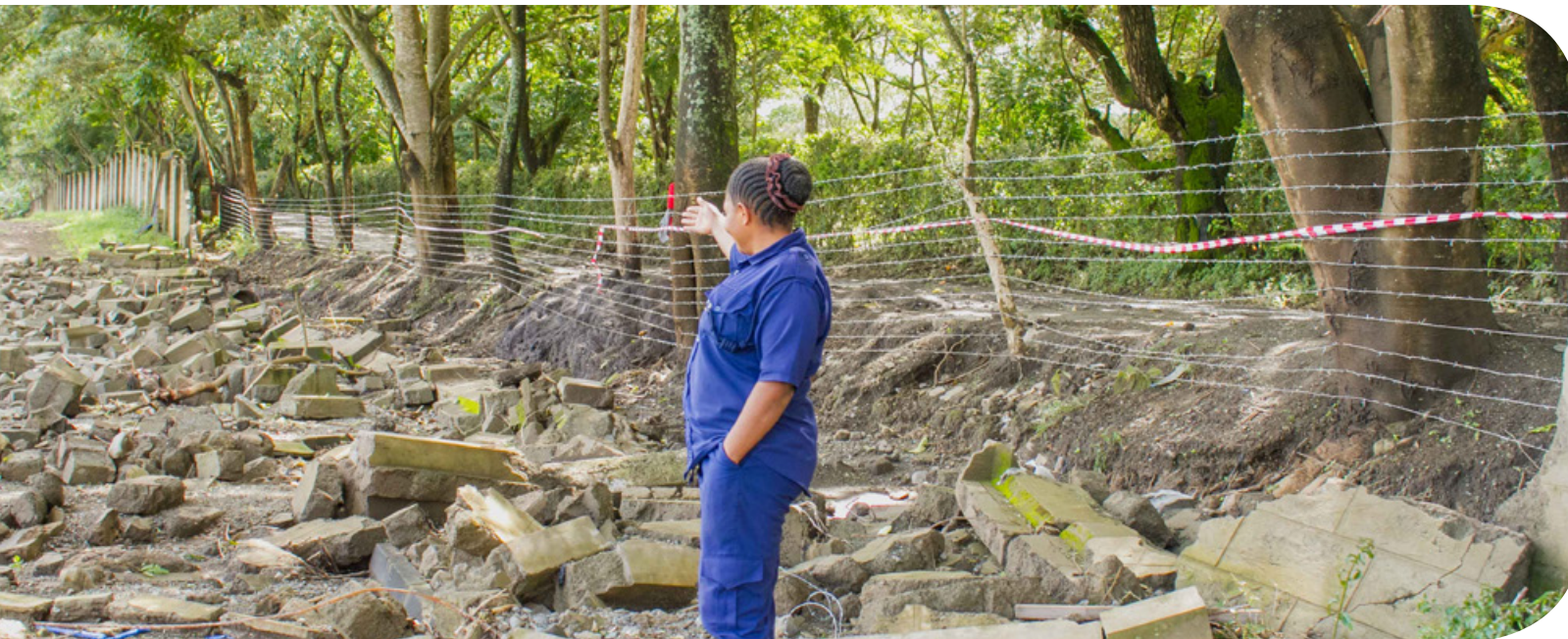
Making a general donation to The School of St Jude means we can address pressing, immediate needs of our school community.

Earlier this year, a large portion of the boundary wall at Smith Secondary Campus was swept away by torrential rains. Donations from our international family of supporters allowed us to repair the damage.

It takes a lot to keep a school like St Jude's running each year. Our priority is to continue providing everything our students need to reach their potential and become the community-focused leaders of tomorrow.

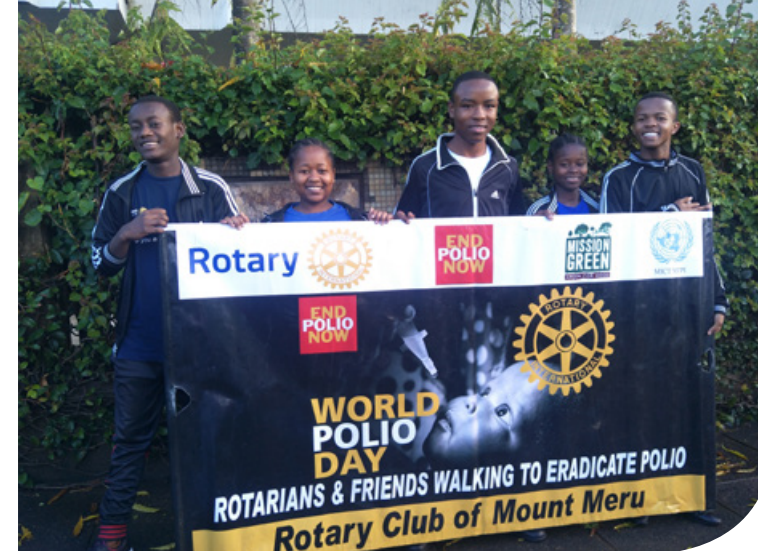
Top Appetite for learning: Our meals sustain students and staff each day.

