



St Jude's News

JUNE 2021



Determined to be
Future Leaders

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Above Smiles of Hope: (From L-R) Joshua, Getruda, Jalilath and Hilary are shining rays of hope.



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

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

Support a Story, Change the World

Four primary students, four stories of hope.

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Left A New Chapter: Joshua is one of many new stories that can start with you.



Right A New Journey: Jalilath is ready to write her story of becoming a nurse. You can be part of her story.



Support a Story, Change the World

Four primary students, four stories of hope.

Joshua, a charming and charismatic Standard 2 student, comes out of class and joins Jalilath, Hilary, and Getruda, eager to share his aspirations in life.

“When I grow up I would like to be a pilot. I will buy my mother, father and my grandmother each a plane of their own.” Joshua says, almost bursting with ambition.

Joshua is one out of the 71% of Standard 1 and 2 students who are currently not fully sponsored, along with 42% of all newly enrolled secondary students.

Each of these students has a story that needs your support.

Joshua is seven years old. He joined The School of St Jude in Standard 2 in 2021. His favourite subject is arithmetic and he enjoys playing tennis.

“I’m happy that I’ve joined St Jude’s. I can eat, play, and learn without worrying about anything,” says Joshua.

“The first thing I’ll do when I become a pilot is to build my parents a beautiful home so they can live a comfortable life,” he passionately adds.

90 Standard 1 and 2 students were enrolled last year after a rigorous selection process to ensure that only the poorest and brightest students in Arusha receive academic scholarships to St Jude’s.

The school provides academic scholarships for four key stages of student’s education; Primary academic scholarships to support a primary student’s education from Standard 1 to the end of Standard 7; O Level secondary academic scholarship to support a secondary student’s education from Form 1 to the end of Form 4; A Level secondary academic scholarship to support a secondary student’s education for their final two years of school in Form 5 and Form 6; and Beyond St Jude’s scholarship to cover phases of Form 4 and Form 6 graduates’ higher education.

Jalilath is seven years old. She is in Standard 1 and her favourite sport is cricket. “I love being in Standard 1. St Jude’s is a great school that teaches really well compared to my old school,” Jalilath says shyly.

“When I grow up I would like to be a nurse because I want to take care of the sick and those who can’t help themselves. I’ll be the first nurse in my family,” she adds.



Left Support a Story: With your support, Getruda's story is changing.

Also aspiring to be a nurse is Getruda, who is in Standard 2. She is six years old with big plans for her future.

"I love arithmetic, health care, writing and reading. I want to become a nurse because I'll get to help people," Getruda explains.

Getruda is a bright student who has been winning academic awards since she joined St Jude's in 2021. Her awards include Best Performance in Midterm Exams, Best Handwriting Always and Finishing Work on Time.

At St Jude's, we strive for academic and moral excellence and promote the development of well rounded individuals who will become community-focused leaders of Tanzania.



Right Follow a Story: Hilary's new chapter can start with you.

Hilary is a six years old. He's in Standard 1. Hilary enjoys studying and playing football with his friends.

"My dream is to become a soldier when I finish school so I can protect my school and protect my country," Hilary says.

Primary school is an early and important chapter in a successful educational story. It's where important fundamentals are taught and a love of learning is established.

St Jude's offers scholarships to students in their first two years of primary school. But, even these youngest students are not exempt from our current sponsorship gap. You can help fill this gap by sponsoring the academic scholarship of Joshua, Jalilath, Getruda or Hilary and help change the story for them and their families.

By supporting our stories you can help us fill the gap for student's whose scholarships are not fully sponsored.

Sponsor or donate today!





Above The Faces of Determination: Secondary students (L – R) Benito, Faustin, Elizabeth and Ester.



Determined to be Future Leaders

Four unsponsored students share their stories of secondary education at St Jude's and the determination that brought them here.

Students who join The School of St Jude in secondary, after seven years in government primary schools, are often our most determined students. They've worked diligently, with few resources in difficult learning conditions, and emerged with top marks in their final primary national examinations. When they receive an academic scholarship to St Jude's, their determination is rewarded with free, quality education.

Benito, Elizabeth, Ester and Faustin are four of these determined students, beating the odds to become some of the fortunate 30% of students their age enrolled in secondary school.

Benito and Ester are in Form 1 at St Jude's Secondary School and St Jude's Girls' Secondary School respectively. Both are just one term into their St Jude's stories, and they're already seeing the benefits of their scholarships. Elizabeth and Faustin, both in Form 2, are in their second year at St Jude's and have learnt in leaps and bounds over the last 18 months.

