



**The School
of St Jude**

Fighting poverty
through education

Annual Report

2020



www.schoolofstjude.org



A Word from Founder, Gemma Sisia

2020 has been a year of challenges, but more than anything, it has reminded me what an amazing community we have.

The year started well, with the opening of St Jude's Girls' Secondary School. With capacity for 600 girls, this school allows us to increase overall secondary enrolments and provide more opportunities for Tanzanian girls. A new secondary board was also formed, whose members are doing a wonderful job of overseeing this new venture.

Then in March, the first case of COVID-19 was detected in Tanzania and all schools were closed. I was half-way through my annual fundraising tour in Australia and managed to make it back to Tanzania just before the borders closed! With no idea how long the closure would last, we sent our students home, hoping to see them soon.

But how could we keep our students safe at home and help them keep learning? We decided to deliver care packages and study packs to our students and their families, containing study supplies, food, hygiene supplies and information about COVID-19. With the help of our awesome supporters, who donated to cover costs, we were able to deliver 3,000 of these care packages.

Fortunately, the shutdown was lifted in June, and we gratefully welcomed our students and staff back to school, with safety measures in place.



Despite the shutdown, we managed to fit in a number of firsts in 2020. We held our largest ever Standard 1 and 2 Selection Day, with 1,100 students in attendance. Then, we held our first three-region Form 1 Selection Day. With three concurrent events in three regions we were able to reach more students than ever.

In very exciting news, we employed our very first St Jude's alumni this year, Anna and Baba. Baba returns to St Jude's as an ICT and mathematics teacher, while Anna joins our Accounts team. Both graduated from university last year with the support of Beyond St Jude's.

This year, even during hardship, our supporters have stepped up again and again. When we made a call out for donations to cover the cost of COVID-19 packs, there you were. When we launched Challenge Yourself for St Jude's, there you were. In 2020, 100 alumni made donations to the school, and even more volunteered their time.

It has certainly been a challenging year, however, I can't help but feel encouraged by the way the St Jude's community has pulled together to meet every challenge. So thank you, supporters for helping us through 2020... and here's to 2021!

- Gemma Sisia, Founder



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1.0 Our organisation





1.1 Our vision

An educated community of moral and intellectual leaders; fighting poverty in Tanzania.

1.2 Our mission

Our mission is to give bright, poor Tanzanian students a free, quality education so they can 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 Who are we

The School of St Jude is a pioneering leader in charitable education within Africa. We provide 1,800 students with free, quality education; 100's of graduates with access to higher education; and more than 10,000 government school students with volunteer teachers each year.

1.5 What we believe in

Our school strives for academic and moral excellence; we encourage students to do more than just succeed. We empower them to become community-focused leaders who challenge the status quo and find solutions to assist the 45 million Tanzanians living in poverty.

At St Jude's, we create a holistic environment that promotes the development of a well-rounded person; graduates who have fulfilled their academic potential as well as exhibiting respect, responsibility, honesty and kindness; young leaders who can think, reason and, above all, share this ethos with their community.

1.6 Who we help

St Jude's offers academic scholarships to students who come from a considerably poor background, yet demonstrate academic promise and a great attitude towards studies.

We feed them, house them, educate them, and ensure our students' wellbeing and future success. As a result, we have three schools filled with happy and healthy students in a country where children frequently drop out of school.



1.7 Year in review

Our schools

60%

of our students are female

69

different tribes represented



30,000

meals served per week



1,800

students enrolled

Our supporters

2,323

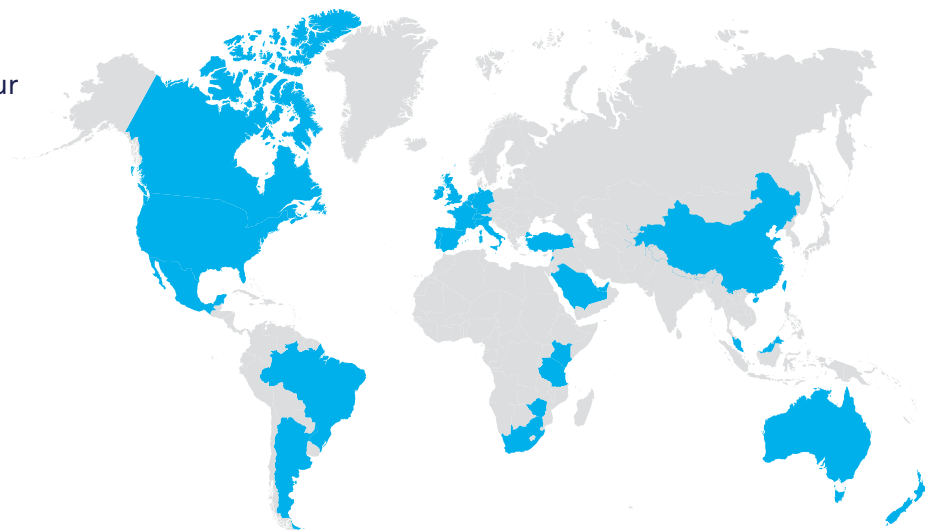
generous sponsors of our students' academic scholarships.

