



St Jude's News



Embracing Kindness: St Jude's students on their way to donate vegetables from the school farm to an orphanage centre.



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



Our American fundraising partner is registered as American Friends of The School of St Jude, Tanzania, Inc. and is responsible for all funds raised in the USA.



Sowing Seeds
of Kindness

Page 2



The Journey of
a Changemaker

Page 4



Did you know?

Page 6



Q&A with Victoria

Page 7



Sowing Seeds of Kindness

Our proud student farmers share the shamba's bountiful harvest with the less fortunate members of the community.



Working the Ground: At the school shamba, students learn about sustainability in a practical way.

At St Jude's Secondary School, Smith Campus is a plot of land commonly called the school shamba (shamba means farm in Kiswahili). It's one of the most beautiful places on campus, thriving year-round with fresh fruits, vegetables, and livestock. The shamba also serves as a practical learning ground for our students' agriculture lessons and a source of nutritious, homegrown food for the school.

Although the farm is confined within the school walls, it has recently become a new outlet for St Jude's kindness, extending its benefits into the wider community.

"One of the common community outreach activities at school is volunteering to assist at local orphanages during weekends," explains Zuberi, a student at St Jude's Secondary School. "After doing this for a while, two of our schoolmates came up with a brilliant idea to go the extra mile," he adds.

The pair, inspired to make a more tangible impact, conceived an initiative to cultivate vegetables at the school shamba and donate the harvest to special groups of people within the community.

The proposal was well received by the school, and a small piece of land was allocated to the group. Soon, word started spreading around campus, attracting other students to join the initiative.

"I was one of the first volunteers to join the group," recounts Zuberi. "We immediately set to work, dedicating our spare time to bring the project to fruition," he adds.

The group comprises members from different year levels working in rotations, ensuring the farm is not neglected despite their busy schedules throughout the week. The group members consistently dedicate several hours to tending their vegetable garden on weekends and after-school hours. No wonder the farm yields bountiful harvests.



Happy to Help: Zuberi (middle) with other members of the group on their way to donate vegetables.

“Everyone is supportive, generously sacrificing their free time and effort for a cause,” says Zuberi passionately. “It is truly the spirit of St Jude’s in action,” he adds.

One of the active members of the group is Jastini, a St Jude’s student particularly interested in agriculture and supporting children. Jastini comes from an agricultural background and loved farming from a young age. So, when he came across the initiative that supports the less fortunate through the school shamba, he quickly jumped at the opportunity.

“It’s one of those activities that I look forward to whenever I have a few minutes to spare,” says Jastini with a smile. “The fact that I get to do something that I enjoy and still impact others is enough motivation for me,” he adds.

Though the group is only several months old, they have already harvested over 200 kg of vegetables, most of them going to orphanage centres around Arusha, with the rest supplementing the nutritional needs of students on special diets at school. On their last outing, the group donated fresh vegetables to a nearby orphanage centre in addition to assisting with manual tasks and playing with children.

“Our aim is to help the centres offset their operating costs for food while providing children with essential nutrients for their growth,” explains Jastini. “Knowing that we are making a difference in the lives of the children at these orphanages makes all our efforts worth it,” he adds passionately.

The St Jude’s Spirit Program is a movement that unites our community in performing acts of service anchored on the school values of Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, and Kindness. Through this program, we celebrate and share stories of people who go above and beyond to help nurture Tanzania’s future moral and intellectual leaders.

As part of the wider St Jude’s community, we invite you to unite with our students, their families, staff, and alumni in the spirit of giving.



Giving Back: Jastini at the orphanage during the group’s latest outing.

Join our students in the spirit of giving by donating to support St Jude’s in fighting poverty through education.
Donate Today.



The Journey of a Changemaker

Irene returns to lead positive change in her hometown after pursuing higher education.

Like most students joining St Jude's for the first time, Irene was blown away by her initial impression of the school. The highly resourced environment and the various opportunities at St Jude's motivated her to explore new interests and hobbies.

"I started at St Jude's when I was in Standard 2, so almost everything was a new experience," recalls Irene. "I loved playing in the sand after school hours, picked up volleyball as a hobby, and ooh, the school buses – I loved them so much," she adds with a smile.

Irene went on to spend the next 12 years at St Jude's, excelling in academics while developing crucial leadership and communication skills. She was an active member of several clubs, including public speaking, debate, and the book club. After completing her secondary education, she promptly joined the Beyond St Jude's Scholarship Program (BSJSP), where she spent a year in community service, further honing her leadership abilities.

Her efforts and determination paid off, and Irene won an international scholarship to pursue higher education in neighbouring Kenya.

"I learned many things throughout my time at St Jude's, and one that has always stuck with me is the responsibility to give back and make a positive change in my community," reflects Irene. "As I left to pursue my childhood dream of becoming a businesswoman, I knew it would involve the community somehow," she adds.

Fuelled by her spirit of hard work and resilience, Irene wasted no time in turning her dream into reality. She capitalised on her skills and experience from St Jude's by earning a Bachelor's degree in International Business Administration.

After university, she went straight into entrepreneurship, putting her knowledge to good use by launching a clothing business in her hometown of Arusha. Within just a few years, Irene's business skyrocketed, opening job opportunities to others.



Meet the Founders: Irene and her co-founder at their centre.

Did you know?

Irene is one of the many graduates from St Jude's whose businesses are providing employment in the community.

Since our first graduates in 2015, 30 St Jude's alumni have gone on to start their businesses and, in the process, employed 250 people.



Irene, however, was far from done. In due time, she expanded on her positive impact on the community.