Their academic scholarships provide Benito, Elizabeth, Ester and Faustin with all the elements needed for a successful educational story. However, like 42% of St Jude's newly enrolled secondary students, these four remarkable students are not fully sponsored.

When new students start at St Jude's, one of the first things they notice is the different school environment and the abundance of resources available. "At my school, I had around 50 students in my class, and we didn't have computers or a library," explains Faustin, the eldest of five in his family.

In comparison, St Jude's limits secondary class sizes to 30 students and is lucky to have well-equipped libraries, science and ICT labs on each campus. For Benito, the second youngest of six children in his family, the road to secondary school at St Jude's required a little extra determination. "I wanted to go to St Jude's in primary, but I didn't get in," he explains. Though he didn't pass the entrance exam to start primary school at St Jude's, Benito wasn't deterred. "I wanted to come because of the motto - fighting poverty through education," he smiles. He worked hard during primary school, so that when he sat the secondary entrance exam, he passed and was offered a scholarship. "I felt so happy," he says.



Above left Rewarded with Resources: After a primary education lacking in books and other school equipment, Faustin has all the resources he needs.



Above middle Try, Try Again: After missing out on primary selection, Benito was determined to earn a place in secondary at St Jude's.



Above middle Finding Her Feet in Secondary: Ester is making the most of her first year of secondary at St Jude's.



Above right A Future in Flight: Elizabeth (right) enjoys a recent excursion to the airport in Arusha.

An important part of secondary school at St Jude's is boarding. All secondary students board during term time in order to experience a safe and nurturing learning environment. At home, many students would spend hours on chores each day, reducing the window for study.

When Benito, is at home, he helps his single mother with chores. "I help by fetching water and carrying firewood. I walk for fifteen minutes to fetch water from a well and then carry it home," he says. Now in boarding, Benito is happy to have his own bed and spend time with his friends.

At St Jude's, students can dedicate themselves to their studies and develop their interests and skills with the instruction of skilled teachers. "My favourite subject is geography," smiles Ester, "and my favourite teacher is Mr Chokora, who teaches me geography."

Even outside of class, extra-curricular clubs provide students with the opportunity to learn more and extends their interests. Both Faustin and Benito are enthusiastic members of the Computer Club, where Benito is working to improve his typing speed and Faustin learns to design websites.

For students who join St Jude's in secondary, school excursions are a pleasant surprise, which often help them to solidify their career paths. "I want to be a pilot," says Elizabeth. "I just went on an excursion to the airport and I saw some aeroplanes and learned about them."

Of course, not all students will have decided on a career in the first two years of secondary school, but these four all have lots of ideas for the future. "After school, maybe I will be a teacher," Benito says. "But also water is a challenge in my community, so I would like to solve that."

"I think it's important to help young people because the youth are the ones who are needed for tomorrow's nation. It will be good if I can be a counsellor to help young people," ponders Faustin.

There are many students like Benito, Elizabeth, Ester and Faustin in Tanzania. Students with big dreams, world-changing ideas and huge potential. Unfortunately, many of these students will miss out on secondary education and be unable to fulfill their potential.

As part of our mission, St Jude's aims to give bright, poor students like these the opportunity to receive free, quality secondary education so that they can fulfil their potential. Whatever careers Benito, Elizabeth, Ester and Faustin eventually decide to pursue, these students have both the determination and the opportunity to create a bright future for themselves, their families and their communities.

You can give determined, unsponsored students like Benito, Elizabeth, Ester and Faustin the opportunity to complete secondary school. Make a donation to help fill the gap or **choose to sponsor a scholarship.**



A Story of Transformation

Judica shares her story of transformation from one of the first St Jude's students into a thriving young professional.

Judica's story of transformation runs parallel to St Jude's own. When Judica started at St Jude's in 2003, there was one campus and less than 100 students. Today, Judica visits as a successful banker and St Jude's comprises three schools, three campuses, a ground breaking graduate program and more than 800 alumni.

In 2003, Judica was just eight years old. One day, her brother Ezekiel lifted her onto his motorbike and brought her to St Jude's for a Student Selection Day. Judica's family knew that the school was offering free, quality education to students from poor families and hoped she would receive a scholarship too.