28

countries represented

163

international visitors due to the effects of COVID-19



Beyond St Jude's

30,000

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



399

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



Our community

AU\$7.3 million

is injected into the Arusha economy



306

staff are employed and 100% of academic staff are Tanzanian

1.8 Facing a crisis; COVID-19

On March 16, the Tanzanian government closed all schools in response to the first COVID-19 case in the country. Like the rest of the world, we adapted to the COVID-19 crisis. With your help, the St Jude's community worked together with strength and solidarity to deliver our core purpose – education!

Our supporters

- Continued to sponsor students' academic scholarships
- Donated to the COVID-19 Family Care Packages
- Supported our 'Because of you!' Annual Appeal
- Wrote letters of encouragement and support to students

Our Community Relations team with the help of St Jude's staff

- Organised and distributed two rounds of COVID-19 Welfare Packs to particularly struggling families of students
- Organised and distributed 2,000 COVID-19 Family Care Packages to students, interns and their families
- Organised and distributed 500 food parcels for community members from one of Arusha's poorest areas

Academic staff

- Prepared four rounds of study packs for all students, containing worksheets, lesson notes and mock exams
- Tracked students' progress at home by marking the returned and completed study packs
- Produced bleach and liquid soap using St Jude's science labs and innovative lab technicians

Non-academic staff

- Ensured the school was clean and well-maintained, ready for the students to return

Parent Representatives

- Distributed and collected study packs for all students
- Provided guidance and assistance to student families, teaching them about safety measures and informing them of updates from the school

Drivers

- Delivered all COVID-19 Family Care packages and study packs to students and their families
- Ensured social distance on buses for staff who continued to work

Students

- Continued studying from home and diligently returned homework to be marked by teachers
- Wrote letters to their sponsors
- Became role models for their community by practicing COVID-19 safety measures and teaching others in their community to do the same

Local community

- Over 30 Alumni donated over AU\$700 and contributed to the costs of the community food parcels, while over 50 Community Service Year interns helped to pack them
- Local suppliers moved quickly to provide goods for the packages and donated a few extra supplies free of charge



COVID-19 Family Care Packages

There is nothing more heart-warming than seeing the entire St Jude's community working together to help our students and their families.

On Thursday 30 and Friday 1 May, business and academic staff came together to create the biggest production line in St Jude's history, preparing over 2,000 packages for our students and Community Service Year interns. This initiative ensured our students, interns and their families were supported during this very difficult time.

The packs were distributed all across Northern Tanzania, reaching some students who live up to six hours away.

The care package included basic hygiene products such as bleach, hand sanitiser and soap, as well as staple food items like rice, maize flour and beans.

It was so beautiful to see all staff, including teachers, drivers, business staff and parent representatives, come together to deliver these packs to our students and their families.

An especially big thank you to all our supporters who contributed towards this initiative. Without them, it wouldn't have been possible.

"It was great to see the St Jude's family of supporters, staff and community work as a big team, across continents and through a global pandemic, to support our mission and vision. Together we will make it through!"

— Gemma Sisia, Founder

Challenges at home

Nothing highlights the challenges our students face when studying at home, then COVID-19. Despite these challenges 90% of our students returned their homework for marking during the school shut down!

Through it all, St Jude's students proved they were resilient, taking responsibility for their education and showing respect for their teachers' efforts to continue their education remotely.

Unlike schools trying to deal with the virus worldwide - online learning is not an option at St Jude's. Our students come from poor backgrounds with little access to electricity and digital devices, let alone access to the internet at home.



2.0 Our schools



2.1 A new school

On the 10th of January 2020 The School of St Jude officially opened its Girls' Secondary School

A stone's throw away from St Jude's original building, stands a crowd of people. They chatter quietly amongst themselves, anticipation rife.

It is the morning of the 10th of January and the crowd are gathered to officially open St Jude's Girls' Secondary School.

The pounding of the drums begins and the school choir launches into a beautiful rendition of the Tanzanian National Anthem. Approaching up the pathway is School Founder, Gemma Sisia, accompanied by His Grace, the Archbishop of Arusha, Isaac Amani, and the Honourable Adelardus Kilangi, Attorney-General of Tanzania – who began driving at 1am in order to be the guest of honour at the ceremony.

Behind them walk parent representatives of St Jude's students, members of the school board and academic management and their families. They are walking towards an archway decorated with white tufts of fabric made to resemble flowers. Stretching across this archway is a yellow ceremonial ribbon – the entrance to the new girls' school.

Gemma takes the microphone, gazing out at the audience.

"We opened this school back in 2002 with three kids," she says, pausing to gain her composure, jokingly pretending to hit herself to stop the tears that are welling up. The audience laughs.

"We would never have got here without the incredible faith and generosity of our sponsors and donors, the unbelievable commitment of our staff and parents and, of course, our students."

Archbishop Amani steps forward to bless the school and the audience, heads bowed.

Finally, the moment the crowd has eagerly been waiting for – the unveiling of the sign and the cutting of the ribbon. This historic gesture has been given to Attorney-General (and Professor) Adelardus Kilangi.

Professor Kilangi cuts the ribbon with a smile, the crowd cheers, and the school is officially open.

