



**The School
of St Jude**

Fighting poverty
through education

Annual Report

2019



www.schoolofstjude.org



A Word from Founding Director, Gemma Sisia

**2019 has been a year of ‘firsts’ and milestones
at The School of St Jude!**

In March, we welcomed our largest ever health check team. These generous volunteers spent two weeks ensuring that our 1,800 students are healthy and advising follow up for those who need it.

In June, we celebrated our fifth and largest Form 6 graduation. 169 students celebrated the end of secondary school, along with their parents, teachers and younger students. This brings our total number of Form 6 graduates to 565!

Then, in December we celebrated a very exciting milestone when our first 24 Beyond St Jude’s (BSJ) scholars graduated from university. I’m sure that these are the first of many, many BSJ university graduates!

Our students achieved some great exam results in 2019, which are a credit to their hard work, their teachers’ dedication and the support of sponsors and donors all over the world. Every single Form 2 student this year received a Division 1, the highest rank, in their national examinations. One student, Samson, was actually the highest ranked boy in the entire country. Our Form 6 graduating class placed first in the country for advanced mathematics and



within the top 10% in all science and humanities subjects. Now that’s something to celebrate!

Another exciting milestone happened during our Alumni Reunion in August – we launched Alumni Spirit – an initiative through which alumni can give back to St Jude’s in the spirit with which they received their free education. 65 alumni signed up immediately and are now making monthly donations to help a new generation of St Jude’s students.

On top of all this, we launched a brand new team, called Social Impact. This team will gather and analyse data to determine our impact on students, their families and the community.

Importantly, we developed our new Five-Year Strategic Plan, to guide The School of St Jude as we take our next steps and continue fighting poverty through education.

As you can see, we’ve had a huge year, but we wouldn’t have it any other way. You have helped us reach milestone after milestone and I’m truly grateful for your support.

