



St Jude's News

JAN 2023



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A Record High: 2022 saw the largest number of applicants for St Jude's scholarships. Over 4,500 applicants arrived at the school's three Scholarship Application Days.

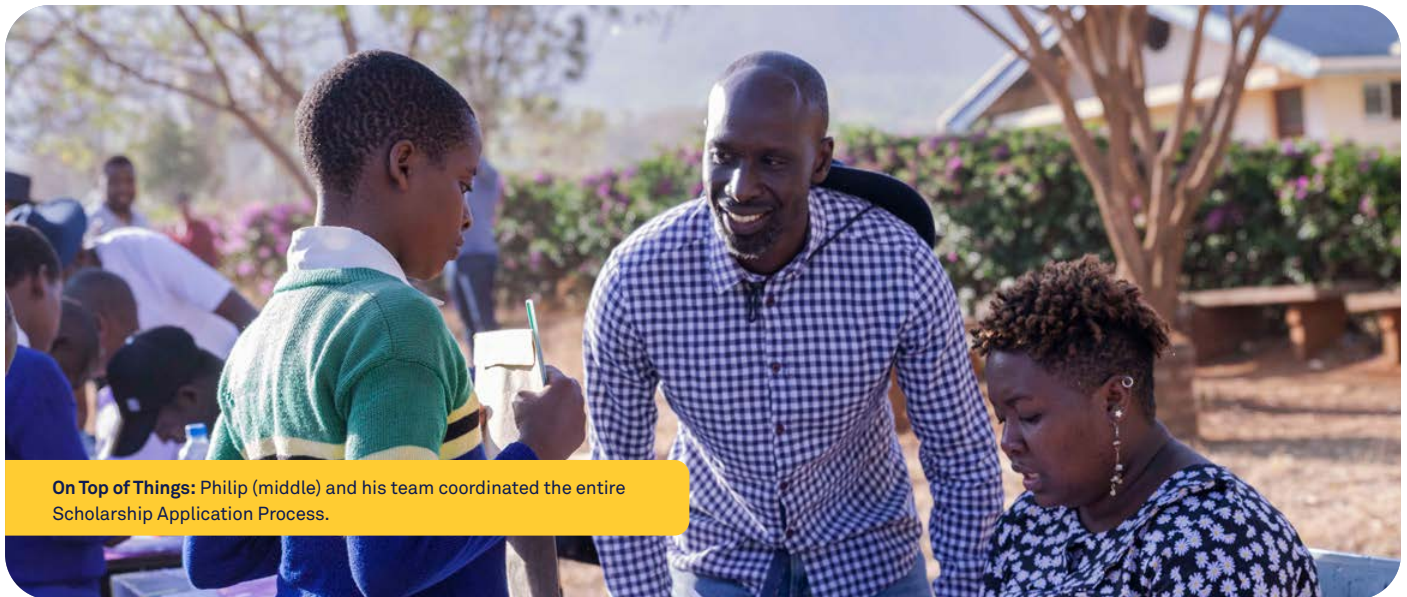


Our Australian fundraising partner is registered as The School of St Jude Ltd and is responsible for all funds raised in Australia.

Adventures in Education



The School of St Jude community rises to the challenge of facilitating the largest number of Form 1 scholarship applications to date!



On Top of Things: Philip (middle) and his team coordinated the entire Scholarship Application Process.

A scholarship for secondary education at The School of St Jude is life changing.

In Tanzania, almost 80% of students complete primary school, but just 70% of 14 to 17-year-olds are enrolled in secondary school. Of these students, just 12% complete the first four years of secondary education.

In contrast, 100% of St Jude's secondary students successfully complete those same four years.

"Student scholarships for secondary school are highly sought after," says Philip, Community Relations Manager at St Jude's. "Every year, thousands of students from government schools apply for a scholarship at St Jude's," he adds.

Philip and his team are responsible for the entire Scholarship Application Process at St Jude's. To ensure that they select students who meet the school's academic and poverty requirements, Philip coordinates with other institutions such as the National Examination Council of Tanzania, the body responsible for preparing, marking, grading, and finally releasing national results for Standard 7 (end of primary school) examinations.

