



**The School
of St Jude**

Fighting poverty
through education

Annual Report

2018



www.schoolofstjude.org



A Word from Founding Director, Gemma Sisia

It has been yet another year of excitement and milestones for The School of St Jude!

As ever, we pride ourselves on innovation here at St Jude's, and there is no better example of this than two of our own secondary students, Erick and Prosper, who invented a science and technology project named The Use of Mobile Networks as a Fire Alert System. The intricately designed gadget alerts home owners via their mobile phones if their house is invaded or there is a house fire.

The pair, who won the prestigious Young Scientist Tanzania Award in 2017, represented Tanzania and St Jude's at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition in Ireland. The Irish President, Michael Higgins, was in attendance and gave the duo a special commendation:

"Africa's young people are enthusiastic and passionate about uplifting their communities and finding solutions for the great global challenges of sustainable development," said President Higgins. "Prosper and Erick are fine examples of young Africans who, through their dedication and discipline, are able to influence positive change."
– President of Ireland, Michael Higgins.



Meanwhile, Beyond St Jude's (BSJ) Community Service Year (CSY) program continues to have an impact on the wider community. The program started in 2015 after our first Form 6 graduates completed their secondary schooling. Now, BSJ participants are teaching in under-resourced Tanzanian government schools, reaching more than 30,000 students. Simply amazing!

This year, we had 151 students attend the Form 4 Celebration and Awards Day, marking the end of their O Level scholarships, and we had 70 Form 6 graduates – that means we've had 325 students finish A Level studies since 2015!

We are very proud of these achievements because in Tanzania only 32% of 14-19 year olds are in secondary school.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our supporters, and this year we saw a new sponsor sign up from Adelaide – a 9-year-old girl by the name of Sasha! Every year, I'm humbled and grateful for the support this school receives. With that in mind, I'd like to end by simply saying... thank you!

- Gemma Sisia, Founding Director



Contents

1.0 Our organisation 4

1.1	Our vision	5
1.2	Our mission	5
1.3	Our values	5
1.4	Our history	5
1.5	Our process	5
1.6	Year in review	6

2.0 Our schools 7

2.1	Sisia Primary Campus	8
2.2	Smith Secondary Campus	9
2.3	Primary boarding campus	9
2.4	National Examination Results	10

3.0 Our graduates 11

3.1	Beyond St Jude's	12
-----	------------------	----

4.0 Our people 14

4.1	Primary Academic Staff	15
4.2	Secondary Academic Staff	16

5.0 Our financials 17

5.1	Spending breakdown	18
-----	--------------------	----

6.0 Our supporters 19

6.1	Super Supporters	20
6.2	Visitors	21

7.0 Support us 22

7.1	Contact Us	23
-----	------------	----



1.0 Our organisation





1.1 Our vision

Our vision is to nurture an educated community of moral and intellectual leaders; fighting poverty through education.

1.2 Our mission

Our mission is to give bright, poor Tanzanian students a free, quality education so they are able to lead their family, community and country with respect, responsibility, honesty and kindness, to growth and prosperity.

1.3 Our values

Our school values of Respect, Responsibility, Honesty and Kindness, establish the foundation for the success of our students, staff and school community.

1.4 Our history

At 22 years of age, Gemma Sisia, a trained mathematics and science teacher, travelled to Uganda to volunteer. There, she taught girls mathematics and sewing. This experience led to a fervent belief that a free, high quality education should be the right of all children in the world and that education is the strongest weapon in the fight against poverty, corruption and political instability. In 2002, with the gift of a plot of land, three students, and a volunteer teacher, Gemma founded The School of St Jude in Arusha, Tanzania. We are now one of the largest charitable schools on the African continent.

1.5 Our process

St Jude's offers academic scholarships to students that combine academic promise with a desperately poor background and a great attitude to work.

