



# St Jude's News

JUNE 2022



Coming Full Circle

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**Above** Where it all began: Colleen and Rhonda with Enock, on their first visit to St Jude's in 2009



Our Australian fundraising partner is registered as The School of St Jude Ltd and is responsible for all funds raised in Australia.

## New Sponsorships, New Beginnings

Committed sponsors restart their sponsorship journeys to touch more lives. [Continued on page 2](#)





Above **Two students, nine years:** Blandina in 2009, the first student sponsored by Taree Rotary Club, and Given, whose scholarship the club began sponsoring in 2019.

Above **Where it all began:** Colleen and Rhonda with Enock, on their first visit to St Jude's in 2009.



# New Sponsorships, New Beginnings

Committed sponsors restart their sponsorship journeys to touch more lives.



When a long-term St Jude's sponsor supports a student's scholarship right from the beginning of primary school, through secondary school and then university studies, there comes a day when the scholarship ends.

The end of a scholarship is a new beginning in more ways than one. For the graduating scholar, it's the beginning of working life. For the sponsor, it can be the beginning of a brand-new scholarship and the opportunity to change another life

This was the case for two committed St Jude's sponsors, Taree Rotary Club and the O'Hara and Doyle families.

The members of Taree Rotary Club began sponsoring a scholarship for St Jude's alum, Blandina, back in 2006, and saw her through primary, secondary and tertiary studies, right up until her graduation from university with a Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing in 2019. Then, without hesitation, they began the sponsorship journey again, this time with a scholarship for Given, who was then in his first year of primary school, Standard 1.

Philip Streatfield, the Director of International Service of Taree Rotary Club, explains, "Our member, Ian Dyball, first met Gemma in 1999. Ian supported and encouraged Gemma long before the first brick was laid at The School of St Jude. Gemma's concept of 'Fighting Poverty Through Education' struck a chord with Ian who, as Club President (2004-2005), convinced our members that we should sponsor a student at St Jude's."



For the O'Hara and Doyle families, sponsorship is a family affair. Today, Colleen O'Hara, her son Lachie, her sister Rhonda, Rhonda's husband Jade and their children Mitchel and Ivy share the sponsorship of scholarships for students, Yasiri (currently in Standard 6, the second last year of primary) and Joyce, who has just commenced her final year of secondary school. They began their sponsorship back in 2009 when Colleen and Rhonda visited the school.

Colleen recalls, "We were captivated by the kids and the wonderful work the school was doing for the underprivileged children of Arusha and surrounds."

They immediately began sponsoring scholarships for Enock and Madina, who were in Form 1 (the first year of secondary) and Standard 4 (the fourth year of primary) respectively. In 2015, Enock graduated with St Jude's inaugural Form 6 class and won an external scholarship to study in the US, and the families generously decided to transfer their sponsorship to Tumaini, who went on to graduate from university with Bachelor of Science in Microbiology in 2020 with their support.

Their favourite part of sponsorship is, "Seeing the kids grow into adults and get their letters of appreciation. It makes you grateful for the life we lead here in Australia and to be able to help enrich these young peoples lives is such a gift for us."

On their decision to continue sponsoring following the end of Enock and Madina's scholarships, Colleen says, "We wanted to continue to support the school and we have loved the experience of seeing the students grow into amazing adults, so we couldn't not continue!"

The members of Taree Rotary Club feel the same way, reports Philip, who says of Blandina, "It was exciting for our club to watch this outstanding young lady progress through school, and to receive regular school reports, letters, and photos. Our members could readily see the impact that education was having not only for Blandina, but also her family and the wider community of Arusha."

"Our club members had no hesitation in recommencing the journey having seen the valuable opportunities given to students of St Jude's," Philip shares.

Sponsors see students progress through regular communications, including letters from students, school reports and updates from the St Jude's Sponsor Relations team, plus plenty of photos. The O'Hara and Doyle families even made the trip to Tanzania to see the sponsored students in person!

After their initial visit in 2009, they returned in 2015 to witness Enock's graduation from Form 6 and came again in 2019 to see Madina's.

"We love coming to the school and we hope to be back next year to see Joyce graduate. Everyone is so welcoming and the week lead up to the graduation is such a fun week with so many activities to immerse in the Tanzanian culture," says Colleen.

These two committed sponsors demonstrate that the end of a scholarship can be a brand-new beginning. By recommencing their sponsorship journeys as sponsored students graduate, Taree Rotary Club and the O'Hara and Doyle families have extended their positive impact to a brand new generation of St Jude's students.