"The Standard 7 national results help us identify students that best fit St Jude's scholarship requirements from an academic perspective," explains Philip. "The sooner we have the results, the sooner we are able to start the Scholarship Application Process," he adds.

However, in 2022 the Standard 7 results were unexpectedly delayed, leaving Philip and his team with just a few weeks to complete the Scholarship Application Process.

"Our target was to invite about 4,000 applicants," says Philip. "This involves delivering letters to hundreds of government schools to invite their top performing students to attend Scholarship Application Days, then we hold the Scholarship Application Days and after that, there are Poverty Assessments for students who have passed the exams. This all had to be done in a span of about three weeks!" He continues.

Faced with this seemingly impossible challenge, Philip and his team sought help from St Jude's staff – and they responded in kind. In a matter of days, hundreds of St Jude's staff and alumni had spread across Northern Tanzania, happily assisting with letter distribution to ensure that all eligible students could attend the school's

Scholarship Application Days. Some staff volunteered their personal vehicles to supplement the St Jude's bus fleet, while many made use of local transport, like motorcycle taxis, to reach remote areas quickly.

"I have never seen such team spirit and unity in my career," recalls Philip. "It's like we had an army of ants working for us," he adds.

To make the job even bigger, 2022 was the first year students from Dodoma region could apply for a St Jude's scholarship, in addition to those from Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions.

Yet, with an amazing show of spirit, 38 staff and 68 volunteers successfully delivered 4,936 letters to 1,013 schools, ensuring that the Scholarship Application Days could proceed as planned in early December.

On the days themselves, the prospective students sat examinations and completed short interviews. Those who passed with good marks were then placed on a list to receive a House Check from St Jude's staff, who performed Poverty Assessments to determine which students would benefit most from a scholarship to study at St Jude's.

Erland was one of the many St Jude's staff who spent several days completing House Checks in the Dodoma region.

"I had never travelled to that part of the country before, so it was an adventurous experience," says Erland.

With the deadline approaching quickly, Erland and his team had to move fast. However, they found themselves facing navigational and communication challenges, and meeting a few surprises along the way.

"We soon found out that a majority of our contacts were older people and didn't speak Kiswahili (Tanzania's national language) fluently," recalls Erland. "It was difficult to even arrange a rendezvous. And then at one point, our vehicle broke down and wouldn't start. So we had to push it until we finally got help from the locals," he narrates.

The most remote house Erland and his team had to visit was hidden away in a forest that was also home to wild animals, including hyenas.



Every Way Possible: St Jude's staff and volunteers got creative in the field, such as using local transport to save time.



Whatever it Takes: Erland and his team push a vehicle with assistance from helpful locals.

"It took us close to an hour just to navigate the thick forest," recalls Erland. "I honestly didn't think we would find anyone living there," he admits.

Despite the challenges, the 2022 Form 1 Scholarship Application Process was a huge success. On 9 January 2023, 178 new students started Form 1 at St Jude's two secondary schools, joining 62 students who have continued at St Jude's from primary school.

The commitment to giving bright, poor Tanzanian students a free, quality education is one that requires self-sacrifice and willpower. Yet again, the St Jude's community has demonstrated that they are more than equal to the task.

Make a donation!
Your support enables St Jude's to share the gift of free, quality education with students who need it most.



51 New Beginnings



At The School of St Jude, newly enrolled Standard 1 and 2 students are finding their feet.

On 9 January, there are 51 new faces at St Jude's Primary School; the most recently enrolled students in Standard 1 and 2 (the first two years of primary). Sporting brand new school uniforms and radiant smiles, you can easily spot them in the playground during morning tea and lunch, excitedly trying one game after another.

"I was amazed at the soccer field," says Tonny*, a Standard 1 student at St Jude's.

Like many Tanzanian students, Tonny's favourite sport is soccer. Back at his former school, there was just one soccer ball for the entire school and during break time, everyone scrambled for it. With many games and sports options at St Jude's, Tonny can choose to have fun in a variety of ways.