"There were so many of us at home we were nine children and I am the ninth. You can imagine it all of us in the same house and life was not so good. My parents were farmers, but they were farming on a very small scale. The harvests were little and it wasn't enough," she recalls.

When Judica was offered a St Jude's scholarship it was a huge relief.

Each day, Judica walked to school. While the school has 26 buses today, at that stage there was only one. Since 2004, all students and staff have enjoyed daily hot lunch at school, but in those early days

Judica and her classmates walked home for lunch as the school didn't yet have a kitchen!

Since then, a lot has changed for St Jude's and for Judica. "If you had asked me what I wanted to be when I started at school, I would have said, 'A policewoman,'" she laughs. When Judica reached secondary school, however, she discovered a talent for business.

It wasn't just her career aspirations which changed as Judica progressed through St Jude's. Her story changed as she sought leadership opportunities and worked towards her future. Judica moved from primary school to O Level (the first four years of secondary school) and then A Level (the final two years of secondary school). Voted Head Girl in both O Level and A Level, Judica gained opportunities to practise her role as a future leader. In her final school years, she studied book keeping, commerce and accounting.

In 2015, after 13 years of free education, Judica completed secondary school with the inaugural graduating class. She remembers week-long celebrations with crowds of supporters arriving from all over the world to be there.



Above Time to Reflect: Judica and her mother reflect on Judica's achievements.

Below Early Days: Judica (back row, centre) with her class, Gemma Sisia and first volunteer teachers in 2003.





Above A Transformational Day: Judica graduates from university in 2019.

Below Lifelong Friendships: Judica catches up with a fellow Class of 2015 alum, Anna, who is now employed at St Jude's.



Ever a pioneer, Judica was one of the first students to take part in the Community Service Year (CSY). The CSY is the first year of the Beyond St Jude's Program (BSJ) for Form 6 graduates.

During the CSY, participants volunteer their time as teachers in government schools or in non-teaching placements throughout St Jude's campuses. Judica taught book keeping and commerce at a government secondary school. "It was the best moment of my time with St Jude's as I was giving back to the community," she says.

Judica's year of volunteering made a big impact on her students. She explains, "In local schools most students don't make it to A Level, but most of my students passed and reached A Level. Many even made it to college, so I thank St Jude's for that."

Soon it was time for Judica to begin her degree at the University of Dar Es Saalam, supported by Beyond St Jude's. "BSJ helped with the whole process of applications for universities. They visited us at university to see how we were doing. That was really encouraging, to know that we had people who really cared about us, even after we finished school."

In 2019, Judica proudly graduated from university with a Bachelor of Commerce in Banking and Financial Services and her family and BSJ representatives made the trip to celebrate. "It was so exciting," she shares.

After university, Judica began working. "I was lucky because I got my first job just one week after I graduated. I was offered a job in one of the commercial banks as a Bank Officer," she smiles. In a country where youth unemployment is high,

this is a testament to Judica's drive and great education.

After a year, an opportunity arose at the prestigious Bank of Tanzania, where Judica happily works today. With her salary, Judica lives independently and provides her family financial support. Her older siblings are working and things have improved for her parents. "They are living comfortably now. My parents are still farming, yes, but on a larger scale, and it's enough," Judica reports.

In just eight months, Judica has grown into her new role, which takes her all over Tanzania. She is based in Arusha but also travels to Zanzibar and the capital, Dodoma, for work. Despite this busy schedule, Judica is happy to make time for her school, organising a trip home to film an interview for St Jude's.

Just as St Jude's been transformed since its beginnings, so too has Judica. With a free, quality education and her commitment to making the most of each opportunity offered to her, Judica has realised the St Jude's vision. Where a bright but poor student once stood, now stands a young leader, fighting poverty in Tanzania.

Help transform the lives of St Jude's graduates in higher education by sponsoring a tertiary scholarship for a Beyond St Jude's scholar.



Above Ready to Work: St Jude's alumni are back working at the school and eager to give back.

Welcome Back

The School of St Jude alumni share what it's like to be back working at their school.

The School of St Jude is blessed with many alumni coming back to work at the school as employees. Whether it be in classrooms, sports grounds or offices, the returning alumni are supporting the next graduates of St Jude's.

The school recently welcomed back Daudi, Innocent D and Innocent M, who are now full-time employees within St Jude's Head Office.

They all received free, quality education from Standard 1 to Form 6 and then were supported through higher education by the Beyond St Jude's (BSJ) Program. Now, they wish to give back to the school's community and share their stories of transformation.

