



St Jude's News

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Happy St Jude's Day: St Jude's community poses for group photo



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St Jude's Day 2022: A Day of Thanksgiving and Compassion



St Jude's community celebrates St Jude's Day 2022 with, thanksgiving, performances and gifts for the elderly in need.



Happy St Jude's Day: St Jude's community enjoying presentation.

It is 28 October 2022 at The School of St Jude, Sisia Campus. Despite the cloudy weather, the school is particularly vibrant and lively on this Friday morning. Colourful hangings, banners and balloons decorate the dining hall and music can be heard in the air.

Today is a celebration.

“St Jude's Day is one of the events on the school calendar that I always look forward to,” says Jasmine, a Form 6 (the final year of secondary school) student. “It is the day that brings everyone together as one big family,” she adds.

St Jude's Day is a special day to honour Saint Jude, the patron saint of desperate and lost causes for whom the school is named. It has been a tradition over the years to celebrate this day as a community. So, students and staff from all three schools converge onto the one campus for this day.

The first activity of the day is a whole school photo. In a huge logistical effort, everybody assembles on one of the sports fields to pose for a photo, lining up from youngest to oldest.

“When I first started at St Jude's I was one of the students in the front row,” recalls Jasmine. “This time, I was one of the students in the back row. That's how far I have come!” She reflects.

After the photograph comes a thanksgiving mass, during which students and staff alike make offerings of donated goods.

“On this day we exemplify the school's culture by extending the gift of generosity to other people in need,” explains Goodluck, Head Boy at St Jude's Secondary School.





Following Closely: Jasmine enjoying the entertainment on St Jude's Day.

After a celebration lunch, the afternoon of St Jude's Day is dedicated to students' presentations and awards. Students from all year groups took to the stage to compete in various performances from traditional dances to drama. Demonstrating their love for St Jude's and its values, each performance evoked laughter and cheer from the audience.

The 2022 St Jude's Day was capped off with a thrilling football match between staff from Sisia Campus and Smith Campus. On this occasion, staff from Smith Campus emerged with an emphatic victory over their Sisia counterparts.

The School of St Jude has come a long way over the last 20 years. As a community, St Jude's Day is an occasion of thanksgiving and togetherness and exemplifies the spirit of giving to those in need.



Keeping Up The Tradition: St Jude's students receiving donated gifts for the elderly.

This year's St Jude's Day, Goodluck and his fellow student government leaders led the initiative to help elderly community members cope with the rising cost of living. Together with donations from generous international supporters, the student government created St Jude's Day Essentials Packs, a special package consisting of a variety of staple food items for the elderly in need. In the weeks leading up to St Jude's Day, Goodluck and fellow student leaders spearheaded the campaign and raised enough to cover 400 packs.

The St Jude's Day Essentials Packs will be distributed to the elderly on 12 November 2022. It will be a full day of social interaction where students from St Jude's will share conversations, stories and laughter whilst having lunch with the elderly.

"I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to everyone who joined our efforts by donating a St Jude's Day Essentials Pack," says Goodluck. "Because of your generosity, hundreds of elderly people in need will experience joy and relief in rather challenging times."



Celebrating St Jude's Day: Traditional dance from St Jude's primary students.

A big thanks to our supporters for making donations toward St Jude's Day Essentials Packs for the elderly.



Celebrating Scholars



Beyond St Jude's scholars return to St Jude's to celebrate their tertiary graduation with family and friends.

"Let me start by congratulating the 2022 graduates—Well done! Indeed, your hard work has culminated in this momentous occasion," says Bibiana, iNGO Chairperson, during the Beyond St Jude's (BSJ) Recognition Ceremony.

This morning, St Jude's alumni are converging on their old school, some seeing each other for the first time in years, for the inaugural BSJ Recognition Ceremony. Today, all St Jude's alumni graduating with a diploma or degree in 2022 will be recognised in heartfelt St Jude's celebration.

St Jude's alumni are scattered across the country, and indeed, the world. Some attend university with the support of a scholarship from Beyond St Jude's Scholarship Program (BSJSP), while others win external scholarships to support their tertiary education.

