



St Jude's News



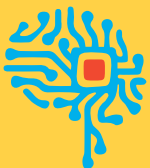
Empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs: A new program is offering alumni the opportunity to develop essential business skills and turn their ideas into successful businesses.



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Inspiring innovation

New incubator program cultivates the next generation of entrepreneurs



Bridging the gap: Queen is one of 25 alumni who are reaping the benefits of the Next Frontier Incubator and Small Grants Program.

St Jude's has always been a place where young minds are nurtured and bold ideas are born. However, turning a passion into a sustainable business is no easy task - it requires practical skills, mentorship, and the right kind of support. To help bridge this gap, the school recently launched the Next Frontier Incubator and Small Grants Program, designed to help alumni transform their entrepreneurial dreams into reality.

The 20-week program, which kicked off in January, offers 25 alumni the opportunity to develop essential business skills through expert mentorship, tailored resources, and hands-on training in critical areas such as business planning, financial management, goal-setting, and legal compliance.

Program Specialist Neema explained that the initiative was established to help alumni with innovative business ideas transform them into successful ventures and build a strong foundation for long-term growth.

“We found that many alumni had incredible ideas but didn't know the next steps. They were caught between creative development and the practical aspects of business management. This program helps bridge that gap by offering the resources needed to turn these ideas into a viable business,” Neema says.

The inaugural group features ideas from a range of industries, including art, manufacturing, construction, and transport. They each submitted a business proposal detailing their vision, goals, and the challenges their businesses aim to address, which formed the basis of their admission to the program.

“Many of these ideas aim to solve real-world problems and make a positive impact on people and the planet.

Some are startups that, despite winning awards, are facing challenges in scaling, while others are still in the early stages of development and getting their ideas off the ground. The cohort meets twice a week for expert-led sessions and assignments to help them refine their goals, develop their mission statements, and map out their next steps," Neema says.

At the end of the program, the students will pitch their ideas to an external panel of experts who will assess their business models, scalability, and community impact. Successful pitches will receive grant funding, up to US\$5,000, to support key areas such as product development and marketing.



Fostering talent: Students in the program are learning how to turn their passion and ideas into viable business ventures.

One alum, Queen, Class of 2021, said she jumped at the opportunity to be part of the program. After studying art and design in Dar es Salaam, she founded The Kids Hub, an art workshop offering creative classes in painting, jewelry making, and digital art for children and young adults in Arusha.

"I've always had a passion for art, and I wanted to create a space where young people could explore their creativity," says Queen, who has a studio in the centre of Arusha where she runs her classes.

"Art is often overlooked in schools, so I wanted to provide a space where kids could develop their skills, express themselves, and sell their work. We've already held two classes, and the response has been incredible."

Queen's ultimate goal is to expand The Kids Hub into a larger space where people of all ages can learn and appreciate art - a goal she feels is within reach thanks to the insights gained from the program.

"The Next Frontier Incubator and Small Grants Program has been a real eye-opener. It's hands-on and practical, and the sessions have given me so many tools to improve my business. I've learned how to manage stress, scale my business, and navigate the financial side. It's a complete package that has really set me up for success," says Queen.

"I'm also learning so much from my fellow participants, as we all exchange advice and insights. My goal is to run regular classes and continue to grow the business, and by the end of this program, I'm confident I'll be able to achieve that."

In addition to supporting the entrepreneurial endeavours of alumni, St Jude's has also launched a Pre-Incubator Program for current high school students. This extracurricular club serves as a stepping stone into the Next Frontier Incubator and Small Grants Program, offering students the chance to explore entrepreneurship as a potential career path from an early age.

"The Pre-Incubator Program provides students with the tools and support they need to develop their ideas and prepare for the full incubator program if they wish to pursue it professionally after graduation," Neema explains.

"By introducing entrepreneurship at the high school level, we're encouraging students to see it as a viable career path, and empowering them to become innovators, problem-solvers, and leaders both within their communities and beyond."

Know someone who would love to read about the success of our alumni?
Help us spread the word.



A touch of kindness to impact the whole community

A pair of St Jude's alumni support access to water for 600+ students at a local school.



Water Up: Access to water is a common challenge among government schools.

Like most students completing secondary education at St Jude's, Irene opted to join the Beyond St Jude's Scholarship Program (BSJSP). The BSJSP allows secondary school graduates to give back to the community as volunteer teachers in understaffed government schools or in 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.

"I spent a year teaching English and Civics at a local government school in Arusha town, not far from St Jude's," shares Irene, who is currently a university scholar. "To be honest, my volunteering experience was good. I enjoyed teaching and being one of the adults that students can look up to," she adds.

Having spent over 12 years as a student at St Jude's, Irene understood how far a supportive learning environment could go to enhancing academic performance.

Thus, she was particularly excited at the opportunity to share her knowledge and skills with others.



Full Circle Moment: Irene and Queen (right) visited the school to personally hand over the project.

“I was privileged to attend St Jude’s, which offers a wealth of resources, including computers, books, sports facilities, and educational trips, for an exceptional learning experience. But others weren’t so lucky and this became clear during my Community Service Year (CSY),” narrates Irene.