Our student selection process begins with inviting promising students from the local community for an academic test designed to cover basic learning concepts, reasoning and social and emotional awareness. Once a child has passed the academic test and they have provided adequate proof of age, we confirm that they are from a very poor family or disadvantaged situation by visiting their homes and assessing their living situations. This way, we ensure that only the most in-need are accepted.

This process is coordinated with a dedicated team of representatives from the local community who form our Primary School Committee and Secondary School Board and are vital to the selection process. Each year scholarships are awarded to students entering Standard 1 (the first year of primary school), Form 1 (the first year of secondary school) and Form 5 (the second last year of secondary school).



1.6 Year in review

Our schools

57%

of our students are female

64

different tribes represented



30,000

meals served per week



1,800

students enrolled

Our supporters

2,216

generous sponsors of our students' academic scholarships.

31

countries represented

1,152

international visitors



Beyond St Jude's

20,000+

government school students have benefited from St Jude's Community Service Year interns teaching key subjects like science and maths in their local school this year.



230

St Jude's graduates are currently pursuing further education or participating in a Community Service Year Internship.



Our community

AU\$4 million

is injected into the Arusha economy each year

5 people

supported by a St Jude's staff members salary



2.0 Our schools





The School of St Jude provides free, high-quality education and living facilities to its students across three different campuses. In 2018, 690 students were enrolled at Sisia Primary campus in Moshono, 962 students were enrolled in Smith Secondary at Usa River and 408 students resided in Moivaro boarding.



2.1 Sisia Primary Campus

Moshono village

*Registered with the Tanzanian Ministry of Education.
Certificate no. AR. 02/7011*

In 2018, our primary school campus facilitated the education of 690 students. This campus, which was built on land gifted to St Jude's Founding Director, Gemma Sisia, is equipped with modern classrooms for students from Standard 1 to Standard 7 (Grade 1 to Grade 7), three sports fields, a playground, a well-stocked library, two dining and assembly halls and The School of St Jude business administration offices.

2.2 Smith Secondary Campus

Usa River village

Registered with the Tanzanian Ministry of Education. Certificate no. S.4459

During 2018, our secondary school campus was home to 962 students from Form 1 to Form 6. The secondary school campus is equipped with modern classrooms, boarding rooms for all students, science labs, a well-stocked library, sporting fields, a dining hall, an assembly hall and a five-acre vegetable farm.

2.3 Moivaro boarding campus

Moivaro village

Just a short walk from our Sisia Primary Campus, our primary boarding campus in Moivaro village provides the perfect home away from home for 408 students from Standard 5 to Standard 7 (Grade 5 to Grade 7). This modern boarding campus is equipped with a sporting field, study rooms, a dining and assembly hall, boarding rooms and everything our students need to focus on their life-changing education.



2.4 National Examination Results

Standard 4

- All students achieved A's in their exams except for one student who received a B.
- 1st out of 80 schools in the Arumeru district.
- 4th out of 436 schools in the Arusha Region



Form 2

- All students excepts one achieved Division I or II in their national assessment.



Form 4

- 65th out of 3,040 schools in Tanzania

Form 6

- 327th out of 543 schools in Tanzania.
- Top 8% in country for Advanced Maths



Standard 7

- 4th out of 69 schools in the Arumeru district
- 6th out of 376 schools in the Arusha region.
- 90% of our students received A's in their exams and 10% received B's.



3.0 Our graduates





3.1 Beyond St Jude's

St Jude's is committed to developing community-minded leaders with the skills and attributes to break the cycle of poverty in Tanzania – which is why we created the Beyond St Jude's program for our secondary graduates. Form 6 graduates who wish to give back in thanks for their free, high-quality education can participate in a year of community service through our Beyond St Jude's program and be supported into higher education.

- 68 St Jude's Form 6 graduates joined the Community Service Year program.
- 30,000 students in under-resourced government schools have been taught by CSY interns since the program's inception in 2015. Approximately 20,000 students in 38 government schools were taught by our interns in 2018.
- 162 Beyond St Jude's tertiary scholars attended universities/colleges.
- 10 tertiary scholars received international scholarships to study in the Botswana, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Rwanda and United States of America.
- Our inaugural Alumni Committee assembled to develop an official alumni association.