**Above** We made it: The Doyle and O'Hara children celebrate Enock's graduation from secondary school with him in 2015.

**Below** In it for the long haul: The members of Taree Rotary Club have been sponsors since 2006.



**You too can change lives! Become a sponsor.**



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# Coming Full Circle

Community Service Year volunteers making a difference.

Coming from a family of 10 in a rural area outside Arusha, Salim did not have high hopes for his education or his future. This changed when he met Furahini, a St Jude's alum Salim now calls his mentor.

When the two met in 2017, Furahini was a Community Service Year (CSY) volunteer teaching at Kimnyaki Secondary School and Salim was his student. The CSY is the first part of the Beyond St Jude's Scholarship Program (BSJSP), St Jude's program for secondary school graduates. During the CSY, volunteers share their skills through volunteering on campus at St Jude's, or as teachers in government schools.

"I wouldn't have had any hope of joining St Jude's if it wasn't for Furahini," says Salim. "He's played a big role in changing my life."

"He was my physics and biology teacher when I was in Form 4. He motivated me and pushed me to increase my efforts in my studies. He also gave me hope, showing me that if I did well academically, I could get the chance of getting a scholarship to St Jude's and sure enough, this dream was made a reality," he beams.



After attending seven years of government school for primary, and another four years of secondary, Salim was invited to apply for a St Jude's scholarship to enter in Form 5, the penultimate year of secondary school. Encouraged to study hard by Furahini, Salim passed through St Jude's Scholarship Application Process with flying colours.

Form 5 is the final opportunity to enter St Jude's, so it was a special moment when Salim was offered a scholarship to start at St Jude's in 2018. Coincidentally, Furahini also joined St Jude's in Form 5, just three years earlier, in 2015.

"I couldn't believe it when I was told I got the scholarship. I knew then that my future had been changed," Salim recalls.

"Furahini's tireless contribution in teaching me and mentoring me through my last year in my government school had a huge impact, not only on my life, but on my family's life. I can never forget his help," Salim shares.

Like Furahini before him, Salim has a mind for science, and chose to pursue physics, chemistry and biology during his two years of studies at St Jude's. After graduating in 2020 with impressive marks, he chose to follow in his mentor's footsteps and began his CSY as a volunteer teacher back at Kimnyaki Secondary School, where he had once been a student.



**Above Embracing the Next Stage:** (A – B) Furahini on his day of graduation in 2021 and Salim preparing for his first day of Community Service Year in 2020.





**Above Giving Back:** Salim teaching government students during his Community Service Year in 2020.

“Volunteering in a school that I once went to was exceptional. Having studied there, I already knew the environment and challenges. My presence covered the shortage of science teachers and I also helped out as a sports coach,” Salim explains.

During his CSY, Salim taught physics sharing the skills and knowledge he received at St Jude’s.

“Almost 98% of students that I helped during my CSY managed to pass their final exams, and for that I’m happy and grateful,” Salim adds, rightfully proud.

Today, Salim is a tertiary scholar, pursuing a degree in medicine in one of the biggest universities in Tanzania with the support of BSJSP. In just a few years, he’ll be a doctor, serving the people of Tanzania.

“I can honestly say without Furahini walking into my life and St Jude’s providing me with the scholarship, this would not be possible. Many thanks to Furahini, the St Jude’s community and Mama Gemma for making this journey possible for me,” he says.

One step ahead of Salim is Furahini, who completed a Diploma of Clinical Medicine last year.

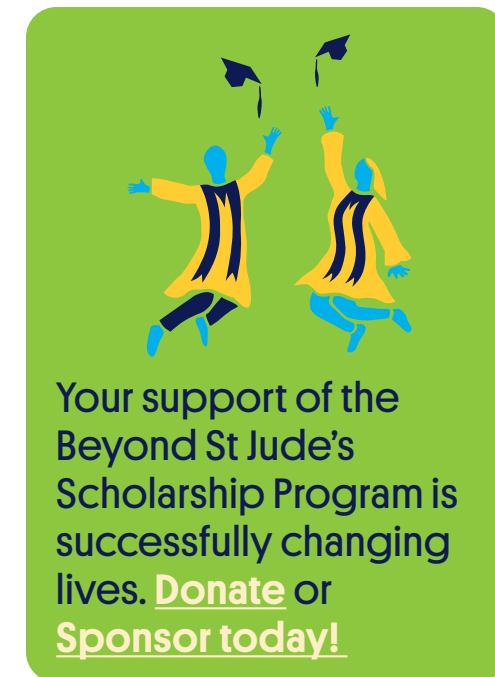
“My aspiration in life is to be a health care provider and building my own health centre,” Furahini shares.

Furahini plans to make a big positive impact in his community, but the impact he has already made on Salim cannot be underestimated.