Bottom Starting from scratch: A guard at Smith Secondary Campus assesses flood damage.



What are you waiting for?
There's no better time
of year to give a gift that
will improve someone's
life. Sponsor or donate
today to give a Tanzanian
student the chance
to prosper.





Acts of Rotary Service

Get among the Rotaraction at St Jude's

St Jude's Earlyactors, Interactors and Rotaractors have been busying themselves with several significant projects during the second half of this year! Read on to find out what they've been up to, and a special announcement about St Jude's Rotary Specialist, Laura!

September

World Clean Up Day

St Jude's participated in World Cleanup Day, a globally recognised initiative that mobilises local communities to rid their streets of waste and dispose of rubbish responsibly.

Rubbish pollution is a huge problem in Tanzania, with little formal regulation or waste disposal. On World Cleanup Day, 16 members of our Interact and Rotaract clubs assembled bright and early in Moshono, where Sisia Primary Campus is located, and filled nine industrial-sized garbage bags with waste found along the roadside.

Members of the team remarked that they felt happy to contribute positively to the local community and the environment. They made sure to have fun at the same time, competing amongst themselves to see who could collect the most rubbish!

October

End Polio Now Walk

World Polio Day is commemorated annually on October 24. Polio, a preventable disease, remains prominent in parts of Africa. Despite intermittent weather conditions, Rotary, Rotaract and Interact groups from around Arusha walked six kilometres to raise awareness and funds to end polio. St Jude's Founder, Gemma Sisia, joined the walk with our Interactors and Rotaractors.

"It was wonderful to see our school represented by so many passionate students and staff, in solidarity with Arusha's strong Rotary community," Gemma said.

District Governor Visit

Hot on the heels of the End Polio Now Walk, came a visit to Arusha from Rotary District Governor, Sharmilla Bhatt. DG Sharmilla Bhatt attended the Rotary Club of Arusha's meeting on October 29, to which St Jude's Earlyactors received an invitation.

At the meeting, Earlyactors performed their original sustainability song, titled, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, for the Rotarians. The performance received a standing ovation!

"Rotarians and the District Governor joined us to sing the chorus, we taught them the words. They all told us we had done a good job to make such a nice song!" Theresia, an Earlyactor in Standard 6, said.

Right Walk for a cause: Several members of St Jude's Interact club were selected to hold a main banner.

November

Paul Harris Fellowship

In the presence of Earlyactors and fellow Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Arusha, our very own Rotary Specialist, Laura, was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship by DG Sharmilla Bhatt.

At 27 years old, Laura is the second-youngest Rotarian in District 9211 and, since arriving in Arusha in March, has made a significant contribution to the Rotary community – hence her nomination for the fellowship by the Rotary Club of Arusha.

Paul Harris Fellowships recognise individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of US\$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. Laura now joins the ranks of notable figures, including past United States Presidents, astronauts and philanthropists, who have received the honour!

“I was shocked and humbled on being awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship. To have been recognised for my contribution in such a short span of time is really touching.”

“This gives me a level of credibility when talking to Rotarians anywhere. It validates my contribution to Rotary.”

St Jude's Day Giving

Each year at our St Jude's Day celebrations, students and their families donate small household goods to local orphanages and community centres, who also support some of Arusha's most vulnerable people. It is a chance for our students to give thanks through service for the benefits they reap at St Jude's.