As the honoured guests, staff and choir walk up the new footpath and around the bend, they are greeted by the entire student and staff body of The School of St Jude – over 2,000 people in total. They sing and cheer as one.

As everyone settles into their seats, the speeches begin, Professor Kilangi steps on to the stage, invited to give a keynote address.

"When I first came here to St Jude's I saw faces full of hope," says Professor Kilangi to a silently attentive audience.

"Great dreams become a reality if you work hard," he continues. "If you don't work hard then they will only remain dreams."

"The formation of the intellect is the most noble thing you can do. So make sure you work hard, study hard and you will achieve."

Professor Kilangi looks at the students and pauses, before saying with the hint of a smile, "I'm talking to you kids! What did I say?"

"Work hard! Study hard! Achieve!" the students chorus in response.

The ceremony concludes, with a communal lunch next on the agenda.

Underneath the beating African sun, students, teachers, special guests, visitors, sponsors and donors sit side-by-side. Their plates are full of food and they talk about their dreams; they laugh at jokes, exchange stories and reminisce about the past.

These conversations, full of hope and laughter, are the kind of conversations that can only be had at the beginning of a new year, and the beginning of a new era.



Above Important Guests: Mr Elimringi (St Jude's Girls' Secondary Headmaster), leads the Attorney General of Tanzania, St Jude's Founder, Gemma and the Archbishop.

Below Cutting the Ribbon: The moment St Jude's Girls' Secondary School was officially opened by the Attorney General of Tanzania.



Below Looking Forward: St Jude's Girls' Secondary School anticipate a bright future as they watch the celebrations for the official opening on the stage.





The School of St Jude provides free, high-quality education and living facilities to its students across three different campuses. In 2020, 944 students were enrolled at Sisia Campus in St Jude's Primary School and the newly established St Jude's Girls' Secondary School in Moshono. 658 students were enrolled in Smith Campus in O and A Level at Usa River.

St Jude's provides boarding for 1,364 students from Standard 6 to Form 6.

2.2 Sisia Campus

Moshono village

*Registered with the Tanzanian Ministry of Education.
St Jude's Primary School Certificate no. AR. 02/7011
St Jude's Girls' Secondary School Certificate no. S 5243*

In January 2020, we opened St Jude's Girls' Secondary School on Sisia Campus with capacity for 600 girls to receive a free education and boarding.

Our primary school facilitated the education of 531 students and we enrolled 413 students at our new girls school. This campus, which was built on land gifted to St Jude's Founder, Gemma Sisia, is equipped with modern classrooms for students from Standard 1 to Standard 7 for primary and Form 1 to Form 4 for girls O Level secondary studies.

It also consists of three sports fields, two playgrounds, two well-stocked libraries, two dining and assembly halls and science and ICT labs.

The School of St Jude Head Office is also located in the middle of this campus.

2.3 Smith Campus

Usa River village

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

During 2020, our secondary school campus was home to 299 boys O Level secondary students from Form 1 to Form 4 and 249 mixed A Level secondary students in Form 5 and 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.

2.4 Moivaro Boarding Campus

Moivaro village

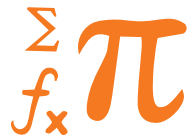
Just a short walk from Sisia Campus, is Moivaro Boarding Campus in Moivaro village. This campus provides the perfect home away from home for students from Standard 6 and 7 in primary and Form 1 to Form 4 in secondary. This modern boarding campus is equipped with a sporting field, study rooms, a dining and assembly hall, boarding rooms and everything our students need to focus on their life-changing education.



2.4 National Examination Results

Standard 4

- 100% of students achieved A's or B's in their exams.
- 3rd out of 80 schools in the Arumeru district.
- 7th out of 370 schools in the Arusha Region.



Standard 7

- 8th out of 69 schools in the Arumeru district.
- 15th out of 370 schools in the Arusha region.
- 100% of our students received A's or B's in their exams.



Form 2

- All students in both the girls and boys school achieved Division I in their national assessment.



Form 4

- We are in the top 2% of schools in Tanzania.

Form 6

- 73rd out of 584 schools in Tanzania.
- 100% of our students passed their exams despite the school being closed for three months due to COVID-19.



3.0 Our graduates





3.1 Beyond St Jude's

The Beyond St Jude's (BSJ) Program was first introduced in 2015 to help our Form 6 graduates start the next stage of their lives, while continuing to develop their leadership potential and community spirit. BSJ is an optional program where St Jude's Form 6 graduates can apply to take part in a Community Service Year (CSY), as one way of giving back in appreciation for the free education they received at St Jude's.

During their community service, they personify the school's vision, voluntarily assisting in government schools, sharing the gifts of their education, or in various placements throughout St Jude's. Since 2015, our community service participants have voluntarily taught core subjects to over 70,000 students in local government schools who otherwise wouldn't have teachers in those areas.

Those who successfully complete their CSY may then be eligible to receive a BSJ scholarship to pursue higher education, enabling them to become the future professionals that their country needs.