"The playground is full of exciting games," says Tonny. "Sometimes, I like swinging on the swings and sometimes I play soccer with my friends," he admits.

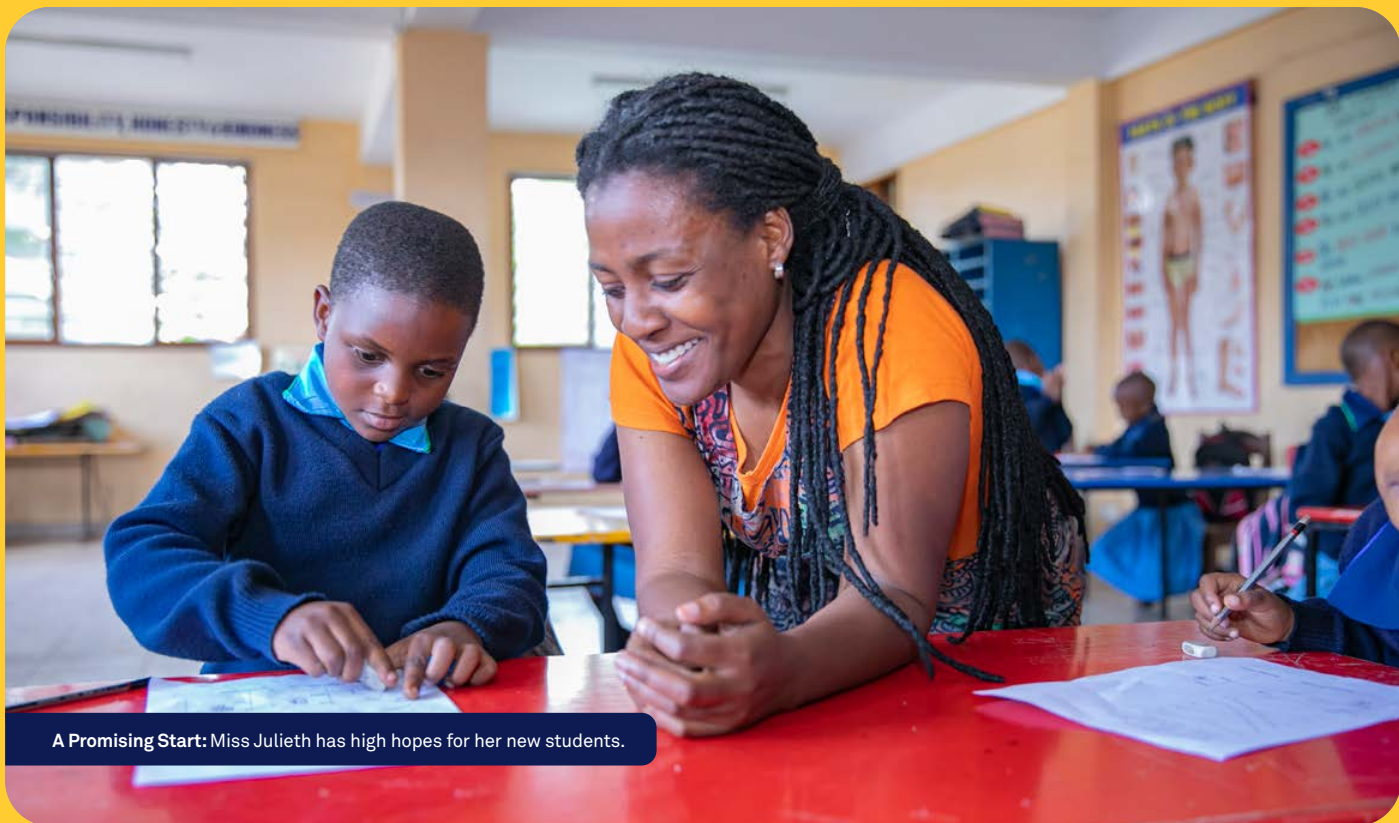


His New Home: Tonny and 50 other students in Standard 1 and 2 embark on an exciting academic journey at St Jude's.

