



St Jude's News



Fresh Smiles on Campus: Recently enrolled Standards 1 and 2 students with their teachers.



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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A bright future at St Jude's

Agripina, a newly enrolled student at St Jude's, reflects on her journey.



New Beginning: Agripina settling into life at St Jude's.

Before joining St Jude's, 14-year-old Agripina's day used to start at the crack of dawn. First, she checks on her elderly grandmother, cleans around the house, and tends to livestock. Afterward, she prepares her younger sister, and the pair begins the 30-minute walk to school, often arriving early enough for Agripina to squeeze in about an hour of personal study before class.

"I have always maintained a strict daily schedule to balance my studies and chores at home," explains Agripina, one of the new students at St Jude's. "There was hardly enough time in the day to do everything so I had to get creative with my time," she adds.

For example, after school, Agripina stays a few more hours for personal studies and dedicates her free time on weekends to group discussions and additional studies. To make the most of her long commute, she would discuss lessons with schoolmates along the way. Her discipline, consistency, and hard work paid off as Agripina maintained the top position in her class throughout her primary school education.

In Tanzania, primary education is the

first seven years of school, from Standard 1 to 7. At the end of Standard 7, students sit for a series of standardised national exams. Those who pass may be eligible to attend government school to continue with secondary education.

"If I made it to secondary school, I'd be the first in my family to do so," says Agripina. "But first, I had to pass the national examinations," she adds.

Agripina doubled down on her already tight schedule in preparation for her national exams, dedicating every moment of her free time to her studies. She would study by the fire while preparing family dinner, stay up late, and organise a small discussion group with classmates from the same neighbourhood. Her efforts eventually paid off, and Agripina passed her national examinations with remarkable results.

However, passing the Standard 7 national examination doesn't necessarily guarantee a spot in secondary school.

"Passing my Standard 7 exams was only the first step," explains Agripina. "Next, I had to hope and wait for the government to allocate me to a school. This part is tricky because it's completely out of my control," she adds.

In Tanzania, government schools provide the most affordable education; they don't charge school fees, but parents are expected to contribute to food, transport, stationery, uniforms, and other costs. Unfortunately, there aren't enough secondary schools in Tanzania to match the growing number of primary school graduates. National data indicates only one secondary school for every four primary schools. It's not uncommon for students to miss out on secondary education despite passing their exams due to the limited spots available.

Furthermore, secondary schools are often located far from students' homes, making access even more challenging.

"I knew plenty of students, especially girls, who passed their exams but still didn't make it to secondary school," recalls Agripina. "It was scary to think that I could potentially end up in the same spot," she adds.

Luckily for Agripina, she didn't have to wait for the government's allocation. Her remarkable results caught the attention of St Jude's, which promptly sent her an invitation to apply for a scholarship. In no time, she was on her way to one of St Jude's centres to try her luck.

"It was quite an experience. There were so many students with their parents and guardians.

St Jude's took care of everything—transportation, food, and accommodation—since we had to spend the night and start the application process the following morning," she shares

Agripina went through academic testing and excelled in all of them. Next came a pre-house check and document screening to determine her eligibility for the next steps.

The last phase was a home visit by St Jude's staff for poverty assessment to determine whether the student's family meets the school's scholarship criteria. This thorough process ensures that the most deserving students with exceptional academic potential make it through the scholarship program.



Lover of Books: One of Agripina's favourite places on campus is the school library.

Out of over 2,000 students who applied for a scholarship at St Jude's, Agripina was one of the 194 who eventually made it to the end.

"Joining St Jude's makes all my hard work worth it," she reflects. "I've only been here a few days, but I already love the school, the teachers, and my fellow students," she adds happily.

Agripina aspires to become a doctor. Fittingly, she has joined St Jude's Secondary Girls' School, which boasts well-equipped science laboratories, excellent sports and academic programs, and a thriving science culture. With her discipline, determination, and access to St Jude's resources, there's no doubt she'll achieve her dreams.



We Made It: Students that have made it past the first round of the scholarship application go through a "tunnel of honour" created by St Jude's staff.

Your donation enables promising future Tanzanian leaders like Agripina, a chance to achieve their potential and support their communities.

Donate today.



Embracing kindness beyond St Jude's

Alumni unite to raise crucial funds for local orphanage



Embracing Kindness: Items donated by St Jude's alumni on their recent outing.

St Jude's is proud to have an engaged community of alumni who remain connected to the school. Though dispersed throughout Tanzania and beyond, they continue to embrace the school values of respect, kindness, responsibility, and honesty. From organising annual alumni reunions to volunteering at school events and even committing to regular financial giving, they are a constant source of inspiration for everyone at St Jude's.