- **108** St Jude's Form 6 graduates joined the Community Service Year.
- **70,070** students in under-resourced government schools have been taught by CSY volunteers since the program's inception in 2015. Approximately 30,000 students in 41 government schools were taught by our volunteers in 2020.
- **292** Beyond St Jude's tertiary scholars are attending universities/colleges throughout Tanzania.
- **30** BSJ scholars graduated from university in December 2020 bringing our total tertiary graduates to **54**.
- Over 100 Alumni are giving back to the school through the Alumni Spirit Program .





Where are They Now?

St Jude's alumni are taking steps to achieve their goals

Using human hair to address environmental concerns might seem like a far-fetched idea. However, David (Class of 2019), is recycling human hair and converting it into fertiliser!

David recently completed Beyond St Jude's (BSJ) Community Service Year, teaching physics and biology to approximately 900 students in a Tanzanian government school.

"During my Community Service Year, I found a passion to help the community around me. I also strengthened my passion for recycling hair into usable products for both construction and agriculture industries," David explained.

"The hair we collect is from local hair salons or from school campus. We have started a business and now have employees who collect human hair for us."

As a result of his ingenuity, David was recognised as one of Africa's Top 20 Young Entrepreneurs through a prestigious international competition. His business venture takes its roots here at St Jude's, when David and his friend, Ojung'u (Class of 2019), first showcased their idea at St Jude's Science Day in 2018.

"Ojung'u and I collected human hair and were proud to launch the project at Science Day. We came out as second overall winners out of all the students at Smith Campus!" David grinned.

David and Ojung'u oversee 17 employees and collaborate with more than 100

workers who collect hair for them. Their biggest dream is to conserve the environment, support his community and lift his family out of poverty.

St Jude's is at the forefront of championing female students, so that they can be tomorrow's leaders in a range of fields. Herieth (Class of 2018) is a true inspiration to her fellow female students wanting to pursue studies in science.

Her achievements at St Jude's earned her a full Beyond St Jude's Tertiary scholarship to study a Bachelor of Science with Education at the University Dar es Salaam.

"I'm truly happy to have earned this scholarship. It's lifted a heavy burden from my parents. The money that was meant to contribute to my university education is now going towards my siblings' education," Herieth shared, her eyes glistening with tears of gratitude.

"My dream is to become a Science teacher. I would like to come back to St Jude's and teach upper classes, especially Advanced Level," she added.

Herieth joined in Form 1 – her first year of secondary school. She'd endured the rigours of a government primary school education and was among only a small number of students to achieve one of St Jude's highly contested scholarship places when she applied.

"The first time I heard of St Jude's, I came for Standard 1 and 2 selection.

Unfortunately, I didn't pass the test.

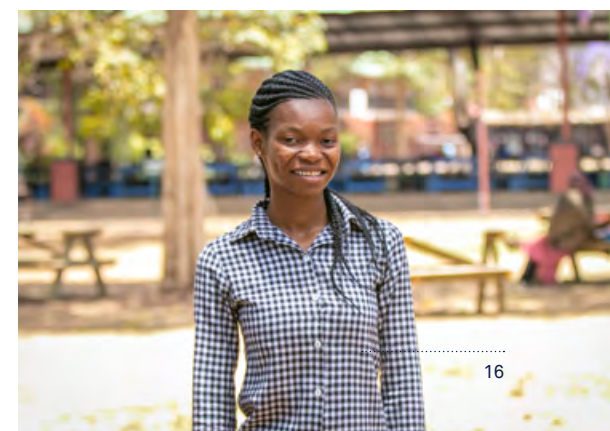
When I graduated from Standard 7, my results were good and I received a letter from St Jude's inviting me to come for an entrance exam and interview. On Student Selection day, there were more than 900 students, but I was lucky enough to pass the test this time and receive the opportunity to join the school," Herieth explained.

Before Herieth started university, she joined BSJ's Community Service Year. Herieth taught chemistry to more than 100 students at a government secondary school. She sometimes even taught Advanced Level subjects, if there was no registered teacher available.

"Without St Jude's I'm not sure what my life would be. I look at my peers and all the girls I studied with at primary school are now either married or divorced with children and they are having a hard time surviving," Herieth shared.

"I truly thank Mama Gemma, my sponsors, all donors and other supporters. They are helping people like myself run away from this cycle of poverty. Without education, life is too hard," she added.

Both David and Herieth are working towards achieving their goals and fulfilling their purposes of helping their communities to fight poverty through the free and high quality education provided by St Jude's, shaping up to become outstanding role models and intellectual leaders of Tanzania.