As the recipient of a St Jude's scholarship, Tonny is receiving everything he needs for a successful education – the tuition of experienced teachers, school uniforms, safe bus transport, stationery, textbooks, extracurricular activities, daily morning tea and hot lunch, access to a well-stocked library and up-to-date computer labs.



Living It Up: Tonny makes the most of the resources available at St Jude's.



A Promising Start: Miss Julieth has high hopes for her new students.

“I have seen a lot of interesting books at the library,” he says. “And the music and art rooms are great,” he adds excitedly. In class, Tonny’s favourite subject is mathematics.

For Miss Julieth, a Standard 1 teacher, watching students like Tonny explore their curiosity and passion is a fulfilling sight to see.

“I have been a teacher at St Jude’s for over 10 years now,” says Miss Julieth. “My experience with new students keeps getting better and better,” she adds passionately.

Miss Julieth is particularly excited about this year’s Standard 1 and 2 students. The more she gets to know her students, the more she is impressed with their potential and excited about their future.

“They learn and adapt very quickly, both in class and outside,” she says. “I can tell they are having the time of their lives,” she adds.

Although Tonny has always enjoyed school, St Jude’s has become his new favourite place. He is not only looking forward to learning new things at school, but he enjoys the experience of going and coming from school as well.

“Back at my old school, I used to walk to and from school every day,” says Tonny. “But now I am jumping on the school bus.”

Like Tonny, the rest of his classmates in Standard 1 and 2 are slowly finding their way around St Jude’s, curiously feeding their minds with all the resources available at the school. With guidance from teachers like Miss Julieth, and support from St Jude’s global community of supporters, these students are well on the path to becoming the moral and intellectual leaders that their country needs.

*Tonny has only been learning English for three weeks, so his responses here are translated from Kiswahili.



Could you **sponsor a scholarship** for one of St Jude’s newest future leaders?

An Investment in Science



At St Jude's Girls' Secondary School, a project has just begun which is inspiring future Tanzanian leaders.



Scientists in the Making: Regular laboratory sessions inspire students to develop an interest in science-related careers.

At St Jude's Girls' Secondary School, a new construction project is in the works. Everyone on campus is excited about the new project, especially Mr Elimringi, the Headmaster.

"A new biology laboratory is under construction at the school!" declares Mr Elimringi. "These are exciting times for my students," he adds enthusiastically.

Although St Jude's Girls' Secondary School was only opened in 2020, it has grown rapidly by enrolling highly motivated female students with an interest in science subjects. It soon became apparent that an expansion of infrastructure was necessary to accommodate the rising number of students.

"We started off with two science laboratories; one for physics and the other for chemistry and biology," explains Mr Elimringi. "However, in order to meet the academic requirements of our growing number of students, an independent biology laboratory was necessary," he continues.

His sentiments are echoed by Mr Lowassa, a Biology Teacher and Head of Chemistry and Biology Departments at St Jude's Girls' Secondary School.

"Biology is the kind of subject that requires plenty of practice to master it effectively," he says. "With the new laboratory, students will be able to perform frequent practical sessions and develop a deeper interest in the subject," he adds.

In Tanzania, there are two key stages to secondary schooling, the first four years of secondary school are called Ordinary Level (O Level) studies; from Form 1 to Form 4 and the final two years of secondary school are called Advanced Level (A Level); Form 5 and 6.

Unlike physics and chemistry which become optional for the latter half of O Level education, the Tanzanian curriculum requires biology to remain a core subject for the entire duration of O Level secondary education. This means all students at St Jude's Girls' Secondary School must take biology.

Although it's a compulsory subject, it's clear that students at St Jude's Girls' Secondary School love biology – the 2022 Form 4 class recently received an overall grade of A in their national examination results!



Good Times Ahead: Mr Elimringi believes the introduction of the new biology laboratory will inspire more students to develop an interest in science subjects.



Where it all Started: Salome credits her interest in science subjects to experiments.

