



# St Jude's News



**Discovering St Jude's:** Leigh first heard about the school and its mission through his employer, TechnologyOne, a proud supporter of 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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# Angel's green impact goes global



From St Jude's to global climate leader, Angel is driving real change around the globe



On the global stage: Angel wins the Humanitarian Excellence Award from the I CAN Foundation.

When Angel first walked through the gates of The School of St Jude, she was a bright student with big dreams but few resources. Thanks to the generosity of donors and sponsors, she gained not just a quality education but the confidence and tools to lead change.

Her journey began in 2017, when she and her friend Sharon shared a love for science and innovation. Their first major creation, a simple yet life-changing electric stick for the visually impaired, took them to the Project Inspire boot camp in Dodoma. That experience sparked a lifelong commitment to using innovation for good.

A year later, their banana peel fertiliser project took them to Science Week at the Nelson Mandela Institute of Science and Technology,

where future African scientists, engineers and leaders learn to solve local challenges and drive progress across the region.

By the time they reached A Level, Angel and Sharon were leading environmental initiatives on campus, from maintaining green spaces to inspiring fellow students to think sustainably.

Out of this passion, Angel founded ECHO Elevating Climate Harmony Ontime, a youth-led non-governmental organisation (NGO) focused on tackling climate change. In 2024, ECHO made history by winning the prestigious Humanitarian Excellence Award from the I CAN Foundation, triumphing over entries from all 28 Indian states and more than 80 competitors worldwide.



**Determined to give back:** Angel is now bringing her expertise back to Tanzania and is designing solar-powered cooling systems for farmers.

### The award recognized ECHO's tangible impact on:

- » Tree Planting Initiative, growing from 100 to 500 members, each planting 10 trees annually, with a goal of 20,000 trees by 2026
- » Water Bodies Cleaning Initiative, restoring rivers and lakes to protect biodiversity and support local communities

Now back in Tanzania after completing her studies in India.

Angel is determined to bring her expertise home and is designing solar-powered cooling systems for farmers, developing sustainable irrigation, and building climate resilience in vulnerable communities.

Angel's story is your story too. Without your generosity, this young leader might never have had the chance to dream this big, let alone inspire change on a global stage.

Your support is not just educating students. It is equipping them to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges.

Inspired by the work of our alumni? We're looking for unpaid volunteer mentors from a range of industries to support emerging alumni entrepreneurs in our Incubator program. Share your experience **become a mentor today.**







# Pushing pedals for a purpose

How one TechnologyOne employee turned a gruelling 315km bike ride into an AU\$28,600 fundraiser for The School of St Jude.



When it comes to supporting meaningful causes, Leigh knows the power of going the extra mile - or in this case, an extra 315 kilometres. What began as a simple workplace connection to The School of St Jude, a close foundation partner of his employer TechnologyOne, soon grew into a personal mission to make a lasting difference.

Leigh first learned about The School of St Jude when Founder Gemma Sisia visited his workplace, accompanied by several alumni, to share the school's mission and vision.

"These were students who grew up without electricity, access to quality education or clear opportunities to change the course of their lives. St Jude's gives them exactly that chance and the impact is impressive," says Leigh.

The experience struck a chord, and in 2018, Leigh travelled to Tanzania on a work trip, where he met students, shared career advice and experienced daily life at St Jude's first-hand.

"A girl named Nice showed us around the school and walked us through a typical day. Hearing how St Jude's not only provides a world-class education but also instils a commitment to giving back to the community moved me to sponsor her on the spot. I always enjoyed receiving her letters about her studies, ambitions and family life," he says.

Since this time, Leigh has remained a committed supporter of St Jude's, and is now sponsoring a student named Amalia. But earlier this year, he took that support even further, taking on a personal challenge to raise funds for the school.



“A couple of years ago, someone told me about the longest single-day bike ride in the world, the Vätternrundan in Sweden. They didn’t think I could finish it, so I thought why not combine a tough personal challenge into something bigger by fundraising for The School of St Jude?”

Leigh started training in January for the 315-kilometre ride, which he successfully completed in June. The course was exhausting, with steep hills and long stretches that pushed both his body and mind to the limit.

“The final 60 kilometres were when the biggest hills hit, and to make it worse, I was riding with a knee injury from training just weeks earlier. I was taking anti-inflammatories to keep going, had lost one of my water bottles and was feeling dehydrated. But every donation, and the thought of what it meant for the students, kept me pushing to the finish.”

His efforts raised £6,900, and a generous donor matched pound for pound, bringing the total fundraised amount to £13,800 (approximately AU\$28,600).

“I was blown away by the number of donors and my company TechnologyOne contributing a significant amount too,” he says.

Reflecting on the experience, Leigh encourages others not to hesitate when it comes to taking on a challenge in support of a cause they care about.