4.0 Our people



4.1 Our Staff Leaders

St Jude's Primary School

Isaka Silomba

Headteacher

Ndaki Saguda

Deputy Headteacher – Academics

Sebastian Gitbang

Deputy Headmaster – Operations

Reginald Mongi

Deputy Headteacher – Welfare and Discipline

Sr. Zawadi Syahanga

Deputy Headmaster - Boarding

St Jude's Girls' Secondary School

Elimringi Nyange

Headmaster

Wilricky Oisso

Deputy Headmaster - Academics

Sebastian Gitbang

Deputy Headmaster - Operations

Sr. Zawadi Syahanga

Deputy Headmaster - Boarding



St Jude's Secondary School

Erespidus Fikiri

Headmaster

John Frank

Deputy Headmaster - Academics

Humphrey Nkya

Deputy Headmaster - Operations

Lodrick Msaki

Deputy Headmaster - Boarding



St Jude's Head Office

Gemma Sisia *Founder*

Angela Bailey *Deputy Director*

Happy Malinzi *Human Resources Manager*

Johnbosco Heshima *Finance Manager*

Sarah Harrison *Community Relations & Social Impact Manager*

Laurian Mrema *Facilities Manager*

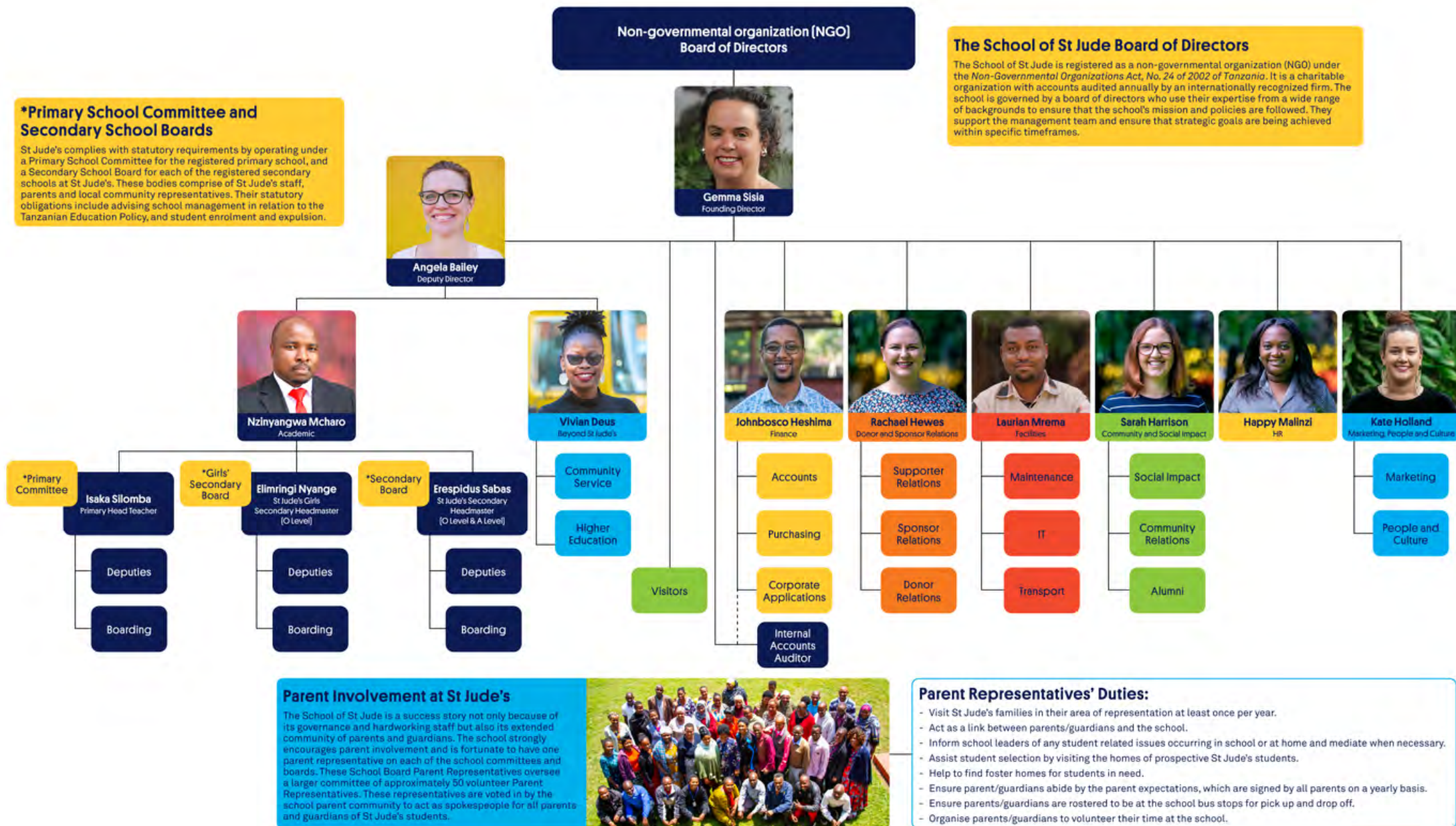
Kate Holland *Marketing, People & Culture Manager*