Reflection from one of our Community Service Year interns

Allen, 2018 Form 6 Graduate

Allen was a community service year volunteer who volunteered to teach at an under-resourced government school in Arusha. Below is his feedback on the year.

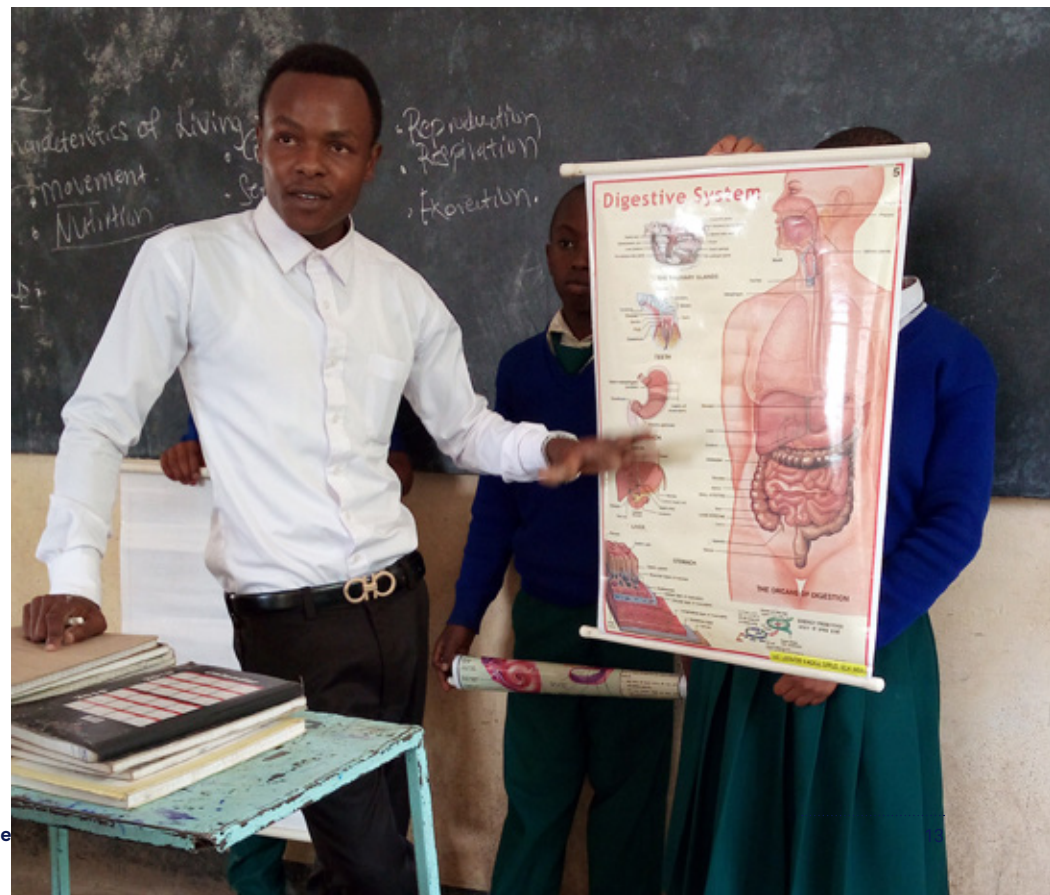
“Volunteering is one of the greatest experiences one can be offered as a student and before university. The most interesting aspects were getting the teaching experience, playing with students on Fridays during sports and games, and teaching Scouts. I was also involved in many school matters and was treated as any other staff member. I got an opportunity to make suggestions about school problems based on behaviour and academic progress of students. I also managed to use the resources provided by the Beyond St Jude’s team,” he said.