- Gemma Sisia, Founding Director

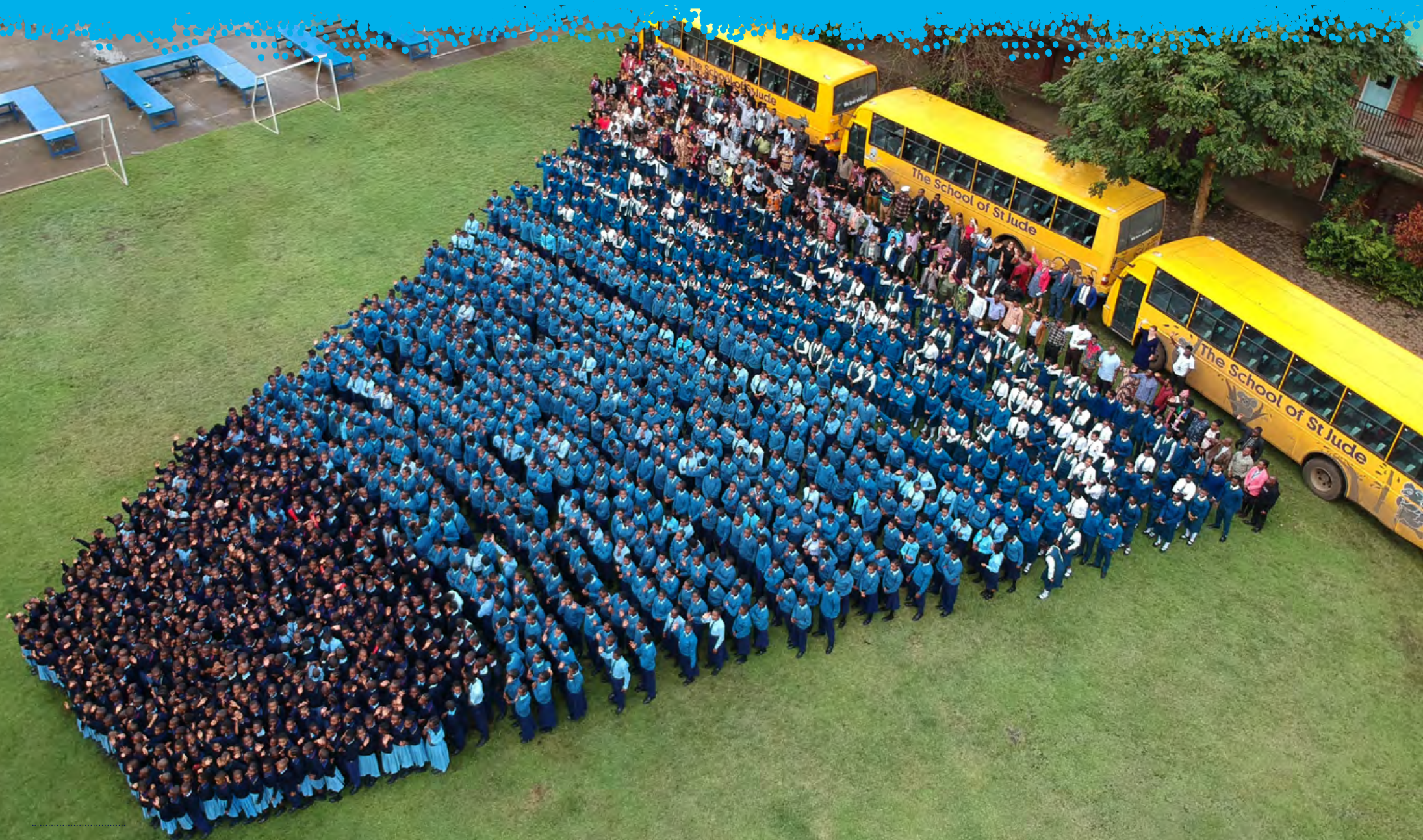


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1.0 Our organisation





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

2,257

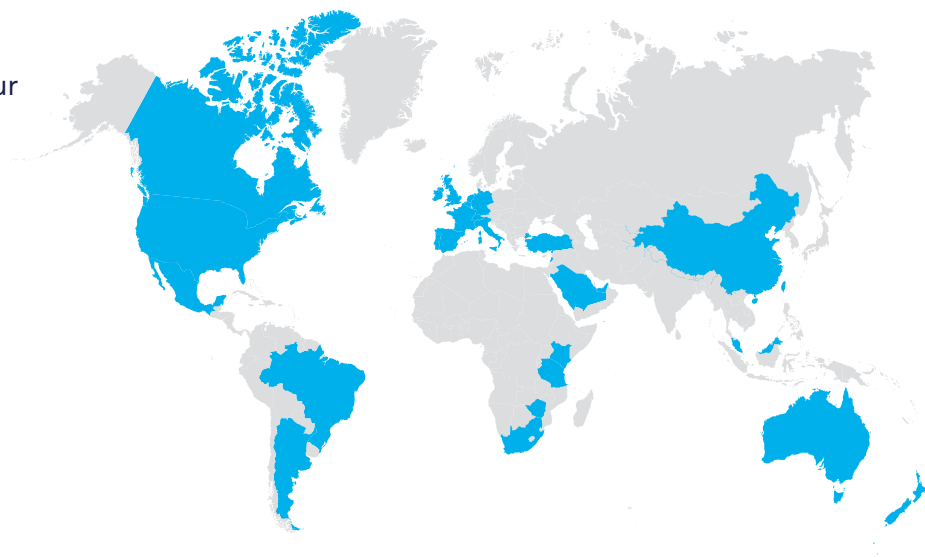
generous sponsors of our students' academic scholarships.

32

countries represented

933

international visitors



Beyond St Jude's

10,000+

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.



341

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



Our community

AU\$6.3 million

is injected into the Arusha economy

294

staff are employed and 100% of academic staff are Tanzanian



2.0 Our schools





Since 2002

The School of St Jude

Fighting poverty through education



The School of St Jude provides free, high-quality education and living facilities to its students across three different campuses. In 2019, 598 students were enrolled at Sisia Primary campus in Moshono, 927 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 598 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 2019, our secondary school campus was home to 927 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

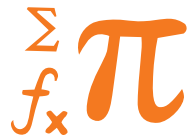
Just a short walk from our Sisia Primary Campus, our primary boarding campus in Moivaro village provides the perfect home away from home for 408 students from Standard 5 to Standard 7 (Grade 5 to Grade 7). This modern boarding campus is equipped with a sporting field, study rooms, a dining and assembly 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.
- 2nd out of 80 schools in the Arumeru district.
- 7th out of 370 schools in the Arusha Region.



Form 2

- All students except one achieved Division I in their national assessment.