“I was so grateful when Salim was offered the academic scholarship at St Jude’s,” smiles Furahini. “I remember when he shared the news with me, I asked for us to meet so I could congratulate him in person and talk about his future. I’m proud of him, from where he’s come from, to the leader he is shaping up to be,” he says.

Over the last 20 years, there have been many wonderful stories like Furahini and Salim’s; stories of students becoming leaders and sharing the gifts they have been given to help others, in big and small ways.

How could Furahini have known, in 2017, that with his encouragement and a St Jude’s scholarship, the studious but disadvantaged boy in his class would become a much-needed doctor for Tanzania? This is St Jude’s work coming full circle. This is fighting poverty through education.



**Below A Spark of Hope:** Furahini passing his knowledge to government students during his Community Service Year in 2017.







**Above Healthy Smiles:** Primary students enjoy hot, nutritious and healthy lunch served daily.  
**Below Caring for Students:** Lisa chatting with a primary student.



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# Healthy Beginnings at St Jude's

The School of St Jude creates a holistic environment to promote the development of healthy and motivated students.

Motivated, healthy and happy students start with daily, hot and nutritious meals, regular health check-ups and physical activity.

With generous support from St Jude's supporters, the school gives scholarships that cover more than academics, but also provide students with daily nutritious meals and health and welfare support, ensuring their present wellbeing and future success.

"It's satisfying knowing that I'm contributing in ensuring that we have healthy students who are likely to perform well in their academics," says Lisa, who coordinates the Health and Welfare team.

"As Coordinator, I work with the team to make sure that all health and welfare cases are well monitored, recorded and where possible communicated with school leadership. I organise our school counsellor's monthly schedule so that the needs of the students are well met. I assist with hospital visits of serious health cases and special diet when needed," Lisa elaborates.

Part of the Health and Welfare team's role is to organise annual checks on students, including monitoring height and weight. "With the help of the health check team, who mostly come from Australia, we check eyes, ears, skin and flag any other health issues," Lisa explains.

The team also provides health education on various health topics in secondary schools and oral hygiene workshops for Standard 1 and 2 (the first two years of primary school) students, and reinforces the school's Child Protection Policy.

"To make sure our students remain healthy, we discuss health issues of students with their parents and where possible and applicable they get counselling from our school counsellor as a group session," Lisa states.

While St Jude's is primarily an educational institution, students who receive academic scholarships come from poor backgrounds where families are particularly susceptible to range of physical and psychological issues.



“It honestly feels great working in line to support the school’s mission, vision and strategic plan,” she adds.

Understanding that nutrition influences student’s learning potential, the school puts special emphasis on healthy and nutritious meals.

The school serves more than 26,000 hot meals to students and staff every week - that makes up more than one million meals served each year!

“Every month we serve almost 7,000 kilograms of beans, nearly 6,000 kilograms of rice and nearly 17,000 kilograms of vegetables and fruits,” says Julius, the Head Cook at Sisia Campus.

Julius, who has been with St Jude’s for ten years, knows the importance of offering nutritious meals to students. “I’m proud to be serving these healthy meals to students every day. I see them growing up and I know that my meals are helping them grow big and strong.”

Students’ health is especially important for teachers who are providing the support in physical education (PE) and sports.

“Research shows that students who participate in sport and other extracurricular activities have favourable mental health compared to inactive students,” explains Mr Paul, Head of Sports at St Jude’s Secondary School.

“Participation in sports and physical activities at a young age encourages positive cognitive development in youth-developing and learning to use the core skills of the brain to think, read, learn, remember, reason and problem-solving,” he adds.

As part of a holistic education, the school prioritises sports in students’ lessons, ensuring they develop the skills and self-confidence to become future leaders in Tanzania.

“Sports help me to be more motivated, and focused. Also, I have gained teamwork skills,” says Kelvin.

Kelvin is in Form 5 and loves playing basketball during his free time. “I started playing basketball when I joined St Jude’s in Form 1. Before that I couldn’t play the sport because the government school I came from did not have sports facilities,” he states.

St Jude’s strives to nurture students who are healthy, motivated, and have academic and moral excellence. By providing a strong, healthy foundation, St Jude’s is setting up students for long term success.

Thanks to your support,  
St Jude’s schools are filled  
with happy and healthy  
students. Donating to  
our nutrition and health  
programs will help us  
continue our work.

**Donate today!**



**Above Serving Healthy:** Julius prepares vitamin-packed watermelon for students and staff.

**Below left Good Health through Sports:** Mr Paul works with students to help them achieve both academic and athletic goals.