“I now know how it feels to be a teacher, my personal confidence has been increased, knowledge based on understanding has been acquired at a greater level, and I learnt creative ways to make a class understand,” Allen added.

“A challenge in a government school has always been the number of students. It is so high compared to the size of the class and materials available to conduct teaching. It’s a challenge preparing short tests before major exams to test students, since there is no paper and printer ink. The high number of students makes it difficult to meet deadlines and accomplish tasks.”

“I got a chance to work with a total of 60 teachers and two guards in the school who had shifts. I spent time with some parents and made it possible to help their child to improve academics results,” he shared.

“We are all lucky that St Jude’s allows graduates to have volunteering opportunities in local schools!” Allen concluded.



4.0 Our people





4.1 Primary Academic Staff

Primary academic leaders

Pictured top left

George Stephen

Headteacher

Jonas Michael

Academic Deputy

Sebastian Gitbang

Discipline Master and Operations Deputy

Reginald Mongi

Welfare Deputy

Sr. Zawadi Syahanga

Head of Boarding



Primary academic staff

Pictured bottom left



4.2 Secondary Academic Staff

Nzinyangwa Mcharo

Headmaster

Humphrey Nkya

Deputy Headmaster - Operations

Erespidus Fikiri

Deputy Headmaster - Academics

Lodrick Msaki

Deputy Headmaster - Boarding

4.3 Head Office Staff

Gemma Sisia

Founding Director

Angela Bailey

Deputy Director

Happy Malinzi

Human Resources Manager

Victoria Thomas

Finance Manager

Charlotte Peyrat-Vaganay

Community Relations Manager

Laurian Mrema

Facilities Manager

Susie Bridle

Communications Manager

Liz Host

Academic Manager



5.0 Our financials

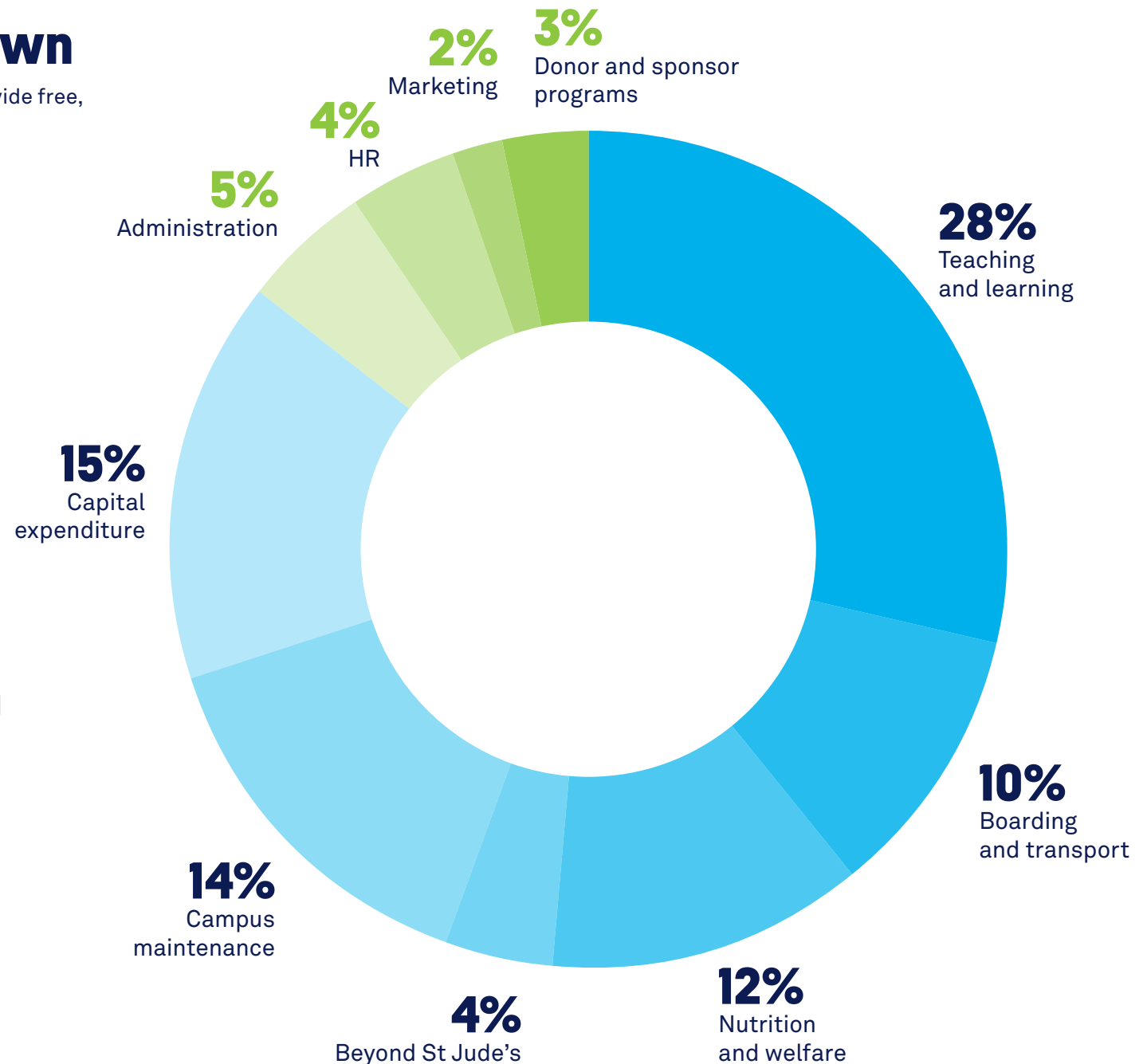




5.1 Spending breakdown

In 2018 it cost 10.2 billion Tanzanian shillings to provide free, high-quality education to our students.

- School
- Management



In 2018, The School of St Jude injected AU\$4million into Arusha's local economy through purchasing from local suppliers and salaries. On average, our staff salaries support an additional five family members and cover school fees for two children. That's 1,700 family members and 570 sets of school fees.