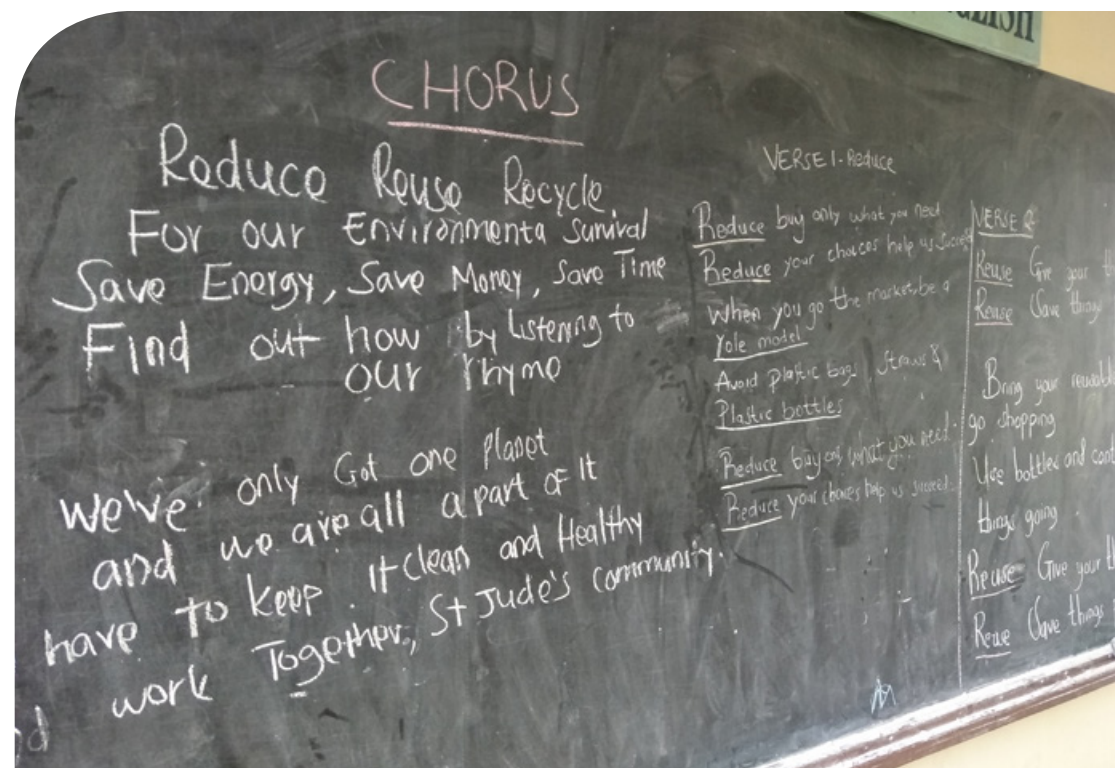
On November 2, Earlyactors, secondary students and members of staff visited the centres to distribute their gifts.

Sayuni, also an Earlyactor in Standard 6, expressed joy at being able to give back to the community.

“It felt good [to give gifts] because it taught me how to help other people who are in need. It was fun because we spent time with children in the orphanages, answering their questions and encouraging each other to study hard,” she said.

Top Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: The catchy chorus to our Earlyactors' original song!

Bottom Paul Harris Fellowship: Our Rotary Specialist, Laura, with DG Sharmilla Bhatt, and her fellowship certificate.



Our students love giving back to their community. Give them a hand up by making a donation to St Jude's.



Meet Lina, a Born Teacher

Lina spends her school holidays giving back

While most students spend their school holidays taking a well-earned break from study and catching up with friends and family in their home communities, Lina, a current Form 6 student, is going the extra mile to make an impact on children and their parents in her village.

You may recognise Lina as one of the faces of our 2018 Annual Appeal. Her enthusiasm and compassion shine radiantly through her smile, and she is respected among her peers as a role model and friend to all.

Lina gathered together 15 of her St Jude's compatriots during the school holidays to volunteer in local government schools, helping students to improve their English. The program, which comes free of charge to all who participate, was so successful, that Lina took her English lessons into students' homes and also teaches their parents, many of whom have not themselves completed primary school.





“We at St Jude’s have grown up receiving. We understand about giving to the community from the bottom of our hearts,” Lina expressed.

“So far, I have helped 10 parents to improve their English speaking ability. Many parents who run small businesses are exploited by people who take advantage of their lack of education. With improved English, they can better understand the conversations being had around them and empower themselves.”

“To order stock for a business, you sometimes need to order things online, and the main language is English.

Many parents also want to help children with their homework sometimes, but they cannot, because they do not understand the language their children are learning,” she added.

Lina has successfully overcome a number of challenges in her pursuit of service, and is keen to expand her reach.