In Tanzania, there are three stages of school; seven years of primary school from Standard 1 to 7, then four years of secondary school from Form 1 to 4 in Ordinary level (O Level) studies, and finally the final two years of secondary school, Form 5 and 6 in Advanced Level (A Level) studies.

The BSJ Program supports secondary graduates to undertake a Community Service placement and then provides them with the funding and support for their first higher education qualification.



Daudi, employed in the Human Resources team

Daudi joined St Jude's in 2004 when he was in Standard 2. Throughout his school life, he showed a natural aptitude for leadership.

"I've always liked taking up leadership roles since I was young. I was Head Boy in Standard 6, Minister for Social Welfare in Form 2 and Minister for Environment in Form 5, so I always loved to lead," Daudi says with a smile.

Leadership is a prominent skill that St Jude's promotes amongst its students – nurturing the community-focused leaders of tomorrow.

"During my Community Service Year (CSY), I taught commerce and booking to more than 133 students in one class and I had to teach three streams. Before I completed my CSY, I established a leadership club at the government school; the club is still active, and in my spare time I pass by to check on its progress," Daudi explains.

He adds, "After I completed my tertiary education in Uganda through Beyond St Jude's, I wanted to come back and help. When the HR manager called me and said there's a lot to assist with here at St Jude's, I didn't hesitate! I quickly applied for the position and I got the job."

Daudi's childhood began living in a two-room, mud home in a rural village on the outskirts of Arusha. He believes if it weren't for his St Jude's education, he would not have had the chance to reach his full potential.

"St Jude's is a life-transforming place. Personally, if it wasn't for a free, quality education it would've been a far-fetched dream to get my bachelor's degree in Uganda. Because of St Jude's, I haven't had to struggle financially for my education like many of my peers. I'm forever grateful to be part of the St Jude's family," Daudi attests.

Innocent D, employed in the Beyond St Jude's team

Innocent D joined St Jude's in 2004 when he was in Standard 1 and completed his final year of secondary school, Form 6, in 2017.

"My St Jude's experience was amazing because I received everything at school. My only duty was to study. This also helped lift a huge load off my father, and he was able to educate the rest of my siblings," says Innocent D.

Innocent D graduated from university in 2020, and he's currently working the Beyond St Jude's team (BSJ); the team who supported him through his higher education. Now, he follows up on the academic progress and social wellbeing of the 292 current tertiary scholars studying in 42 institutions across Tanzania.

"I'm glad to be back. This is my chance to give back and appreciate what the sponsors and donors did for me – helping me get free, quality education from primary through to my higher education. It is my way of thanking everyone for supporting me," Innocent D explains.

Innocent D, who is no stranger to the BSJ team says, "For my Community Service Year (CSY), I first volunteered at a government school, where I taught history to more than 60 students in one class. Afterwards, I volunteered in the BSJ team for six months. This allowed me to gain experience in both a teaching and office environment."

"I applied for the job after receiving an email from the Alumni team informing me that BSJ was looking for a candidate. It's great to have this chance to help my younger brothers and sisters."

"Thanks to this job, I am now able to provide for my family and help my father educate two of my siblings who are still in school," Innocent D adds.



Innocent M, employed in the Accounts team

"I remember reading a book called 'Peter and Jane' for my entrance exam on St Jude's Selection Day," says Innocent M with a smile.

Innocent M joined St Jude's in 2004 as a Standard 2 student. After completing Form 6, he went on to pursue higher education in commerce and accounting through Beyond St Jude's. Now, he's back working in the Accounts team, receiving generous donations and sponsorships from supporters all over the world.

"When the position became open in finance, I was volunteering at Smith Campus as a teacher while I waited to officially graduate from the university. I immediately applied, went for the interview and, I got in! I was so happy!" Innocent M recalls.

"Most of my friends either ended their education in Form 4 or opted to do something else... and that could've easily been me if it wasn't for St Jude's. Now, I'm working here and I'm receiving a salary, my life and my family's life has changed."

Daudi, Innocent D and Innocent M are just a few alumni whose lives have been transformed... a true testament to breaking the cycle of poverty through education!

With your support, we can continue to change the story for thousands of students and higher education graduates, creating a pathway out of poverty for the youth of Tanzania.

Help us fill the gap for our unsponsored scholars by sponsoring or donating today!





The School of St Jude

Fighting poverty
through education



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