



St Jude's News



A walk down memory lane: Faith's memories of her time at St Jude's are as fresh as ever.



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Faith in action

Meet the alum currently travelling Australia with Gemma



Sharing the impact: Faith is currently travelling across Australia with Gemma, sharing how her St Jude's education has transformed her life.

Walking the school grounds where her journey began, dressed in a traditional bright red and yellow kitenge dress, alum Faith Samwel takes in the familiar sights of Sisia Campus. She points to the primary school oval where she used to play football at lunch, the bus fleet, that has grown since her time at St Jude's, and her first classroom in Standard 1, now a Standard 4 classroom.

"I used to sit right at the back in the corner," she says, peering inside to see the students busy at their desks. "On the bus, I always sat on the window side because I loved putting my head out. I also loved playing football with my friends at lunch. It was always the fun part of my day."

Though it has been years since she roamed Sisia Campus as a student, Faith's memories of her time at St Jude's are as fresh as ever. The second youngest of five sisters, Faith was raised by her mother, who worked tirelessly to support the family. Her journey at St Jude's began in 2007 when she received a scholarship to study at St Jude's Primary School.

"St Jude's gave me opportunities. It feels amazing to be back and see how the school has changed. But some things will always feel like home and that's what this place is to me," she says. During her time at St Jude's, she developed a passion for chemistry and mathematics; subjects which would guide her academic path and professional ambitions.

"I have always loved science and mathematics; they were my favourite subjects in school," she says.

After graduating from St Jude's in 2020, Faith returned to her community as part of St Jude's Community Service Year (CSY), teaching chemistry, mathematics, and physics to over 500 government school students at Mlangarini Secondary School.

She continued this passion and determination into her tertiary studies, receiving a full scholarship to study a Bachelor of Civil Engineering at Mbeya University of Science and Technology, supported through the Beyond St Jude's Scholarship Program (BSJSP). Graduating in 2025, she became the first engineer in her family.



Back to her roots: Alum Faith is the founder of natural hair-oil business, Hair Gallery, which she is scaling with support from the Incubator Program.

While at university, Faith's entrepreneurial spirit flourished. She launched Hair Gallery, a natural hair-oil business, applying her engineering skills to product development and supply-chain management to create natural products that strengthen and promote hair growth. By her second year, she had opened her first shop, and before graduating, she expanded to a second location, employing two staff members.

Alongside running her growing business, Faith was elected as the student representative on the university's academic board, where she advocated for student academic issues and helped plan major academic events, including graduations and student forums.

"I was very busy, but I loved it. I am so passionate about it all, and you just make it work," she says.

Today, Faith remains closely connected to St Jude's and continues to grow Hair Gallery with support from the school's Next Frontier Incubator and Small Grants Program. Launched in 2025, the program provides small startup grants, mentoring and business training to entrepreneurial young graduates.

After an intensive pitching round last year, Faith received AU\$1,200 to help expand her business, an opportunity she is eager to build on while also pursuing a career as a civil engineer in the construction industry.

"I am so grateful for the support I continue to receive through the school's incubator program. The guidance and encouragement I receive gives me the confidence to pursue my dreams and make a difference in my community," says Faith.

Currently Faith is travelling around Australia with Gemma to share her story and show firsthand how access to free primary, secondary and tertiary education has changed not only her life, but that of her family and her community. They will continue to speak at events across the country, inviting Australians to learn about St Jude's impact.

"I'm really looking forward to meeting everyone in Australia who made mine, and so many other students' education possible. I'm excited to share my story and show how St Jude's has changed my life," says Faith.

You can help graduates like Faith achieve their potential.
Donate today.





The making of a leader

From shy school boy to influential leader



Following his passion: Alum Dastan has always had a passion for storytelling, which led him to pursue journalism and media studies.

When Dastan first arrived at The School of St Jude, no one could have predicted that this shy ten-year-old would one day captivate an entire school. But in 2014, while in Standard 3, his class teacher, Mr Samson, asked him to deliver a speech titled “Am I Speaking?” at a school assembly.

Dastan spoke passionately about how young Africans could draw inspiration from the patriotism of Tanzania’s founding leaders like Mwalimu Julius Nyerere and Kwame Nkrumah to drive economic progress in their communities.