“Just do it. I live a very fortunate life, and for me, riding 315 kilometres over 10 hours is nothing compared to the challenges many others face daily. A little discomfort can go a long way in changing someone else’s life,” he says.

That motivation continues through Leigh’s role at TechnologyOne, a company with a strong focus on social impact.

“Giving back is a core part of our culture, whether it’s providing scholarships for underprivileged university students here in the UK or investing in social value for the communities we serve. St Jude’s takes that same mission and amplifies it, dedicating itself entirely to educating children from disadvantaged backgrounds while helping to build their communities.”



A challenge conquered: After months of relentless training, Leigh triumphantly crossed the finish line, completing the full 315km ride.





# Q & A with Georgie



## Introducing our new fundraising challenge

Georgie is our Assistant Team Lead Communication and Content and she is super excited to share a new fundraising challenge that means you can visit St Jude's and summit Kilimanjaro with a supportive group - all while raising valuable funds for the school!



**Ready, set, climb:** Join Georgie on an unforgettable adventure to climb Kilimanjaro, visit St Jude's, and raise vital funds for the school..

### Can you tell us about this fundraising challenge, when is it and what is involved?

Absolutely! This exciting fundraising challenge is called St Jude's Kili Tek and is planned for July 2026. The itinerary offers a unique blend of adventure and purpose. You'll spend 5 days and 4 nights visiting The School of St Jude, immersing yourself in the school community. Then, you'll embark on a thrilling 7-night trek up Mount Kilimanjaro. For those wanting to extend their experience, there's an option to add a safari after the climb. It's a wonderful chance to explore Tanzania, push your limits and raise much-needed funds to support the school's mission.

### Who have we partnered with and why?

We've teamed up with Inspired Adventures, a well-respected Australian organisation known for running sustainable challenge events worldwide. They've supported hundreds of charities by managing recruitment, logistics, and fundraising. Plus, their founder, Justine Curtis, has personally visited St Jude's, making this partnership even more meaningful.

### Why should people register?

This challenge is perfect for anyone wanting to challenge themselves. By joining, you'll not only experience incredible moments like summiting Kilimanjaro and visiting St Jude's but you'll also fundraise for the school.





### What kind of fundraising is required?

Everyone is encouraged to raise \$3,750 for the school. But, don't worry! Inspired Adventures offers full support with branded materials and guidance to help everyone hit their fundraising targets and make their challenge a success.

### How can people register?

Registration is super easy! Simply visit our website to read more about how to register and what is involved.

<https://www.schoolofstjude.org/visit/>

### Summitting Kilimanjaro is certainly a challenge, how fit do people need to be to participate?

While no prior trekking experience is required, the challenge involves several consecutive days of walking at high altitudes. The climb is more like a long, steep walk rather than technical mountain climbing, but proper training and the right equipment are essential. The fitter you are, the more you'll enjoy it. You'll be fully supported throughout the journey by experienced guides, a doctor, and your team, with frequent breaks and the freedom to move at your own pace. If you're still unsure, you can check out the guidelines on the website.



### A little bird has whispered you might be taking part. Is this true?

Yes, it's true! I'm really excited to be taking part in this challenge. Working here means I see the impact of St Jude's every single day, which is incredibly inspiring. From hearing the students laughing as they get off the bus in the morning, to sharing the stories of our amazing alumni and their achievements in the community, I'm constantly seeing the school's purpose and mission in action. Being able to support it in this way makes the experience even more meaningful. And I'd love for others to join me on this journey! If you're feeling inspired to take on a challenge and be part of something special, sign up now ... what are you waiting for?

Support a budding artist today! **Explore our new visitors page** to discover all the exciting ways you can visit us!



# Kiswahili word of the month

Improve your Kiswahili vocabulary with our word of the month

## UDUGU

[oo-DOO-goo] Noun. Singular

The word Udugu means brotherhood or kinship. It represents a deep bond of mutual support, care and unity among people, even beyond family ties. At St Jude's, the sense of belonging and fitting is reflected in every aspect of our lives. Udugu is seen across St Jude's from meeting at the bus stops to having tasty meals in the dining halls.



### History

The word Udugu has a fascinating origin, dating from the late 1960s to the early 1980s in Tanzania. Falling under the key concept in the philosophy of Ujamaa (familyhood), which was promoted by Tanzania's first president late Julius Nyerere. Through his philosophy, a foundation of a unified and cooperative society was created. This remains in Tanzania to this day.

Over time, the word Udugu has evolved all over East Africa, and it is used to represent a sense of community, kinship and mutual support that extends beyond immediate family.

### How to use the word...

- » *The spirit of Udugu was noticed in their cooperation.*
- » *Udugu is an important value of society*
- » *Udugu creates a sense of belonging, even among strangers.*

You could be part of our Udugu of **Sponsors and support a student scholarship** today.