"I met a friend who had a successful recovery from addiction," Irene narrates. "The more I learned about his journey and experience, the

more I was inspired. After many discussions and research, we teamed up to start our own rehabilitation centre here in Arusha,” she adds proudly.

The first days weren’t easy for Irene. She enrolled in a special NA (Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous) program to better understand addiction while multitasking between her business and getting the rehab program off the ground.

“Though quite challenging, it was worth it,” reflects Irene.

Today, the centre has 30 residents recovering from different types of addiction. Her program follows a holistic approach to helping individuals achieve lasting recovery, focusing on mental wellness, emotional support, group therapy, and spiritual guidance as part of their daily sessions. Irene oversees the entire operation, ensuring everything runs smoothly. She routinely stays in touch with the residents’ families, updating them on their progress.



Inspiring Kindness: Irene delivering a keynote speech during Tanzania's Uhuru Torch Race event in Arusha.



Leader in the Making: Irene during her St Jude's days.

“Over 68% of those who seek help through our program achieve sobriety and go on to lead productive lives,” remarks Irene. “One of our managers at the centre was once a resident here who achieved full recovery and is now helping others do the same,” she adds proudly.

Irene and her partner plan to expand their operations to include vocational training to equip their residents with practical skills to make a living once they leave the centre. Despite the big plans, Irene remains focused, taking it one day at a time with her mantra: “Just for today.”

“It means dealing with what is in front of me today. When tomorrow comes, we’ll sort it out with the same weight as the present,” she explains. “It’s one of the many things I learned through the NA program,” she adds.

Irene’s journey reflects the values of kindness and respect, which are core to St Jude’s. Her story showcases the ripple effect of education and how it can empower communities to achieve and do more. You can support St Jude’s by spreading the word about our stories and impact in fighting poverty through education.

Our stories can reach more people
and go further with your help!
Spread the Word today.

Did you know?

Tanzania has a special day for farmers to celebrate their contributions to the nation. Here are some facts about the day!

Agriculture is the backbone of Tanzania's economy. Contributing roughly 30% of the country's GDP, the agriculture sector sustains the livelihood of about 65% of the population who depends on it directly and indirectly. This is why farming is an important part of the culture and widely celebrated by Tanzanians, especially on Farmer's Day, more popularly known by its Kiswahili name, "Nane Nane."

Nane Nane

[Nah-nay Nah-nay] noun

Etymology

The word Nane Nane is of Kiswahili origin, Tanzania's national language. The word "Nane" means "eight" in Kiswahili; thus, the term, in English, means "eight eight."

The name of this national holiday is a direct reference to the date when it is held, on every 8th of August (the eighth month). The celebrations also take eight days as agricultural fairs are organised in key locations nationwide from August 1 onwards and culminating on the day of the national holiday.

History

Nane Nane Day dates back to the early years of Tanzanian independence in 1961. It started as a small-scale farmers' celebration in rural areas, growing over the years to become a national event. The Tanzanian government officially recognised Nane Nane as a public holiday in the 1990s.

Activities

Nane Nane celebrations are marked by agricultural exhibitions with farmers, agricultural experts, and other stakeholders showcasing their products, innovations, and technologies. These exhibitions are held in various regional centres across the country, with the largest typically being in Dodoma, Tanzania's capital city. In Arusha, the place where the exhibition grounds for Farmers' Day are located, has become popularly known as Nane Nane.



Proud Farmers: St Jude's students and their mentors show off some of the produce from the school farm.

Learn about Tanzania's rich culture and improve your Kiswahili by booking a visit to St Jude's. **We love visitors! Visit us.**



Q&A with Victoria

From excelling as a top student to an inspiring volunteer teacher, Victoria shares her journey of academic achievement and community service.



Leading by Example: Victoria now gives back to her community as a volunteer teacher.

Three months ago, our 2024 Form 6 graduates set the best-ever record in the history of national exam performance at St Jude's. All but one of our 200 graduates got Division 1s and 2s—enabling us to achieve a 100% pass rate. And the top performer of the lot? A female student, Victoria, got straight A's in all her core subjects!

The final two years of secondary school education in Tanzania are known as Advanced Level (A Level) Forms 5 and 6. At the end of the final year of secondary school, students sit for a series of standardised examinations organised by the government through the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA).

Today, Victoria is a Community Service Year (CSY) volunteer teaching geography at a local government school through the Beyond St Jude's Scholarship Program (BSJSP). She shares about her life at school, rising to the top of her class, and her experience as a Community Service volunteer so far.

How long have you been at St Jude's?

I have been at St Jude's for 14 years! That's all the way from primary to secondary school. So, many of my friends and core life memories are from St Jude's.

What did you like most while at school?

I loved Mathematics! I pursued it all the way to my A Level studies. Besides studying, I played netball. I was also part of the Interact Club and volunteered to teach government school students in remedial classes.

How did you rise to the top of your class?

I wasn't always the top performer and it wasn't something I achieved overnight. It was built upon years of support from teachers, fellow students, and hard work.

What are some handy tips that helped you improve your scores?

It was not a tip but a piece of advice from my sponsor. My sponsor sent me a letter encouraging me to dream big and believe I could achieve anything I set my mind on. This inspired me to dream big, believe in myself, and work hard.

How do you find your CSY experience so far?

This is the best decision I have ever made! I love teaching others, so the experience of giving back is truly fulfilling. I teach about 93 students, and the best part of my day is interacting with them. They often ask me to extend lessons and even help bring my materials from the office before class.

The ripple effect created when you sponsor a scholarship at St Jude's goes beyond the student and their families—it ignites change in the entire community. [Sponsor Today.](#)