



# St Jude's News



**Mission Accomplished:** St Jude's Founding Director, Gemma Sisia, in a group photo with the 2024 Cycling Africa team, staff, and students from St Jude's.



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.



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# Cycling for a Cause

The 2024 Cycling for Africa team aims to raise AU\$20,000 to support free education at St Jude's.



**Super Supporters:** The 2024 Cycling for Africa team at Kigali, Rwanda ahead of their adventure.

The scorching heat, rough roads, wild animals, and the risk of getting lost are just some of the challenges awaiting Andrew and his team of six other cyclists. Yet Andrew keeps his good spirits and sense of humour, sharing regular updates on social media as the team begins their gruelling 1,600km cycling adventure across East Africa.

“Our little adventure will support free education for students whose families can’t afford it,” writes Andrew on one of his social media posts. “Every AU\$3,200 we raise can fund one student’s education for a year, including stationery, tuition, transport, boarding, extracurricular programs – everything they would need for a successful education. That’s a good enough motivation,” he shares.

Andrew is no stranger to challenging himself for St Jude’s. In 2019, he went on a solo adventure to cycle about 1,600km in East Africa to raise funds for the school. This was followed by another similarly demanding challenge in 2020 with nine other cyclists. When he couldn’t travel to East Africa in 2021 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, he rode the Red Hill in Canberra 41 times, equalling the elevation of Africa’s tallest mountain, Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

Now, five years since his first solo adventure, Andrew is returning to East Africa for a third round of adventure with six other motivated cyclists. Some are returning from previous expeditions, while a few are joining for the first time. One cyclist, who found the team on Facebook, joined after commenting, “I’m struggling to find a reason not to do this.”



**Pedal After Pedal:** The team typically puts between 60 – 130km cycling everyday.

Although most of the team is mostly made up of men from older generations with established careers in law, banking, and medicine, this year's trip features a welcome change. One of the members from the previous expedition is bringing his son along for the adventure, making them the first father-son duo to cycle for St Jude's.

"We are particularly delighted to have someone to bring the average age of the team down by a significant amount," notes Andrew. "But we're all scared of him because we think he'll be an awful lot fitter than us old guys!" adds Andrew jokingly.

The adventure is underway, with the team riding from Kigali, Rwanda, heading east across Tanzania.

They entered Tanzania a few weeks ago and are now pushing to the northeast corner of the country. In between, they will pass Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake, loop around the iconic Mt Kilimanjaro, and touch the Kenyan border to the east.

The route will take them through Arusha, where they will briefly visit St Jude's to see firsthand the impact of their support.

"The ride has been developed in the true spirit of adventure. Each day, we will ride to the next general destination, find somewhere to stay and something to eat, and get up the next day to do it all again!" shares Andrew on his fundraising website.

"By the end of the ride, we will have seen some of what Africa's all about, from the busy cities to villages to farms to Maasai grazing lands to amazing wildlife," he adds.

Andrew and his team are hoping to raise AU\$20,000 for St Jude's throughout the cycling adventure. You can follow their progress on Instagram, Facebook, and their website, where they share photos and stories while on the road. By donating or simply sharing their journey, you can be part of this amazing story and help students access quality, holistic education.

Support Andrew and his team by **donating to their fundraising page** and helping them reach their goal.



# Innovating for the Community

**Subtitle: Meet the aspiring innovator rising up to the challenge of tackling community problems with his creative mind and hard work.**

Ramadhani's love for creativity goes back to his early days at St Jude's. His natural ingenuity for electrical devices caught the attention of his teacher who encouraged him to join the Science Club. From that point on, he pioneered numerous innovative projects at school and won several awards with the support of his mentors and peers.

"We were always working on an exciting project at the Science Club," shares Ramadhani. "It really helped to feed my curiosity and showed us the power of innovation in solving real-life problems," he explains.

When COVID-19 became a global pandemic in 2020, Ramadhani stepped up with an ingenious idea. Looking for a way to minimise the spread of infection through contact, he helped develop a hand washing machine that automatically dispensed soap and water without turning a tap. Ramadhani further extended his invention into a model of a house with automatic hand washing machines, doors, and windows.