In 2018, it costed a total of 10.2 billion Tanzanian Shillings to provide free, high quality education for our students.

6.0 Our supporters



6.1 Super Supporters

Supporters are the backbone of St Jude's; without you, we simply cannot achieve our mission and vision of fighting poverty through education and nurturing the future moral and intellectual leaders of Tanzania.

This year, a number of Super Supporters went above and beyond to lend us their helping hand, raising awareness and vital funds for St Jude's.

Jill's got fundraising in the Bag

Jill, our long-time supporter, used her skills to address a challenge facing her local community, serve the environment and raise funds for St Jude's.

Recently, the state government of Queensland, Australia, announced a ban on plastic bags in supermarkets, in a bid to promote eco-friendly habits.

Jill, a Toowoomba resident, turned her hand to sewing reusable shopping bags and selling them. Inside each bag, she placed St Jude's brochures and fact sheets, so buyers were well-informed about who their money supports.

Jill raised an impressive AU\$2200 from selling the bags!

"I actually see the work of educating students at St Jude's as another form of sustainability," Jill said.

"Without sponsorship, these bright young minds would never have the opportunity to reach their full potential and go on to be shining lights for Tanzania in the future."

Jill feels that the Queensland government's new regulations has offered a new opportunity to raise awareness for the cause she and her husband, John, have passionately supported since 2009, when they met Gemma at a fundraising event in their hometown.

"I have enjoyed sewing most of my life and was taught growing up that it's valuable to share one's talent with others. With the decision by our state government to introduce a ban on single use plastic bags in all supermarkets and department stores, I could see a ready market for a simple but attractive alternative shopping bag. Now, I simply can't keep up with the demand!" Jill said.