As the year 2024 was winding down, the St Jude's Alumni Association decided to create a special moment with the less privileged in the community. They organised a visit to a local orphanage and raised more than AU\$820 (US\$510) to purchase essential supplies, giving the children a holiday season to remember.

"The event was put together at the last minute with only about three days' notice. But the alumni community responded fast, and 125 alumni came together to support the initiative," explains Charles, one of the leaders of the Alumni Association at St Jude's.

On the eve of New Year, Charles and ten other alumni delivered their donations to the orphanage, which serves as a vital sanctuary for children without family care in the region. They arranged a holiday to remember for the children, which included playing games, music, and sharing food, toiletries, and much more.

"The children and staff at the centre were very excited to see us. Most of them were curious to know what we had going on in our lives. So, we spent quite a bit of time sharing about ourselves which was very inspiring to them," narrates Charles.



Growing in Number: St Jude's alumni at the recent reunion event.

Among those who joined the volunteer delivery team was Kenedy, a 2019 St Jude's graduate and current marketing professional. He was inspired by the initiative to give back to the community and saw it as a way to end the year with kindness.

"I was deeply moved by the impact of our collective effort," reflects Kenedy. "For many children, the orphanage is their home due to the loss of their parents or other disadvantaged circumstances, and it was really important for us to show them they're not alone and that we care," he says.

For Kenedy, like many St Jude's alumni, giving back to the community isn't new. In 2019, he participated in the Community Service Year (CSY) program, an initiative at St Jude's that gives graduates an opportunity to voluntarily teach at understaffed local government schools or assist at St Jude's ahead of higher education.

Kenedy credits his involvement in the program for deepening his commitment to service.

"It's important for us to give back to the community. This is just one example of how we can do that," says Kenedy.

Charles is proud of his colleagues, noting that the initiative highlighted the strength and togetherness of St Jude's alumni. The Alumni Association was established in 2018 by founding members of St Jude's Classes of 2015 and 2016 and has grown to over 1,300 active members since then. It continues to provide pathways for former students to stay connected to St Jude's community once they have graduated from The School of St Jude.



Know someone who would love to read about this inspiring alumni project?
Help us spread the word!



Q & A with Grace

Learn how Grace, a St Jude's student in Standard 3, spent her recent holiday at home.

In Tanzania, the academic year for primary school runs parallel to the calendar year, starting in January and ending in December. Students enjoy a month-long holiday at the end of the year and return in January to begin a new academic year.

Primary education in Tanzania is the first seven years of school; starting in Standard 1, students graduate from primary school in Standard 7.

The first few weeks of January are usually filled with excitement as students transition to the next academic level and reunite with friends they haven't seen in a while. We recently caught up with Grace, one of our primary school students, to hear about her recent holiday and her plans for the year ahead.



Happy to be Back: After a month-long holiday, Grace reunites with her schoolmates at St Jude's.

What did you do during the holiday?

I enjoyed spending time with my family and playing with my friends.

What was your favourite moment?

When we visited my grandmother for Christmas, I met with my cousins and had lots of fun together!

We also enjoyed delicious food and drinks.

Did you make any New Year's resolutions for yourself?

Yes. I want to study hard so that I can become a soldier one day.

What did you learn during the holiday?

I helped my mum around the kitchen, and she showed me how to prepare some meals.

Grace, who is at the early stages of her academic journey, is currently unsponsored. **Become a sponsor today** and make a lasting impact on Tanzania's future leaders.





St Jude's at 23: our growth by the numbers

Take a look at how we've grown over the years.



The St Jude's Community: An inspiring growth over the last 23 years of St Jude's.

In 2002

Three students

One volunteer teacher

One campus

One classroom

A big dream to bring the opportunity of free, quality education to children living in poverty.



In 2025

1,800 primary and secondary school students on full scholarships and 360 scholars being supported in higher education.

101 teachers, all Tanzanians. 300+ staff altogether, 98% local.

Three campuses. Boarding accommodation for all secondary students.

101 classrooms, in addition to 12 IT labs, 3 dining halls, 11 science labs, over 30 sports fields and halls, an art gallery and much more.

Living the dream. Hundreds of graduates return to their communities as leading professionals, entrepreneurs, and transformational leaders.

From just three students and one volunteer teacher in 2002 to one of the largest charity schools of its kind in Africa. **Book your visit today** and learn about our history.