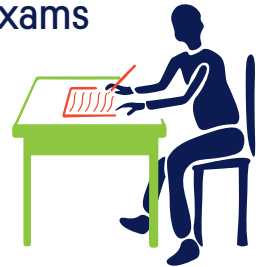


Form 4

- We are in the top 2.1% of schools in Tanzania.

Form 6

- 65th out of 594 schools in Tanzania.
- 91% of our students achieved Division I or II in their exams



Standard 7

- 2nd out of 69 schools in the Arumeru district.
- 4th out of 370 schools in the Arusha region.
- 93% of our students received A's in their exams and 7% 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.

- **141** St Jude's Form 6 graduates joined the Community Service Year program, our biggest intake to date.
- **40,070** students in under-resourced government schools have been taught by CSY interns since the program's inception in 2015. Approximately 10,000 students in 22 government schools were taught by our interns in 2019.
- **200** Beyond St Jude's tertiary scholars are attending universities/colleges throughout Tanzania.
- The first **24** BSJ scholars graduated from university in December 2019.
- The School of St Jude Alumni Association was officially formed, encouraging St Jude's alumni to give back to the school through our new Alumni Spirit initiative.





Meet Godwin – one of our Community Service Year interns

Godwin, 2018 Form 6 Graduate

Godwin is a community service year volunteer who volunteered to teach at an under-resourced government school in Arusha. He was also chosen to embark on the 2019 Roadshow with Founder, Gemma Sisia.

“It has been a great year for me so far! I have so many opportunities in my hands, and it is all thanks to The School of St Jude. It will be my great pleasure and honour to meet so many St Jude’s supporters, the people who have helped me become the young man I am, and thank them for what they have done, what they have given me,” Godwin said.

Like so many of our students, Godwin, who was raised by a single mother, has faced significant obstacles and challenges along the road to success.

“I did not start at St Jude’s until secondary school, in 2012. I attended a government primary school and we did not have enough seats, teachers or textbooks. I remember each day around lunch time, I was so hungry that all I could do was daydream about drinking the porridge my mum would cook in the afternoon. It was all we would eat for the day,” he shared.

“Sometimes, we had to skip meals. When I came to St Jude’s, it was like paradise. We had three meals a day and everything a student needs to study hard. We were encouraged by our teachers. Thanks to St Jude’s, I had chances to enter essay competitions and was fortunate to even win some of them. These small victories gave me confidence when I was applying for university scholarships. I have had a golden chance and the sky is the limit!”

Godwin’s educational journey has come full-circle. He is completing his Community Service Year at the secondary school he would have attended, had he not been accepted into St Jude’s.

“I look at my students and see in comparison how tough it is for them. The government school has only two physics teachers for 1,500 students. There is no doubt that education is the most important weapon to fight poverty, and St Jude’s supporters are helping us do this every day.”