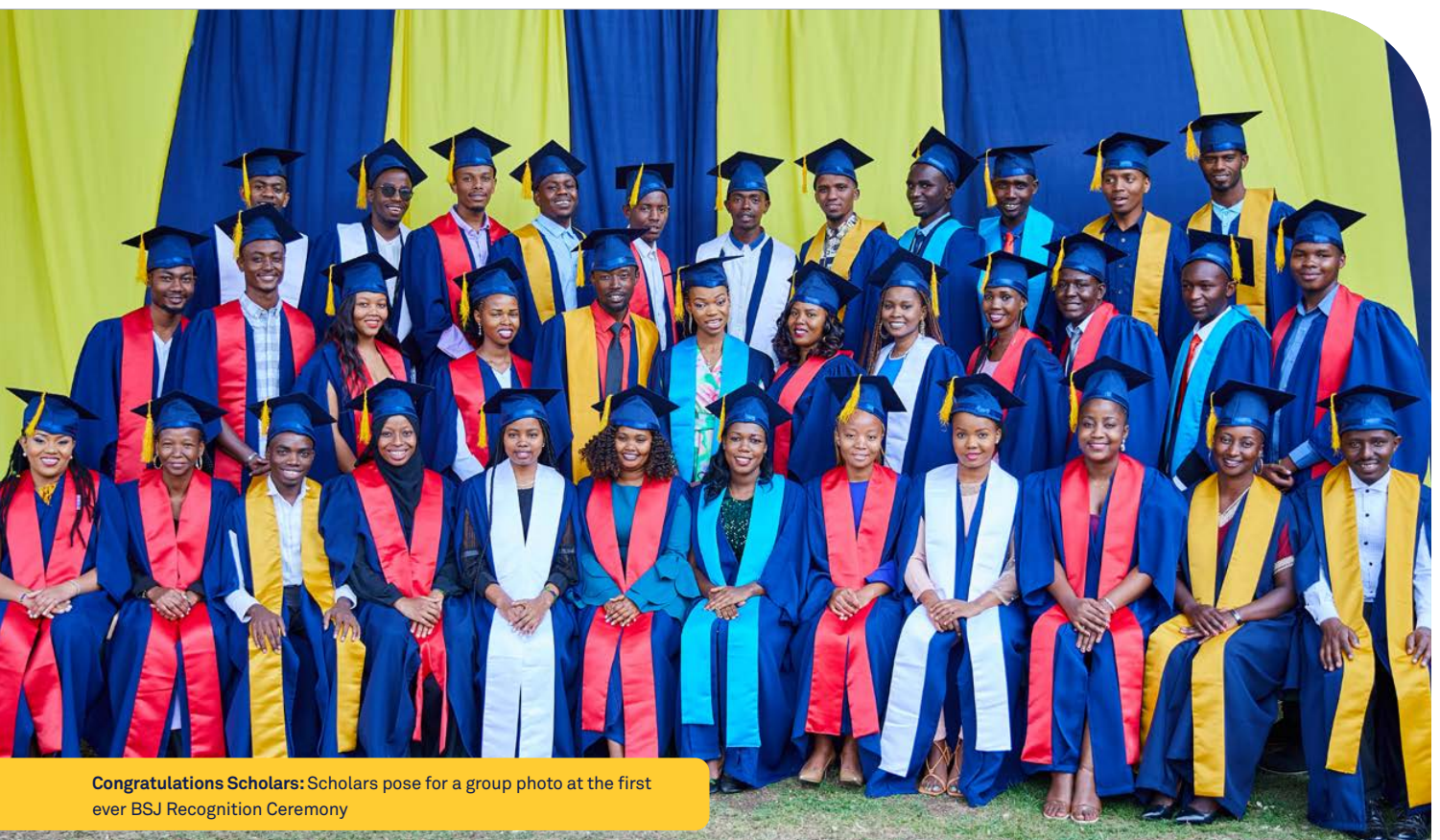


When BSJSP scholars began to graduate from tertiary studies in 2019, just a few representatives from the school could travel the country to attend ceremonies. This new ceremony is first of many to be hosted at St Jude's, allowing parents, staff and visitors alike to share in this special day.

"The graduation ceremony remains one of the most memorable events in anybody's life. In a way, it validates the long journey of academic and social preparations that you've been on," says Bibiana proudly.

Feeling grateful and happy, Benjamin, a graduate with a bachelor degree in electrical engineering, believes he's now one step closer to reaching his goals.

"A decade or more ago, each one of us walked through the gates of St Jude's, some of us were not sure of what we wanted to be in the future, others were sure from the get go. We have come a long way," says Benjamin while addressing the audience during the event.



Congratulations Scholars: Scholars pose for a group photo at the first ever BSJ Recognition Ceremony



Word of Advice: Bibiana shares wisdom with the graduating scholars.

“We must not forget that we have the responsibility to use what we have to better our communities and help create more future leaders of Tanzania,” he says.

“To our generous supporters, we thank you for your incredible support towards our education. You have taught us a very important lesson about giving back and for that we stand proud and walk tall knowing that you made a difference in our communities and now the onus is on us to pay this forward. Thank you for lighting our way!” He adds.



One Last Word: Benjamin delivers his speech to friends, family and St Jude's staff.

Graduates this year include those in the fields of health sciences, engineering, education, and business.

