



St Jude's News

MAY 2022



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Above Meet the Johnsons: Sponsors Carol and Bradley Johnson, were excited to meet Form 6 graduate, Johnson, on their recent visit to St Jude's.

Supporting a Future Leader

Bradley and Carol attend the Form 6 graduation ceremony of Johnson, a future engineer...

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Above Meet the Johnsons: Sponsors Carol and Bradley Johnson, were excited to meet Form 6 graduate, Johnson, on their recent visit to St Jude's.

Below A Day to Remember: Carol and Johnson share in the celebrations.



Supporting a Future Leader

Bradley and Carol attend the Form 6 graduation ceremony of Johnson, a future engineer.

Carol and Bradley Johnson are a married couple who live in Watertown, South Dakota. They also sponsor a scholarship for a recent Form 6 graduate, coincidentally named Johnson!

The Johnsons recently made the trip to Arusha to celebrate Johnson's Form 6 graduation. Thanks to the pandemic, the trip had been almost five years in the planning.

"Before we left, we would say to people, 'The Johnsons are meeting Johnson!'" Carol laughs.

Because Carol's work takes her all over South Dakota, she is a member of the Rapid City Rotary club, while Bradley belongs to the Watertown Rotary club in their hometown, 400 miles away. It was through the Rapid City Club that Carol first heard about St Jude's.

"Pat Sutliff (a long-time supporter and Rotarian) shared the story about The School of St Jude to our club," Carol recalls.

Bradley takes up the story, "Well, Carol told me what she knew about the school and asked if we wanted to sponsor a student and of course I said yes right away."

Since 2020, the Johnsons have been sponsoring Johnson's scholarship, sending letters back and forth and learning more about the driven student. However, it was their recent visit which really made an impact on them.

"I didn't quite connect, yet," shares Bradley. "Now, coming here, seeing the country and meeting the people has been extraordinary...This has definitely changed my life."

Sponsorship has been life-changing for Johnson too, who started at St Jude's back in 2009 when he was in his first year of primary school.

"It was great and wonderful to meet Carol and Brad," he beams, as he stands wearing his yellow graduation sash. "It was beautiful to have them at my graduation."

Carol agrees. "It was an amazingly beautiful ceremony," she says.

To add to the excitement, Johnson was named 'Best in Chemistry' during the ceremony, which he kept secret in order to surprise Brad and Carol.

His secret to winning the highly-coveted award was, "commitment, focus and a positive mind-set."

But the connection between Johnson and the Johnsons doesn't end with Form 6 graduation.

"We're going to make sure we support him through the Beyond St Jude's Program," Brad says.

Soon, Johnson will begin his Community Service Year (CSY) the first part of Beyond St Jude's (BSJ), St Jude's program for its secondary school graduates. During the CSY, Johnson and his fellow volunteers will share their time, skills and knowledge on campus at St Jude's or in local government schools.

Already, Johnson is looking forward to giving back to the community.

"I am planning to participate in the CSY as a volunteer teacher in a government school where I hope to teach chemistry and mathematics. I want to do this so I can help many more people, especially those students who don't have teachers," he explains.

After the CSY, Johnson plans to study industrial engineering at university and then begin a career which will help boost Tanzania's production capabilities, but he also nurtures a strong interest in politics.

"No matter where he goes, he's driven, he's bright and he understands the gifts that he's been given," says Bradley.

Thanks to a St Jude's scholarship and the generosity of people like Bradley and Carol, Johnson and 106 other future leaders graduated from Form 6 this May. Without a scholarship, it's likely that many of these students would have had to leave school early due to financial pressure.

Sponsoring a scholarship is a life-changing gift, perhaps best explained by Bradley.

"When you think about how you can change a life, you're not just changing one student's life, you're changing hundreds, thousands of people's lives through them."

You too can support a future leader!
Become a sponsor today.



Above Best in Chemistry: To make his graduation even more exciting, Johnson won this coveted award, which was presented by Noela Phillips, an Australian Rotarian and committed St Jude's supporter.

Below All Together Now: Bradley and Carol were also excited to meet Johnson's mother (right) and even visited their home in Arusha.





Above **A Smile of Hope:** Victa, a Standard 2 student, enjoys time on the swings.



Above **Teaching Future Leaders:** Ms Juliet plays a big role in helping young students grow up to become future leaders.

Smallest Future Leaders

St Jude's youngest students are beginning their transformation into future leaders.



"When I grow up I would like to be a soldier," says Victa, a Standard 2 student.

Victa is six years old and has hope for a bright future with St Jude's education.

"I love playing on swings during breaks and at home, I love reading during my free time," he says shyly.

For 20 years, St Jude's has been educating bright students who come from considerably poor backgrounds, providing them with learning resources, school uniforms, daily nutritious meals, safe and reliable bus transportation, highly qualified and well-resourced teachers and everything required for a successful education and to prepare them to be future leaders of Tanzania.

Although Victa is only in his second year of school, he already has his sights set on a leadership position.

"One day, I want to be Head Boy and make sure that all the students pick up rubbish in the playground," he explains.

Ms Juliet is one of the school's dedicated teachers. She teaches Standard 2 and sees the impact the school makes on these future leaders. "St Jude's is creating an impact in these students' lives. Knowing this feels good because I know that the education they get at St Jude's will help their family and themselves in the future," says Ms Juliet.