4.0 Our people





4.1 Primary Academic Staff

Primary academic leaders

George Stephen

Headteacher

Isaka Silomba

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

Erespidus Fikiri

Headmaster

Humphrey Nkya

Deputy Headmaster - Operations

John Frank

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

Nzinyangwa Mcharo

Academic Manager



5.0 Our financials

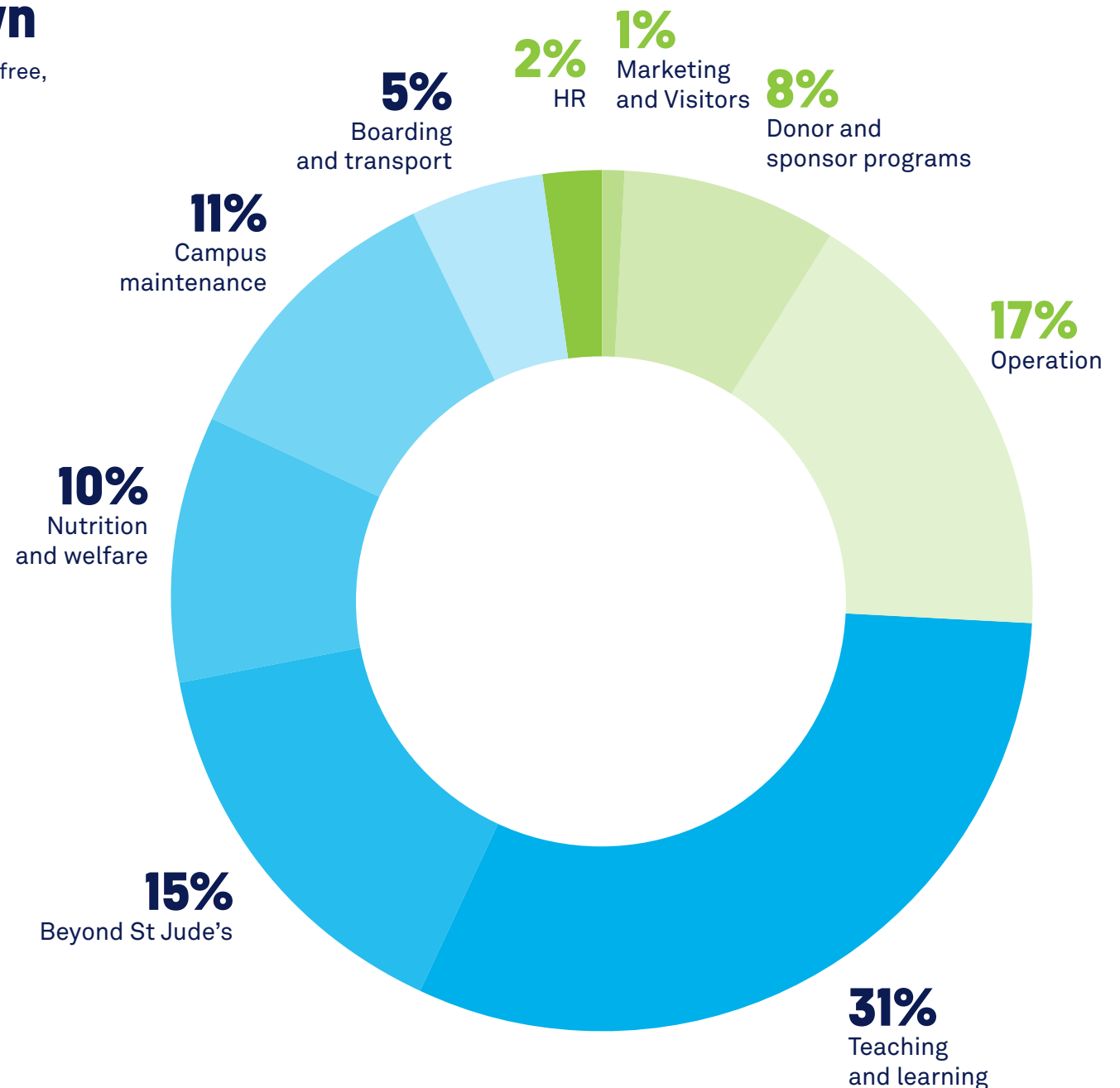




5.1 Spending breakdown

In 2019 it cost 10.4 billion Tanzanian shillings to provide free, high-quality education to our students.

- School
- Management



The School of St Jude injected AU\$6.3million into Arusha's local economy through purchasing from local suppliers and staff salaries.

AU\$0.95 of every dollar raised in Australia is made available to support The School of St Jude in Tanzania.

6.0 Our supporters



6.1 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, we hosted our biggest international Health Check team yet, to ensure students' holistic wellbeing.

The student sat still, a stethoscope on their heart, an otoscope in their ears and an ophthalmoscope waved over their eyes.

This is just part of the routine our brilliant team of health professionals undertake when assessing every child at St Jude's from head to toe, when they visit the school each year. They're ensuring students can read their school blackboards and books, hear their teachers and are fit and well for class.

It's no small task to adequately assess the needs of 1,800 students in just two weeks, but with decades of experience in a range of medical fields, the team saw the students in record time. They then use their findings to refer students to medical professionals in Arusha for further assessment and support.

With an even wider variety of clinicians this year, there was an increased focus on 'Orthoptics', where students received a more in-depth assessment of their eyes and more recommendations could be made. The multi-disciplinary team also included a wellbeing group, comprising of social workers and school psychologists, who held professional development seminars to help teachers identify and address mental health issues students may experience.

For Melbourne Physiotherapist, Jane Larkin, who co-led the Health Check program in its twelfth year, it's about making a tangible difference during their two-week stay.