Nzinyangwa Mcharo *Academic Manager*

Vivian Deus *Beyond St Jude's Manager*

Rachael Hewes *Sponsor and Donor Relations Manager*

4.2 Our Organisational Structure



5.0 Our financials

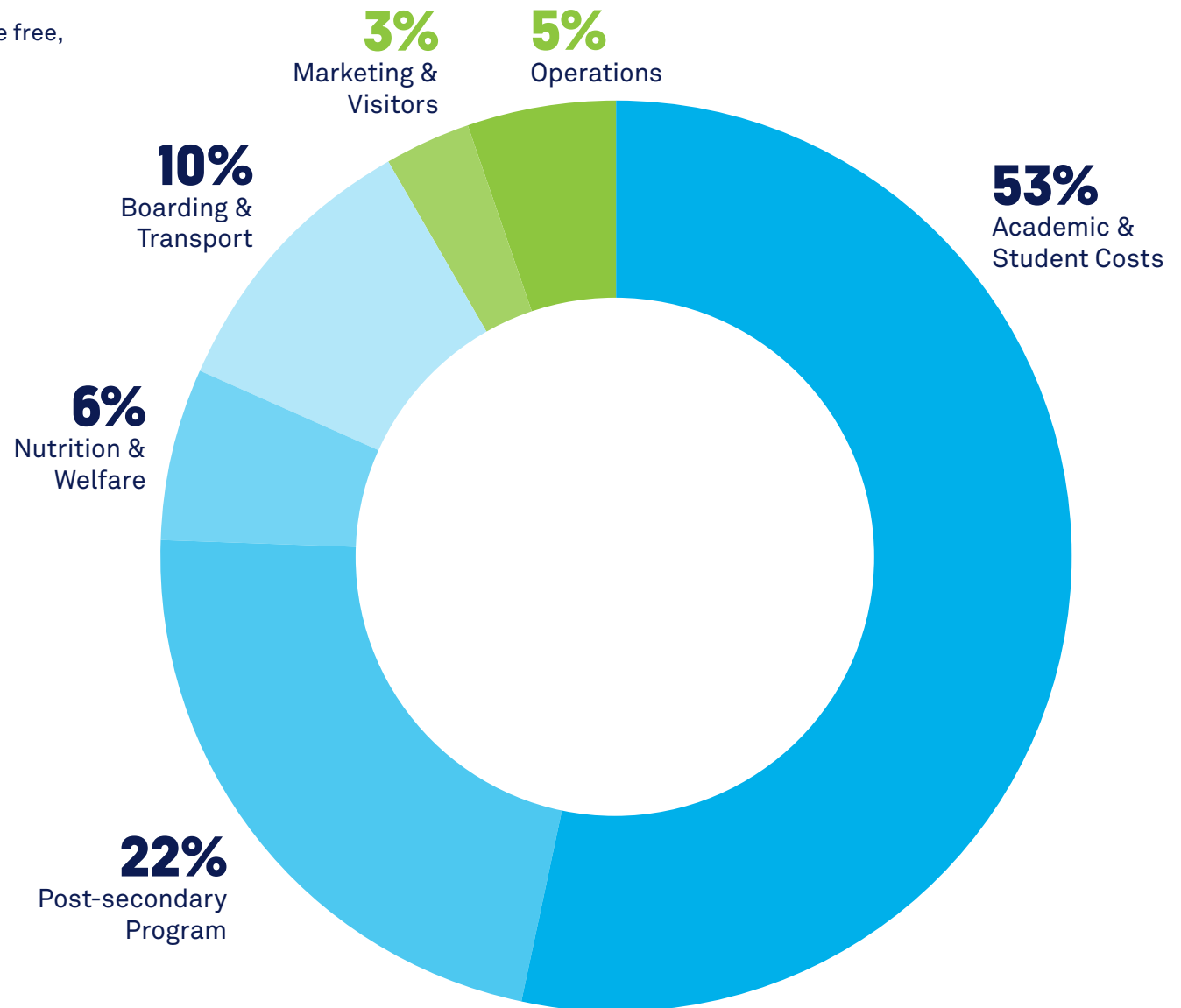




5.1 Spending breakdown

In 2020 it cost 12.9 billion Tanzanian shillings to provide free, high-quality education to our students.

- School
- Management



The School of St Jude injected AU\$7.3 million into Arusha's local economy through purchasing from local suppliers and staff salaries.

AU\$0.99 of every dollar raised in Australia is made available to support The School of St Jude in Tanzania.

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.

Here are some of our super supporters who found creative ways to raise funds for St Jude's, even during a pandemic!

Uphill Cycling Challenge

Andrew is gearing up to challenge himself for St Jude's by riding Red Hill in Canberra 41 times this October. In supporting and raising funds for St Jude's, Andrew has previously cycled alone and unsupported across Tanzania covering a distance of about 1600km.

"I was planning to come back to Tanzania in 2021 for the next great ride, but due to COVID-19 travel restrictions that is not going to happen now. As a substitute, I'm planning to ride up Red Hill in Canberra 41 times on 17 October. That will equal the elevation gain of going up Mount Kilimanjaro – unfortunately, it won't be quite the same experience as the real thing, but I will be thinking of St Jude's on the day."

Below Riding to Raise Funds: Andrew in a group picture with School of St Jude students when he cycled across Tanzania and visited us last year.



Above Visiting St Jude's: Andie enjoying her experience at St Jude's when she visited the school last year on a school trip.

Distance Dinner

Andie Lowe, a long-time supporter of The School of St Jude organised a 'Distance Dinner for St Jude's' intending to raise \$10,000. Amazingly, Andie has already made \$10,000 reaching her set target, but she has high hopes to raise even more funds.

Andie is selling dinner boxes via her website. "Everyone who purchases a dinner box will sit down on 18 October to enjoy an African inspired dinner. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we can't all enjoy dining together, so this is a way to feel connected, from a distance!" she explained.