He concluded with a line that resonated his beliefs. “We are children of Africa, let us fight poverty through education, century to century, generation to generation.”

He delivered the speech with such confidence that his classmates immediately gave him the nickname “Mr President.” While it was playful, it also captured something real. St Jude’s had unlocked a voice that was impossible to ignore.

Over the years, St Jude’s continued to give him countless opportunities to nurture this talent. Whether he was speaking at assemblies, joining debates or representing St Jude’s in competitions, Dastan steadily grew into a thoughtful and bold communicator. Those experiences taught him discipline, courage and the belief that his voice could make a difference; lessons he still carries today.



Big smiles: Dastan on the day he was elected Student President of Habari Maalum College.

By the time he finished Form 4, he felt a strong pull toward journalism and storytelling, fields that allowed him to influence conversations around Tanzania’s growth.

He went on to study media at Habari Maalum College, where, in his very first year, he was elected Vice President of the student government. One year later, he won the presidential election by a landslide 75% of the vote, officially becoming the 25th Student President.

Today, Dastan continues to use media as a platform for activism through his latest projects MAPEMWA (Mawazo Pevu Mwangani) Journal and Kipaza cha Siasa, a political documentary series. His work has aired on several Tanzanian radio stations, as he explores African politics, human rights, and governance while promoting civic awareness.

When asked where he found the confidence to pursue leadership so boldly, he points back to St Jude’s. “St Jude’s didn’t just educate me. It shaped my character, values, and purpose,” he says.

From a young boy standing nervously on a school stage to a university president and rising media voice, Dastan’s journey reflects what’s possible when a child is given opportunity, encouragement and the belief that their future can be extraordinary.



Your sponsorship empowers Beyond St Jude’s Scholarship Program (BSJSP) tertiary scholars to use their skills and knowledge to give back to their communities. **Sponsor today.**



St Jude's in motion

A glimpse into life at St Jude's over the past two months. Here's what's been happening!

Healthy students, bright futures

In February, a team of international health professionals spent two weeks conducting annual health checks, ensuring that all our students are healthy, happy, and ready to thrive both inside and outside the classroom. These checks include vision and hearing screenings, general medical exams, and identifying any health concerns that may require follow-up care.



Spreading the love

Some of our students recently visited a local orphanage, putting St Jude's values into action through service. They helped with daily tasks such as cooking, cleaning, and laundry, while also spending quality time with the children. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to give back and make a real difference in the community.

Form 1 Uniform Day

In early January, we celebrated our Uniform Day, welcoming our new Form 1 students into the St Jude's community. The day was full of smiles, proud parents, and excitement for the journey ahead. You can relive the highlights on our social media. Check out our reel from the day [here](#).



That's a wrap, Victoria!

Gemma, Faith and Johnson are having an absolute blast on tour! Follow their journey on social media as they meet supporters and take in some iconic Aussie experiences, from spotting kangaroos to exploring the Sydney Opera House! Full tour details [here](#).



Want to come see us in person? Our Visitor team can help plan your visit to St Jude's. [Book your trip today.](#)





Kiswahili word of the month

Can you master this month's Kiswahili word?

Msaada

[m-sah-AH-dah] Noun: Singular

Definition

Msaada means to give help, assistance or support to strengthen or uplift someone. It can be practical, such as providing resources or guidance, or emotional, such as offering encouragement and reassurance. At its heart, msaada reflects care, generosity and the understanding that success is often achieved together, not alone.

At St Jude's, msaada is seen in the dedication of teachers, the generosity of donors and sponsors, and the encouragement of parents and the wider community. It is no secret that we would not be here without the collective support of our local and global community, who come together to bring our mission to life and empower students to succeed.

Historical and cultural significance



Everywhere you look: Without msaada, The School of St Jude would not exist.

The word msaada originates from the Arabic word sa'ada, meaning "help" or "aid," which was adopted into Kiswahili through centuries of trade and cultural exchange along the East African coast. The related Kiswahili verb -saidia means "to help."

Historically, msaada described assistance given within families and communities during times of need. Today, it continues to represent solidarity, generosity and the spirit of lifting others up.

How to use the word:

- Msaada makes opportunity possible
- Every achievement begins with msaada from others
- The strength of our community lies in its willingness to offer msaada
- Together, through msaada, we can create lasting impact.