"These students come and get ten minutes of our time and it can be life changing for them. There was a student that thought she would never be able to board at St Jude's because of her health, but now as a 17-yearold she is studying and living with her peers in boarding and absolutely thriving. Being able to facilitate that transition and for St Jude's to source things to meet her needs, I think

has made a huge difference for that student," Jane smiled.

Newcomer to the Health Check team this year but long term sponsor, Kerrie, was part of the team that checked each child's height, weight and BMI. Not only does this highlight malnourished students who can be given an increased diet, these measurements are also a requirement from the Tanzanian government.

"I was impressed with how many students were really interested in finding out about their health. The older ones even wanted to know what the nutrition protocol from the World Health Organisation was for their age," Kerrie reflected.

It was a special moment when Kerrie met again the students whose academic scholarships she sponsors. "It was very emotional because I hadn't seen the girls for six years, since I last was at the school, and it was just so rewarding to see how well they are doing, how healthy they are and how well they are getting on at school," Kerrie gushed.

For the Sunshine Coast local it's been a privilege watching the growth of the school and its students.

"I've noticed since I visited six years ago just how everyone's health and wellbeing has improved. The students were really open and welcoming, they just wanted to chat and engage with you," Kerrie expressed.

The team are vowing they'll continue to contribute for another decade, but their ultimate goal is to help upskill local Tanzanian staff, so that more minds and bodies can be kept healthy all year round, one checkup at a time.

"For us to be able to screen these students and find local follow up here in Arusha, it can actually make a difference," Jane smiled, proudly looking at her team.



6.2 Visitors

In 2019 we welcomed 933 visitors.

Marilyn

Determined to Make a Difference

(Pictured top right) Marilyn and her husband, David, had been sponsoring the scholarship of talented musician, and stand-out student, Silvesta until he sadly passed away at the beginning of his Form 6 year.

Determined to help honour his legacy, and help his fellow graduates in any way she could, Marilyn still travelled to Arusha for the Form 6 graduation ceremony of Silvesta's class.

As soon as she stepped onto the Smith Secondary Campus she was met by the warm smiling faces of Evance and Rahim who had been Silvesta's best friends.

Below is an excerpt from Marilyn's words that every secondary student and visitor can read outside the Smith library.

"Over the years, we have supported the school and one of your students, Silvesta who sadly passed away in 2018. We observed through many letters we received from him, the change from a young boy to a young man with future aspirations who learnt through education, sport and music. We appreciate the opportunity given to us to support this wonderful young man and the school and importantly, its people - the teachers, the many support staff and the students. It has been a privilege that my husband and I have been involved with this school. We aim to continue to support the efforts of all those from The School of St Jude as they seek to assist all of their students to 'become moral and intellectual leaders in the country.' It is only through education that people can change the world. The students have the opportunity to become life-long learners from the skills they have acquired at St Jude's. The School of St Jude continues to educate and prepare their students to be noble citizens for their country."

Brian

Three Generations of Giving

(Pictured middle right) Coordinating a family get-together can be tough in 2019 with competing schedules and commitments, but one longtime St Jude's supporter decided to tempt his family with travel, inviting 11 of them on a trip of a lifetime to Arusha, Tanzania, to visit a place very close to his heart.

Brian Moloney has been involved with The School of St Jude for 15 years, sponsoring two students' academic scholarships as well as supporting additional boarding and transport costs.

"I saw Gemma on the ABC and I was so taken back I started sponsoring a student's scholarship. Visiting here I am so impressed where the money goes. Students are dressed well, the campus is spotless, the food is great, the opportunities everyone is given, it's just outstanding," Brian said standing next to one of the schoolbuses he helps maintain.

"I think it's very important that Australians get behind the school as Tanzania is a country that is struggling and there is a lot of unemployment. This is an opportunity to change that, we could help make the future very bright."

For Brian's daughter the family's jam-packed itinerary visiting the homes of St Jude's students, joining them in extracurricular classes and exploring the wider community has been life changing.

"Thank God Dad saw Gemma on the TV and he's been able to share this school with us. This trip has been a big wake up call for me. St Jude's has really embraced our family. The students are respectful, disciplined, keen and are invigorated by coming to the school," Brian's daughter Danielle reflected.



7.0 Support us



7.1 Contact Us

Events and fundraising

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australia@schoolofstjude.org

Donations

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schoolofstjudetz@gmail.com

Rotary

Monica
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Call Tanzania

Visitor Coordinator
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+255 [0] 787 719 500

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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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