She added, "I hope to have the support of Methodist Ladies' College (MLC) teachers, students and broader connections to participate. I'll be connecting with people through social media and reaching out to friends, family and my parents and work colleagues."

Andie visited St Jude's last year on a school trip with MLC, thus igniting her passion to fundraise for the school when she returned home.





Right Working with Ease: Finance Manager, Johnbosco Heshima working efficiently thanks to TechnologyOne.

Power of Technology in Fighting Poverty

Not only have they been supporters for the past six years, but they went further earlier last year TechnologyOne officially partnered with St Jude's to provide IT technology that has transformed the school's operational processes. The company's employees raised an additional \$10,000 that went towards 'Funding the salary of one of the IT teachers for an entire year.'

"TechnologyOne has enabled our Managers to now see real-time transactions which means that they no longer wait until the following month to keep track of their expenditure. We have also just rolled out the Enterprise Budgeting Module. This brings an enormous change to the budget process which has had to be completed in numerous spreadsheets in the past,"

Finance Manager, Johnbosco Heshima.

Adding to the same sentiments, Beyond St Jude's (BSJ) Manager, Vivian said, "TechnologyOne has been a lifesaver, quite literally! Since the BSJ program started in 2015, we have solely depended on excel sheets for all data recording and facilitation of payments of stipends and scholarship amounts in general. While excel sheets are still great, everything is so manual, allowing a big room for error and it can be time-consuming. Thanks to TechnologyOne, all my records are accurately systemised. It is also quite centralised, allowing me to find everything about a BSJ Scholar in a few clicks! Budgeting and forecasting are also being made easy and fun to track. Thanks to Kelly and the entire TechnologyOne team, BSJ's life has been made a whole lot easier."

Located in Australia, TechnologyOne is a successful tech company with a heart. Their Foundation is committed to help 500,000 children out of poverty.

Masks for a Cause

Maryanne began making masks when COVID-19 started to spread around Australia and generously used this initiative to fundraise for St Jude's. Through her fundraising efforts, she raised \$4,000, donating the proceeds towards 'Feed a class for a year' and 'Support student welfare for a year.'



Maryanne was also part of the Health Check Team (HCT) in early February this year and returned to Australia just before countries started closing their borders. The HCT is a group of international medical specialists who volunteered for two weeks at the beginning of this year to conduct annual health checks for St Jude's students.

"I started making masks for my family and friends and also put out the offer to everyone that was in the HCT. This kept me busy posting them out to all corners of Australia. As things got more serious in Australia, the requests from friends to buy them from me built. I didn't feel comfortable profiting from my friends so I decided I would sell them with the profits going to The School of St Jude."

Through a family member, Maryanne's masks have been sold to staff and families in the Australian Parliament with members wearing them to Parliament House.

"I would like to thank Caroline Hall and Karenne Michaelides, who are both HCT Volunteers and sponsors of St Jude's students' academic scholarship. They have been a great help with support on the back end."

Right Masked Up: Maryanne busy behind the sewing machine creating hundreds of masks for friends and family.

Left Supporting a Good Cause: Senator Jim Molan at Parliament House in Canberra wearing Maryanne's masks in support of St Jude's.



6.2 Connecting Virtually

In 2020 we welcomed 168 visitors only; a massive decrease from previous years due to the effects of COVID-19 and travel restrictions. So, we adapted to the new norm and went virtual; social distancing does not have to mean socially disconnecting...

The outbreak of COVID-19 sent the whole world into lockdown and it continues to cause major challenges for friends around the globe. However, thanks to technology, it has opened up a unique and exciting opportunity to connect with St Jude's international family of supporters in a whole new way.

In the spirit of bringing new experiences to all supporters, St Jude's introduced a Virtual Visit! International travel was postponed for the foreseeable future, severely reducing the annual number of visitors to the school. Visiting St Jude's is a highlight on many travellers' itineraries to Tanzania. The Virtual Visit provided supporters with a taste of campus culture from the comfort of their couch through videos.

The Virtual Visit explored campus life, boarding facilities, lunchtime, class visits and even extended to a student's home; a memorable experience on many visitor's trips to St Jude's. A home visit is a special part of the school, where the St Jude's team and visitor are welcomed into a student's home, gaining a unique insight into the student's home life. It is a chance to meet a St Jude's student and their family, shining a light on the impact of free, quality education.

"We can't wait to take all supporters and followers of St Jude's on this virtual tour. It's a new experience for many of us; one that allows us to connect, even though parts of the world seem so disconnected," says Gemma Sisia, Founder of The School of St Jude.

St Jude's has also been able to continue sharing all the wonderful news and stories from the school with supporters thanks to the 'boom in Zoom'.

The school introduced Zoom sessions in early June this year with the aim to network, share updates, answer questions and communicate with new and existing sponsors and donors.

"2020 has been such a tough year for many of us, but, there's always a silver lining. By adapting to the coronacrisis, we have created entirely new experiences for the school and myself. Unfortunately, I couldn't see everyone in Australia this year so 'Zooming' was the perfect opportunity to reach out!" says Gemma.

The reception of the Zoom sessions exceeded expectations, proving to be intimate and engaging for both the school and Zoom guests. With extremely positive feedback and encouragement from supporters, the school aims to continue connecting in this way.