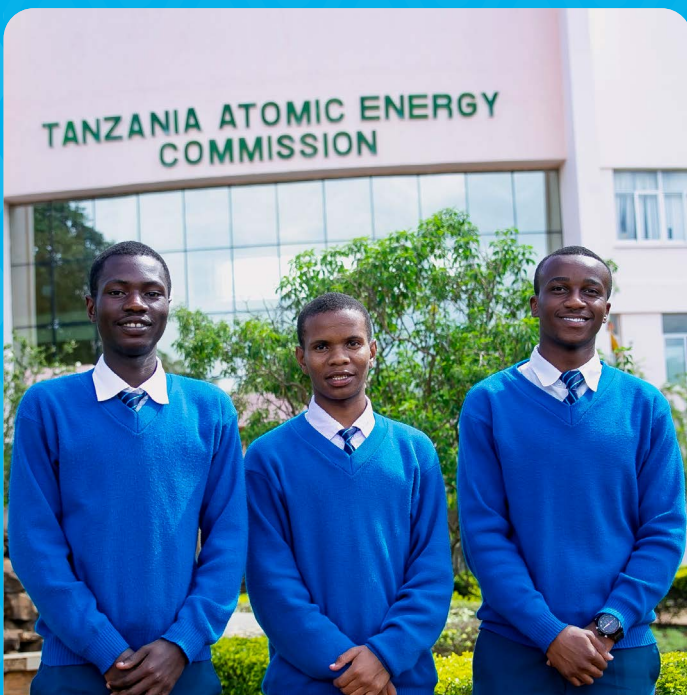


**A Passionate Innovator:** Behind the scenes, Ramadhani dedicates most of his free time to develop his projects.

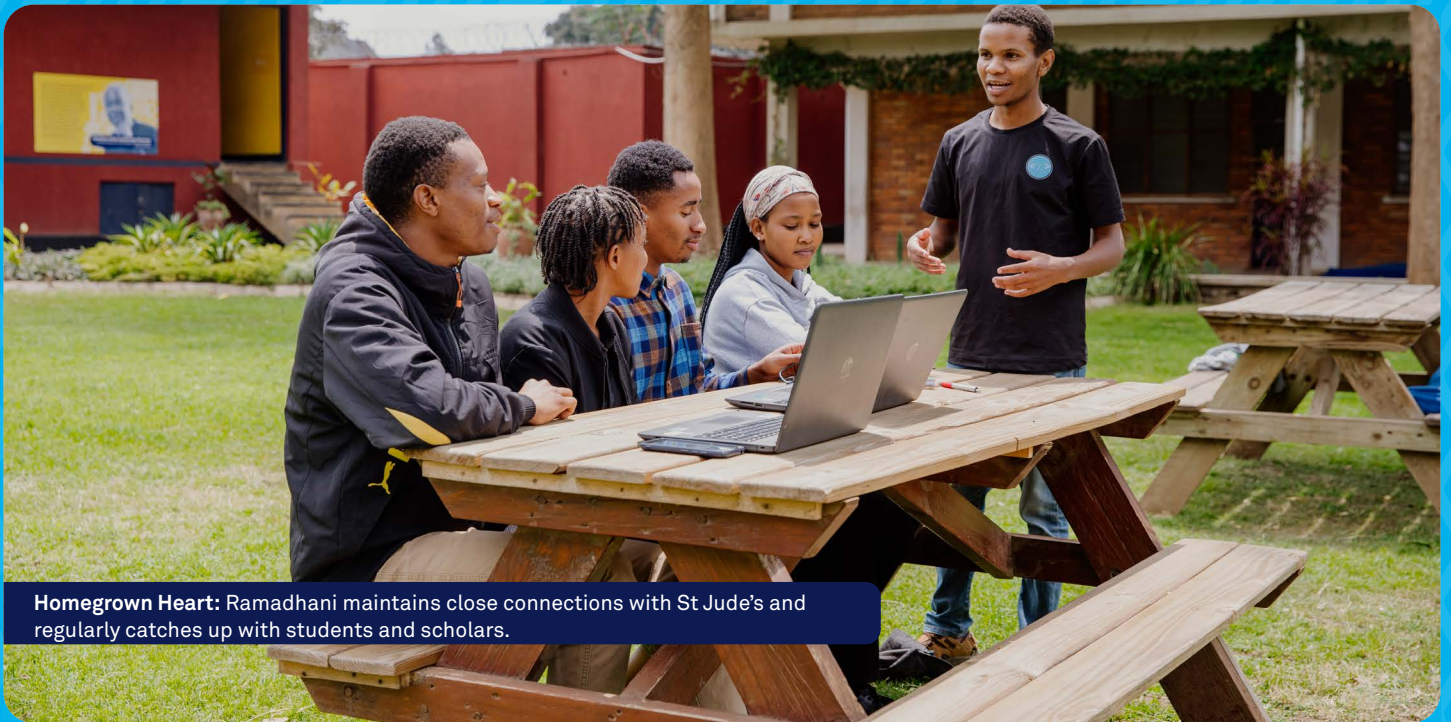
"By the time I left St Jude's, I'd already built an impressive portfolio of building useful products and collaborating with others," reflects Ramadhani. "This experience became especially useful as I ventured out into the real world," he adds.

After completing his secondary school education, Ramadhani joined the Beyond St Jude's Scholarship Program (BSJSP) for St Jude's graduates. He spent a year in community service, volunteering to teach mathematics at an under-resourced government school in Arusha.