She noticed that there was only one water tap for the entire school of 600+ students. Students had to wait in long queues just to fill a cup of water. There wasn’t enough water to properly conduct science experiments for students, clean the school’s infrastructures, and maintain the environment. Irene was deeply disturbed by the problem and resolved to find a lasting solution for it.



Lasting Mark: A storage tank stands tall at the school as a remainder of the pair’s effort in supporting access to water.

“The volunteering experience left me with the belief that even the smallest actions can have great value to the community. This inspired my passion for volunteering and helping my community in any capacity I can,” reflects Irene.

Soon, after completing her community service year, Irene won a scholarship grant to pursue higher education in neighbouring Kenya. She was fortunate to join the same university with her long-time friend and fellow St Jude’s scholar, Queen.

Like Irene, Queen had joined St Jude’s as a Standard 1 student in 2007 and went on to spend the next 13 years at the school. One of her most favourite earliest memories at St Jude’s was being mesmerised by the size of the school.

“I was blown away by how big the school was, from the playing fields, to the library, dining hall, and the school buses.

I was shy at first because I couldn’t speak much English. But it all changed within a few years; I became fluent and fell in love with my favourite subject, history,” she explains.

Upon completing her secondary school education, she too, joined the Beyond St Jude’s Scholarship Program (BSJSP) and spent a year as a volunteer teacher at a government school in Arusha. When the pair linked up in university, they began looking into how they could support less fortunate students back in Tanzania.

“As part of our scholarship, each of us was entitled to a one-time funding to support a project of our choice within the community. We discussed this amongst ourselves and agreed to install a water system at the government school that Irene had once volunteered in as a teacher,” explains Queen.

With support from St Jude’s and the external funding, the pair financed the construction of a water system at the school, which involved pumping water from a source 900 metres away. They also installed several drinking water stations throughout the school and water taps in the toilets and laboratories.

“It’s a dream come true for us, to give back and create a better learning environment for others,” shares Irene passionately.

St Jude’s alumni continue to embrace the school’s values of Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, and Honesty whenever they go. Through the Alumni Association, they regularly give to support the school financially and volunteer their time and expertise during school events. Beyond St Jude’s, they are active within their communities, organising orphanage visits, launching businesses, providing employment to others, and so much more.



Help us spread the word about St Jude’s by forwarding this to a friend!



Breaking barriers: Hilda's journey in tech

From student to Information Technology (IT) Assistant, Hilda shares her path, challenges, and hopes for women in technology.



Innovating for Impact: Hilda's passion for technology

Hilda Charles is no stranger to pushing boundaries. As an IT Assistant at St Jude's, she is a trailblazer in a field where women are often underrepresented. From an early age, she was drawn to problem-solving and creativity – two qualities that led her to pursue a career in technology. Today, she reflects on her journey, the challenges she has faced, and her vision for the future of women in tech.

What inspired you to pursue a career in the tech industry?

I was inspired to pursue a career in the tech industry because of my love for problem-solving, creativity, and the thrill of working with new technologies. I've always been driven by the desire to make a positive impact on society through innovation.

After completing my O level education, I decided to study Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering in college, where my journey in the tech industry truly began.

What challenges have you encountered, and how have you overcome them?

Women in tech often face gender biases and stereotypes, such as the misconception that technology is a male-dominated field. This sometimes means being underestimated or having to work harder to prove ourselves. Overcoming this requires excelling in our fields, seeking mentors and role models, and advocating for equal opportunities. Additionally, networking with other women in tech and joining supportive communities helps build resilience.

What advice would you give to young women aspiring to enter the tech field?

For young women aspiring to enter the tech field, there's a world of opportunity waiting. Believe in your abilities. Start early and keep learning—tech evolves quickly, so lifelong learning is essential. Develop strong communication skills, as technical expertise is important, but so is collaboration. Lastly, be persistent and don't be afraid to fail—every setback is a learning experience.

How do you see the role of women evolving in the tech industry over the next few years?

The role of women in tech is evolving rapidly. In the coming years, I hope to see more women in technology, breaking the stereotype that it is a male-dominated field. This shift will create a greater community impact.

When you support St Jude's, you're empowering young minds to break barriers and shape the future.
Support Today.



Women taking centre stage

Highlighting women's empowerment at St Jude's



The women of St Jude's: Leading the way in empowering education

In Tanzania, access to education has traditionally favoured boys. Unlike their female counterparts, boys would get preference for school enrolment, be excused from domestic chores at home, and consequently have improved chances of success later in life. While the narrative is shifting slowly, St Jude's is at the forefront of ensuring equal access to education for all, regardless of gender.

Over the last 23 years of St Jude's, there have been important milestones and numbers that reflect the commitment to equal access to education. Here are some of them:

52% of all students are girls.

52% of total intake in Standard 1 are female.

600 students attend a dedicated girls' school

Three female students lead the Student Government as Chairpersons at each school.

Three out of five of St Jude's senior managers are female.

Your sponsorship to St Jude's ensures equal opportunity for education for both girls and boys, breaking down gender disparities. **Become a sponsor today.**