“The new laboratory will not only improve our academic performance as a school,” says Mr Lowassa. “But it will also spark and renew interest in the subject, especially with new students joining us every year,” he adds.

Salome is the school’s Head Girl and one of its top biology students. Her love for biology dates back to a practical session she had when she was in primary school.

“Our teacher introduced us to food tests, a series of experiments to determine different food types,” she recalls. “The experience captured my interest immediately, although I didn’t fully understand the theory behind it at the time,” she adds.

Now, Salome hopes to pursue a career as a doctor and specialise in women’s and children’s health.

The new biology laboratory will be one of a kind, bigger and better than the current shared biology and chemistry lab. It will have the capacity to host 60 students at a single session with spacious working spaces and modern equipment. Furthermore, the laboratory will be equipped with improved technology for specimen preservation and storage, a ventilation system and an extra-large projector.

The project is fully funded through generous donations from the school’s international supporters. Expected to be completed later this year, the new biology laboratory is a timely and important addition to the thriving and vibrant science culture at St Jude’s Girls’ Secondary School.



Brick by Brick: The ongoing construction of the biology laboratory is a big project at St Jude’s.

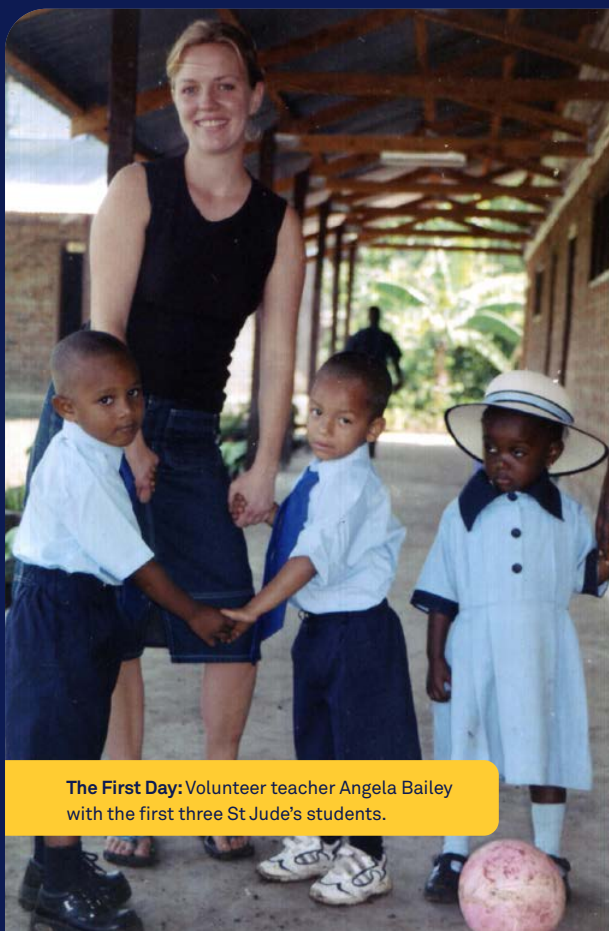
Your support enables The School of St Jude to build modern infrastructure to facilitate the best academic performance for Tanzania’s future leaders. **Donate today!**



Three Students and One Teacher



Travel back in time to the first day at St Jude's.



The First Day: Volunteer teacher Angela Bailey with the first three St Jude's students.



St Jude's is still growing!
Make a [donation](#) to support the next steps.

21 years ago, on 29 January 2002,

The School of St Jude welcomed its very first class.

On that first day, there were just three students, taught by a single volunteer teacher, Angela Bailey.

Within weeks the school had grown, so that by 2003 there were 120 students.

Over the years, more students were granted scholarships, more land was purchased, more classrooms built, boarding houses opened and a second school started, then a third. Students graduated from primary school, then secondary and started university with the support of St Jude's.

From humble beginnings,

St Jude's grew and grew, with the support of an international community of supporters.

Today, St Jude's educates 1,800 students,

employs over 300 staff and supports more than 300 scholars at college and university.

In all the excitement and nerves of that first day in 2002,

who could have predicted what St Jude's would achieve by 2023?