“Some parents did not believe that I do not want money for this. When they can see I am serious about volunteering, they realise I have a genuine heart to help the community, and they give me their very best wishes.”

“I really feel this project has a bright future. My main aim is to help St Jude’s students who are privileged to receive free education, understand the importance of helping others. I hope to complete Form 6 successfully and join Beyond St Jude’s. I want my friends to do the same, so we can help to address the problem of lack of resources in government schools.”

Left Proud parents: Lina (Middle) with her family, nearly 10 years ago.

Right Smile for success: Lina, currently in her final year of secondary school, has benefited from 12 years of free education!

Empower Lina and her fellow students and sponsor a scholarship for one of our bright, young change-makers.



Looking Forward While Giving Back

Learn about the partnership giving graduates their wings

In 2016, the Beyond St Jude's team announced a partnership with the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program (MCFSP). The program provides fully-funded scholarships for Sub-Saharan African high school graduates who come from extremely disadvantaged backgrounds and has so far awarded 12 scholarships to St Jude's graduates.

Suzanne, the program's Director of Scholar Search and Selection, works with Beyond St Jude's each year to interview prospective St Jude's Community Service Year interns, nominated by the Beyond St Jude's team for MCFSP scholarships.

"Scholarships like those provided by Beyond St Jude's and MCFSP are often a game-changer for students who don't have the means to attend university," Suzanne said.

"The goals of MCFSP and St Jude's clearly overlap — investing in, nurturing and mentoring young people who can return to their community and drive change."

"We give our first year scholars the opportunity to run a Community Action Project (CAP), which gives Scholars a chance to identify an issue in their community and come up with a creative way to address the problem. The project should directly serve a sub-set of their community."

"Both Amani and Winrose — members of St Jude's Class of 2016 and MCFSP Scholars — did CAPs in their home communities last summer with funding from us," Suzanne explained.

Meet St Jude's prospective MCFSP Scholars for 2018! These intrepid graduates were nominated to interview for the scholarships based on their academic diligence and community spirit.





Godwin

21 years old

"I am nominated to attend the University of Rochester in New York City, studying a Bachelor in Electrical and Computer Engineering."

"I see that this scholarship assures I will acquire the specific knowledge and necessary skills to solve challenges facing my community. My dream is to work hand in hand with the government to enlighten the communities of Tanzania. The community should look towards the light, not focus on the darkness of the night. We must look towards development."

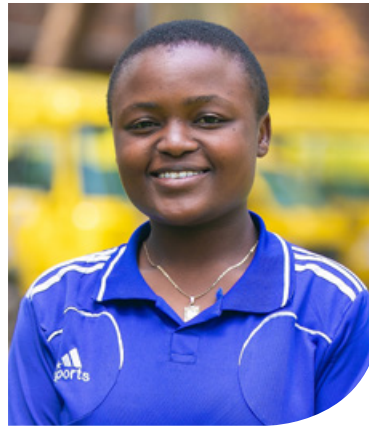


Catherine

21 years old

"I have been put forward to study a Business degree at the United States International University Africa, in Nairobi. I love diversity, I like meeting new people, learning about new cultures and through this scholarship, I will see the world from a different angle."

"The best thing about the MCFSP program, is their, 'go back, give back,' philosophy. This means they will support us to return to our homes and contribute through community service. This aligns with St Jude's philosophy – it is fulfilling to work to serve others."



Amina

20 years old

"I have applied to study a Bachelor of Public Health. I hope to gain worldwide knowledge through going to university. I would like to have a positive impact on my country. I also hope for the chance to expand my network of friends, explore a new culture and exchange new ideas."

"In 10 years, I picture myself being a successful self-employed business woman. I want to join hands with others and work towards creating strong female leadership by supporting women in business within Africa."



Loyce

22 years old

"I have been nominated to study a Bachelor of Health Service Management at the African University of Mutare in Zimbabwe. I am excited because it is a great opportunity to gain exposure, meet new people and tell them about Tanzania. I will also be able to give back to my community."

"My dream is to be successful in supporting the needy people of my community, and my own family."



Erick

20 years old

"I hope to be going to the University of Botswana to study a Bachelor of Accounting and Finance. I want to be an accountant and auditor."

"I am so excited because I will learn about the policies of another country and I will bring skills back to Tanzania. My dream is to establish an industry that will provide employment opportunities."

You can help us empower our graduates by spreading the word about St Jude's and our students' success!





The School of St Jude

Fighting poverty
through education



schoolofstjude.org