These graduates are the fourth cohort of St Jude's alumni to graduate from tertiary studies, bringing the total number to more than 350. With degrees and diplomas, they are now ready to begin impactful careers, fighting poverty in Tanzania.



Hats Off: Happy scholars celebrate their graduation.

By supporting the BSJ Scholarship Program, you can help transform lives.
Donate or sponsor today!



St Jude's 2022 Form 4 Graduates: (Top) St Jude's Secondary School Form 4 graduates and (bottom) Girls' School Form 4 graduates.

Inspired to Make a Difference

St Jude's Form 4 graduates are ready to give back what was invested in them.

At 17 years old, Stephen is the first member of his family to graduate Form 4. In years to come, he will look back at this accomplishment as one of his defining moments in life.

“This is a historical moment for me,” says Stephen. “I have younger siblings who are looking up to me. Making it past this point is an inspiration to everyone who comes after.”

In Tanzania, secondary education comprises two key stages, Form 1 to 4, which is called Ordinary Level (O Level) and the final two years of secondary school, Form 5 and 6, which are called Advanced Level (A Level).

Graduating Form 4 is a huge milestone for secondary school students in Tanzania. On average, just 12% of Tanzanian students who start Form 1 graduate from Form 4. At St Jude's, 100% of students who start Form 1 graduate from Form 4. This year 146 St Jude's students, from both St Jude's Secondary School and St Jude's Girls' Secondary school, are celebrating this exciting milestone.

Stephen joined St Jude's in 2012 when he was in Standard 1, the first year of primary school. Since then, he has developed his passion for football, enabling him to play in interschool and interclass sports competitions. Stephen has also had the opportunity to develop his leadership skills.

“When I first arrived at St Jude's, I was quite shy,” recalls Stephen. “But as I slowly settled in, my fellow students noticed my rise in confidence and leadership skills.”

Stephen was appointed leader of his class and is currently an active member of the UN Club, where students organise activities and initiatives inspired by the United Nations.

“Being at St Jude's has unlocked a wealth of talents in me,” says Stephen. “As I graduate Form 4, I feel the responsibility of using all that was deposited in me to help others in my community, starting with my siblings back home.”

Graduating along with Stephen is Fatina, another Form 4 student motivated to make a positive change in her community following her studies at St Jude's. Like Stephen, Fatina joined St Jude's from a government school in 2012 when she was in Standard 1. She still remembers her most surprising moments when she first arrived at St Jude's.

"We had mats and cushions in class," recalls Fatina. "I must have dozed off a few times during reading lessons because it was so comfy. I had never imagined a class so comfortable," she adds with a smile.

The massive opportunities available at St Jude's only served to Fatina's curiosity. She has practised art and music; aired her opinion in debates and public speaking; and tried her hand at basketball and netball.

"Studying at St Jude's has been such an immersive experience for me," says Fatina. "I feel the responsibility of sharing what I have freely acquired with others," she adds.

Fatina is passionate about women and youth and aspires to become a social worker and an activist for women's rights. Her dream is to see a society where young people, particularly women live to fulfil their potential and improve their communities.



A Proud Moment: Stephen receives a certificate of recognition for his role as a leader.



A Day to Remember: Fatina (middle) with her proud parents before her graduation ceremony.

Fatina and Stephen graduate Form 4 equipped with not only a strong academic background, but also a wealth of extracurricular skills that would surely come in handy down the line. In the next few weeks, they will sit their Form 4 National Examinations and we all wish them all the best. After exams comes a long wait for results before they apply for scholarships either to join A Level or join the Beyond St Jude's Alternative Pathways Program. Whichever path they take in pursuit of their dreams, the experience at St Jude's will remain a constant source of inspiration and courage.

Your support helps students fulfil their academic potential and develop leadership qualities to lift their communities out of poverty. **Donate today!**



His Second Home: Stephen (right) has been at St Jude's for over 10 years!



St Jude's Day: The whole school poses for a group photo in 2006.

Watch us grow!

St Jude's Day photos over the years show just how much has changed for the school.

Back in 2006, The School of St Jude held its first ever St Jude's Day, a day for thanksgiving, celebration and sharing. The whole school, which numbered just 662 primary students and 114 staff at the time, gathered for a service, entertainment by students and a special meal.

Sixteen years later, and the general format for the day has remained the same, but almost everything else has changed! In 2022, the school numbers 1,800, with more than 300 staff.

Back in 2006, St Jude's catered to the first five years of primary school, but today St Jude's comprises three schools; one primary and two secondary.

Now, St Jude's Day is held at each school on a rotating basis, and in 2022, the event was held at St Jude's Girls' Secondary School.

Though St Jude's is a relatively young school, its traditions, like the annual St Jude's Day celebration, have a special role in the school community.

St Jude's is growing all the time.

Donate or **sponsor** to support free, quality education for 1,800 students.