Meet Sasha, St Jude's Youngest Sponsor

Sasha, 10, is a student of Walford Anglican School for Girls in Adelaide, South Australia. She was recently nominated in the prestigious Channel 9 Young Achiever Awards, for her dedication to fundraising for the sponsorship of Alice, also aged 10, in Standard 3 at The School of St Jude.

On Friday May 11 2018, the inspiring young leader was presented with her nominee award by the Honorable Rachel Sanderson, Member of Parliament for Adelaide.

The Channel 9 Young Achiever Awards were established to recognise, encourage and reward the positive achievements of young South Australians, 29 years and under.

"I felt so proud and happy to help Alice," said an overjoyed Sasha.

Sasha heard about The School of St Jude from her mother, Tamara, who had seen a segment featuring St Jude's, on 60 Minutes Australia in 2016.

Keen to make a difference, and wanting to know that her donated funds would directly improve someone's life, Sasha chose to fundraise for our school by sewing headbands and selling them, under the banner of 'Headbands for Girls' Education'. The Walford community has supported Sasha by helping her sell the headbands in the school

"I am lucky to go to a good school. It is not fair that just because you are a girl, in some countries, you don't get an education. I wanted to help a girl my own age and show them that we like the same things, even though we are around the other side of the world," Sasha said.

Insightful and articulate, Sasha reflected upon words of wisdom from her grandmother, which helped inspire her to fight poverty through education.

"My grandmother always says knowledge is power and work makes life sweet. The more we learn, the more we understand each other." Sasha's grandmother has always told Sasha to be grateful for the education she is getting and how special it is to help change one girls life.

When Sasha signed up to sponsor Alice's scholarship, she was pleased to learn that their shared favorite animal is a dog, and that Alice aspires to grow up and be a business leader.

Sasha's mother and grandmother couldn't be more proud of Sasha's efforts in helping provide opportunities for someone else's daughter, on the other side of the world. It shows the power of kindness.

"I would like this to change one girl's life and make a difference — everyone can make a difference if you just help a little. Education is the key to making change," Tamara and her mother believe.

One day, Sasha says she dreams of meeting Alice in person.

"If I got to meet Alice, I would tell her that, 'I'm so excited that I am helping to give you an education and I hope it helps you.' I would really like to give her a hug."

6.2 Visitors

In 2018 we welcomed 1,152 visitors.

Denise & Robert

“We truly enjoyed our visit at the school and I am planning on coming back when I return to Tanzania. What Gemma has created and achieved is truly magical. The school is a wonderful and inspiring place, and I hope we will be able to bring many visitors your way. The only thing we missed (it just didn't work out timewise) was to attend a music or dance class - but that can be on my list for my next visit!

Every child we met touched our hearts and impressed us - you have some amazing kids with huge potentials attending the school!”

Paula & Charles

We had an absolutely wonderful time visiting your school. Thank you to you, Gemma, Irene, Wens, Gina, Tamara (and many others) for being so welcoming and helpful during our stay.

Since being home we've been in touch with the sponsorship team so we're waiting to hear which student we'll be sponsoring and I'm doing a presentation at school for the staff tomorrow. I've certainly been spreading the word about The School of St Jude at every opportunity.”

Miles and Marina

“Marina and I are now in Kigali and have a moment to send you this email after our visit to St Jude's last Wednesday/Thursday.

What a delight it was. In recent times we had heard about St Jude's from my brother Bruce and at his recommendation we made our visit while in Arusha. Gemma, such a big congratulations to you for what can only be described as a fantastic result. Not only does it tick the boxes for what is needed to help break the poverty cycle and give Tanzania a massive lift in the right direction but it is doing it in such a spectacular fashion! Of course all of this is well supported by all the St Jude's team of whom we had the pleasure of meeting some from the Visitors team. To Odemari who showed us around a big thank you - he's a great ambassador for St Jude's.”



7.0 Support us



7.1 Contact Us

Events and fundraising

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To find out more and make a contribution
to our school head to our website at
www.schoolofstjude.org





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