It didn't take long for Ramadhani to start a Science Club at the school and begin mentoring aspiring innovators like himself. Within a year, the club was participating in science competitions, boot camp training, and STEM-related seminars within Arusha and beyond.



**Exploring with Friends:** Ramadhani (middle) during a school excursion.



**Homegrown Heart:** Ramadhani maintains close connections with St Jude's and regularly catches up with students and scholars.

"We had to travel outside Arusha to attend some of the boot camp training and seminars," shares Ramadhani. "These trips made a lasting impression on my students since the majority of them hadn't been outside Arusha," he adds.

During his community service year, Ramadhani founded a tech start-up that helped small businesses in rural areas offset inconsistent and sometimes, frequent power cuts. He started by creating and distributing standby power inverters with backup batteries, giving users a few more hours of electricity during outages.

"This project was particularly useful for barbers, stationery shops, and local drink vendors that relied heavily on consistent power for their operations," explains Ramadhani. "So the project took off and grew significantly over the year," he adds.

Ramadhani, however, was far from done. While building his business, he noticed a growing gap between the availability of technical services to the public. It was difficult to find well-rated plumbers or electricians without asking around first. So, Ramadhani began putting together a platform to connect technicians —such as electricians, plumbers, masons, and carpenters—with clients who needed their services.

"Today, if you want an electrician you don't have to rely on word-of-mouth referrals from other people," explains Ramadhani.

"You simply log into the platform and select one that best suits your needs.

It's a win for everyone; tradespeople get consistent work, and clients are generally happy with the service," he adds proudly.

His impressive academic achievements, innovative mind, and community service eventually earned him an international scholarship to a prestigious university in Africa known for breeding next generation entrepreneurs. He continues to work on his innovations and start-up businesses in addition to studies. In his private time, Ramadhani works part-time as a robotics trainer.

He is one of the rising young Tanzanian leaders who are using their skills to create solutions within their community. St Jude's holistic approach to education continues to nurture many aspiring innovators and problem-solvers like Ramadhani. Support the next generation of Tanzanian transformational leaders and professionals by donating to support the school programs.

Holistic education empowers our students to develop skills and use their knowledge to lift their families and communities out of poverty.  
**Donate Today.**



# The Beyond St Jude's Sponsorship Program (BSJSP) in Numbers

Your continued support is shaping Tanzania's future leaders.



Finally Made It: The 2024 tertiary graduates at the Beyond St Jude's Recognition Ceremony.

The Beyond St Jude's Scholarship Program (BSJSP) first started in 2015 to help graduates begin the next stage of their lives, while continuing to develop their leadership potential and community spirit.

It is composed of two parts: a year or semester of community service, then the tertiary or college scholarship program. During community service graduates personify the school's values by volunteering to teach at understaffed government schools and at various placements throughout St Jude's. Those who successfully complete their Community Service placement may then be eligible to receive a BSJSP scholarship to pursue higher education.

After completing their higher education, graduates return for the joint Beyond St Jude's Recognition Ceremony, where they celebrate their achievements alongside fellow alumni, families, and sponsors.

## 112,000+

Number of students in the community that have been taught by CSY volunteers

.....

## 800+

Number of St Jude's graduates who have participated in BSJSP

.....

## 360

Number of St Jude's graduates attending university through BSJSP in 2024

.....

## 80%

Percentage of tertiary graduates currently employed



You can further support the next generation of Tanzanian leaders by sharing St Jude's story! **Spread the Word Today.**



# Catch the Latest Improvements at St Jude's

A development at St Jude's Primary School library guarantees accessibility to more people.



**All Smiles:** Students from St Jude's Primary School enjoying the new library ramp, which provides a welcoming environment for all.

Our supporters have always been our biggest school improvement champions; from the Rotary Club volunteers who helped build the first three classrooms at St Jude's to the amazing donors who continue to give toward ongoing developments at the school.

**Today, we bring you the latest development at St Jude's Primary School at Sisia Campus.**

## What's New?

The library at St Jude's Primary School now features a ramp, enabling access to everyone. The construction project kicked off in March 2024 and was managed by the school's Facilities team.

"This construction was possible thanks to the support of our donors around the world. It's a privilege to work on such an impactful project, which will, no doubt, help many people for many years to come," Abubakari, Acting Team Lead - Maintenance.

## Who does it benefit?

The ramp provides accessibility for wheelchair users and others with mobility impairments. With this new facility, we are able to provide a more welcoming environment for everyone, regardless of their physical abilities.

## Any other exciting projects on the horizon?

Yes! At St Jude's there is always an exciting project in the works: from classroom refurbishment, ICT equipment, sports facilities, new buses, and much more! Feel free to reach out and ask about how you can support one of our upcoming projects by contacting our Founding Director.



Support St Jude's in providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all by donating to support one of our projects. **Donate today!**