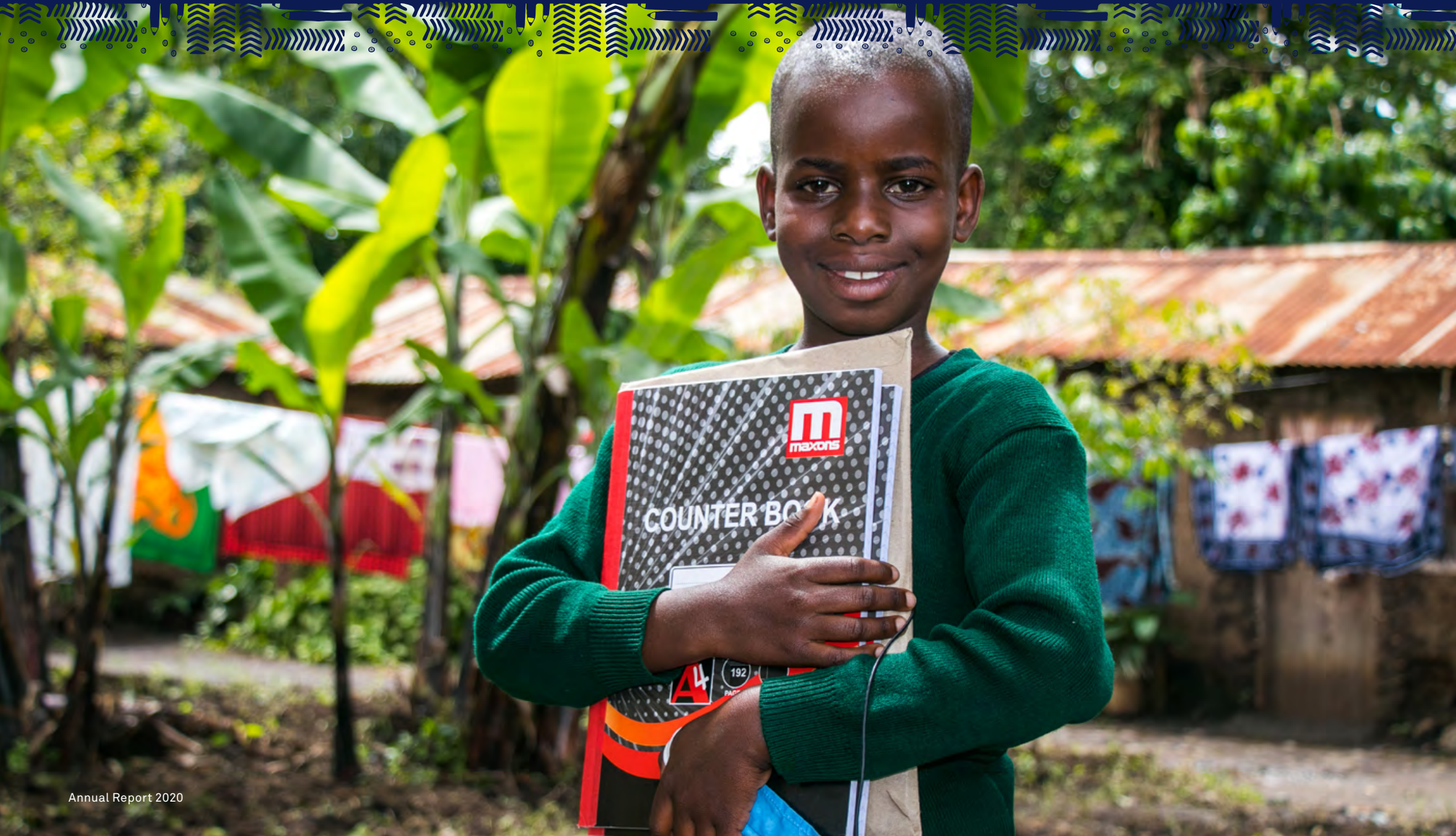
"Technology is truly amazing... I'm able to be in the living rooms of our supporters and on the ground here in Tanzania all at once!" Gemma exclaims.

"This is awesome! So wonderful to make this sort of connection with everyone that ordinarily wouldn't be able to see what is happening at St Jude's. I have so enjoyed this walk around!" writes Donald in a Zoom chat.

"Thank you sincerely for this Zoom. It was very much appreciated. St Jude's work for the children of Africa has been simply amazing," Lyn comments, a Zoom guest.



7.0 Support us



7.1 Contact Us

Events and fundraising

Emily
+61 (0) 497 084 528
australia@schoolofstjude.org

Donations

Robin
+61 (0) 3 9817 6245
schoolofstjudetz@gmail.com

Rotary

Monica
+61 (0) 418 969 598

Call Tanzania

Visitor Coordinator
+255 (0) 758 305 776 or
+255 (0) 787 719 500

Contact Gemma personally

gemma.s@schoolofstjude.co.tz

Postal address

Tanzanian postal address

The School of St Jude
PO Box 11875
Arusha, Tanzania, East Africa

Australian postal address

The School of St Jude
PO Box 82
Kew East VIC 3102

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