**Below Right Staying Focused:** Kelvin dribbling the basketball, a sport that keeps him motivated and focused.





# Beginning to Make Change

St Jude's alumni are beginning to enter the workforce and drive change in multiple industries.

Since 2019,

## 289

St Jude's alumni have graduated from university or college (we call them tertiary graduates).

Of these,

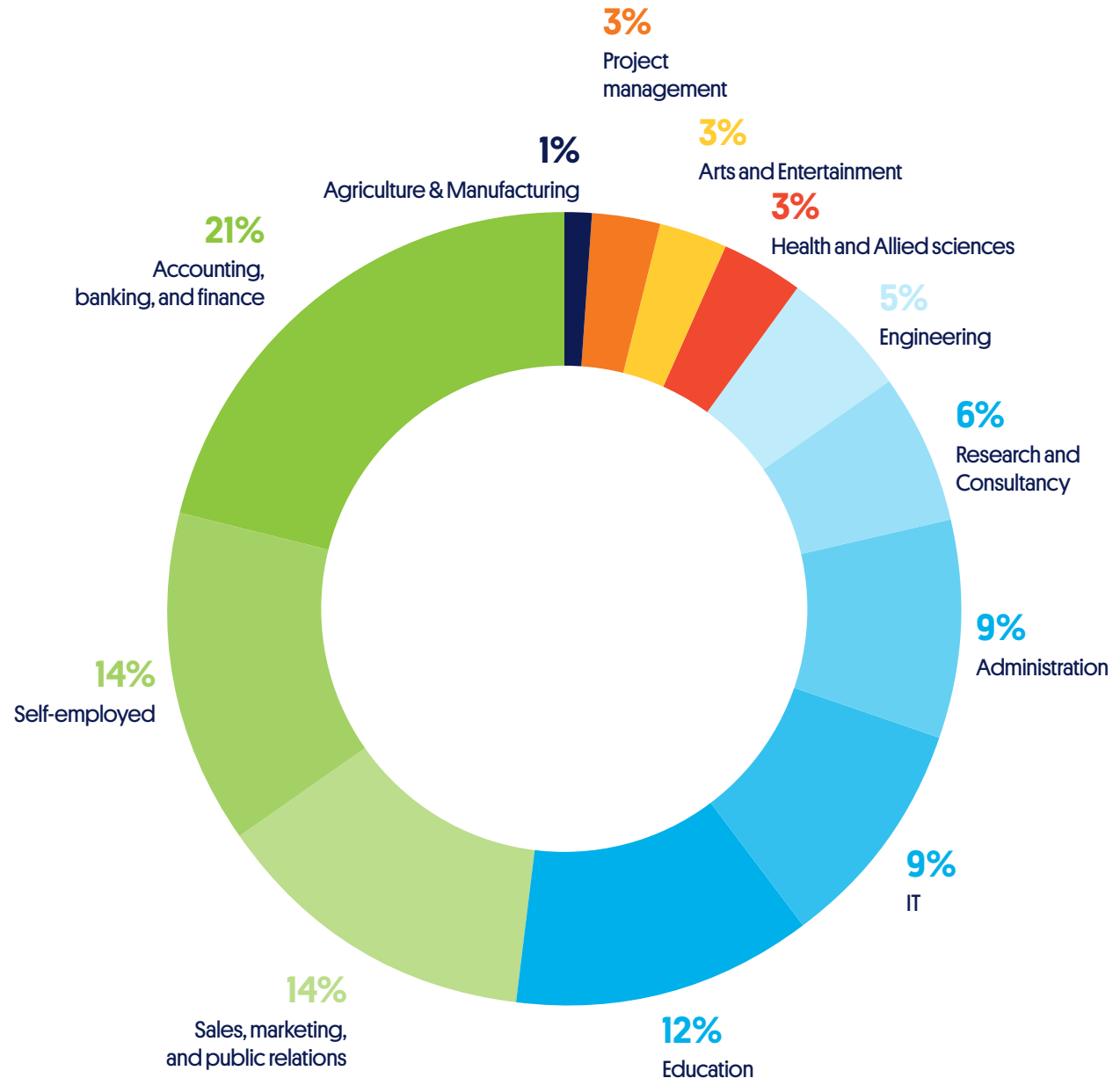
## 142

Attended university with the support of Beyond St Jude's, while 147 attended by other means.

Now, these tertiary graduates are entering the workforce!

Your support has helped change the lives of St Jude's alumni who are now thriving leaders in their communities. But, 20 years is just the beginning. [Give today!](#)

## Where are employed St Jude's alumni working?







# The School of St Jude

Fighting poverty  
through education



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



[www.schoolofstjude.org](http://www.schoolofstjude.org)