“As a teacher, I encourage them to make their own decisions such as choosing the storybooks they want to read instead of choosing for them. I also encourage communication and teamwork, as I believe that for a person to be a good leader one has to be a good communicator and a good team player,” she adds.

Ms Juliet, who has been working at the school for a decade, has welcomed many students into her class who are offered scholarships following St Jude’s Scholarship Application Process.

“It feels great and exceptional to receive pupils from different backgrounds and help them settle into our school,” explains Ms Juliet.

One of the newest students to join the St Jude’s community is Brayden. He’s in Standard 1 and loves reading and writing.

“I love the St Jude’s school environment,” he says. “At my old school there was no library and the playground was full of stones.”

Brayden is one of the 48 students who joined in Standard 1 and 2 in 2022. He is eager to fulfil his academic potential and reach his goals.

“When I am older, I want to be a Sports Prefect,” Brayden shares. “Then, when I grow up, I would like to be a doctor, so I can treat sick people.”

St Jude’s has grown from three students to 1,800 in just 20 years. In that time, the school has touched thousands of lives, so that today, the school’s first students are now entering the work force, supporting their families and driving change in the community. But for students like Victa and Brayden, the change is just beginning. Though they are among St Jude’s youngest students, they have everything they need to become Tanzania’s future leaders.

20 years is just the beginning.
Your support can transform
these young students’ lives.
Donate or **Sponsor** a student’s
scholarship today!



Above **The Joy of Reading**: Brayden, a Standard 1 student, excited by the variety of books in the library.

Below **Tomorrow’s Leaders**: St Jude’s giving young students hope for a better future.





Above **Advice Giving:** Mr Elibariki discusses future careers with students during a Career Guidance lesson.

Paving the Way to Future Careers

Career Guidance helps students make informed choices about their futures

As any adult will know, there's a lot that goes into creating a career. Subject choices, study, diplomas, degrees, internships, maybe even starting a business – it can all be very confusing!

Fortunately, for secondary students at The School of St Jude, weekly Career Guidance classes are helping pave the way to future careers. Students receive advice about subject selection, higher education and tertiary institutions so they can make informed plans.

“Our students come from considerably poor backgrounds. They are not exposed to all industries and career paths,” explains Irene, who works in Career Guidance for both students and alumni.

As a result, a major part of Career Guidance is simply making students aware of the career options available to them. When they're exposed to the different options, students can discover a career that suits their interests, strengths and goals.

As the saying goes, ‘You can't be what you can't see,’ so the Career Guidance team invites a variety of professionals to share their experience with students.

“Bringing mentors who have been successful in their careers, whether they are doctors, journalists, lawyers, or entrepreneurs, helps our students to affirm their career choices,” says Irene.



These mentors are the focus of the school's annual Careers Day, where secondary students have the opportunity to participate in seminars with mentors from inside and outside St Jude's.

"We always ask students which career path they want to pursue and bring in professionals from those fields to inspire and motivate them on what to do, what subjects to take, and everything they need to know to excel in those fields," says Mr Elibariki, Career Counsellor at St Jude's Secondary School.

During the event, students are grouped in different clusters based on their interests and matched with a mentor for a briefing and question-and-answer session.

Mr Elibariki recalls, "In 2021, we had 8 industry clusters with more than 19 professional speakers."

At the upcoming 2022 Careers Day, to be held at St Jude's Girls' Secondary School, students will again have the opportunity to hear from speakers and ask questions. This year, for the first time, the sessions will be recorded to allow students to refer to them in the future.

In recent years, St Jude's alumni have been a wonderful resource for the Career Guidance team to inspire current students. Since the tertiary graduation of the first 24 Beyond St Jude's scholars in 2019, alumni have been sharing their experience of university life, study and entering employment with their younger counterparts.

St Jude's alumni are employed in a wide variety of fields, from engineering to community development, information technology to accounting, teaching to marketing.

With the expert advice of the Career Guidance team and the inspiring example of more than 950 alumni before them, St Jude's students are certainly receiving thorough preparation for their future careers. In a few short years, the students now in Mr Elibariki's classes will be the young professionals Tanzania needs.

Above Driving Change: Irene helps both students and alumni choose the right career paths.

Below Discussing the Future: Mr Elibariki working with students on their future goals and career aspirations.

Your generous support of St Jude's provides students with a pathway out of poverty and a future career. **Sponsor or donate today** and help transform lives.





Above **The Class of 2022:** So much has changed for these students during their years at St Jude's.

A Transformational Journey

See what's changed for St Jude's Form 6 graduates and their families.

- » There are **107** students graduating Form 6 in 2022.
- » We have over **850** alumni who have already graduated Form 6 at St Jude's from 2015 to 2021.
- » Once a student completes Form 6, only **1 in 10** of the families are still living in mud houses, versus **4 in 10** when they started at St Jude's.

- » During the course of their studies, the incomes of students' families have doubled, **70%** of families have progressed from the extreme poverty line (did not afford basic needs) to live above the relative poverty line (can now afford to buy basic needs) upon their child's completion of Form 6 at St Jude's.

St Jude's impact is felt outside the school gates. The school touches the lives of students, their families, and the community too. **Donate** or **Sponsor today** to make an impact!





The School of St Jude

Fighting poverty
through education



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