



The School
of St Jude

OCTOBER 2025

St Jude's News



Coming together: Our 1,800 students and 350+ staff gathered at the one campus this month to celebrate St Jude's Day.



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 US.



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Soaring to new heights

The 2025 Beyond St Jude's Recognition Ceremony marks the school's largest celebration yet, honoring alumni who have completed their tertiary studies



Earlier this month, The School of St Jude shone in hues of gold, blue, white and red as 121 proud tertiary graduates tossed their caps high into the air during the 2025 Beyond St Jude's Recognition Ceremony.

The annual event recognizes alumni who have completed diploma or degree programs at higher learning institutions across Tanzania and beyond, marking the transition from student to professional for dozens of young changemakers.

Established in 2022, the Beyond St Jude's Recognition Ceremony has become a key part of the school's calendar, giving tertiary graduates the chance to return to St Jude's and celebrate with their family and friends, in the place where it all began.

This year's ceremony was the biggest yet, bringing together 121 alumni, including 10 new medical doctors.

Student speaker, Alfred, who graduated as a medical doctor, expressed his gratitude to those who made the journey possible, from Founding Director Gemma Sisia to parents and guardians, sponsors, donors and academic teams.

"We are gathered not only as graduates of universities across Tanzania and beyond, but as proud sons and daughters of The School of St Jude, where our journey began and where our hearts will always return. We are proud to say that St Jude's alumni are now in every corner of Tanzania where change is needed. We are proof that education, when wrapped in love and service, can break the cycle of poverty," he says.





We made it: Graduates danced their way into the ceremony with bright smiles on their faces.

Guest of Honor, Prudence Masako, Country Director for CARE International in Tanzania, inspired graduates to remain lifelong learners and agents of change.

“Be life-long learners, the world is changing fast. Don’t let your degree be the end of your learning; let it be the beginning. Read widely, ask questions, seek mentors and never, never stop growing. Success is measured not by what you earn but by the differences you make. Serve your family, your community and your country. Tanzania needs your leadership, your innovation and your courage,” she says.

Mussa, Beyond St Jude’s Scholarship Program and Career Development Programs Manager, echoed this message, reminding graduates to hold onto the school’s core values: Respect, Responsibility, Honesty and Kindness.

“You have walked a long journey to reach this day. You have faced challenges, made sacrifices and pushed through moments of doubt. Yet, here you are: strong, prepared and ready for the next chapter of your lives.

At The School of St Jude, we do not just measure success in certificates, but in the leaders, problem-solvers and changemakers we send out into the world. You are now ambassadors of this great institution, Tanzania, and the wider world, needs your brilliance, compassion and determination. Go, and make us all proud,” he says.



Inspiring insight: Guest of Honor, Prudence Masako addressed the graduates with words of wisdom and advice for their future paths.

Want to support the next generation of leaders and changemakers? **Sponsor a tertiary scholarship today.**





From promoting hand hygiene to building a library

Alum Emmanuel latest project puts Tanzania's communities are the forefront



On the international stage: Emmanuel received the Davis Peace Prize in early 2024, an award that helped him establish the peace Library in Zanzibar.

Emmanuel, Form 4 graduate from the Class of 2020, is no stranger to innovation. The **last time we caught up with him**, he had developed his own automatic handwashing system to tackle hygiene challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, he's taken his vision even further, turning local solutions into projects that impact communities across Africa.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, at just 18 years old, Emmanuel saw the urgent need for clean water and proper hygiene to protect his community's health. Driven by his passion for children's rights and a safe environment,



Giving back: Emmanuel has returned to St Jude's in recent years to share his knowledge and expertise with students.



Inspiring others: Emmanuel is a UNICEF youth ambassador, which has helped expand his mission of improving health access and awareness.

he created a foot-operated handwashing machine to reduce hand contact and limit germ transmission.

His invention led to the installation of over 400 handwashing machines across northern Tanzania, significantly promoting better hygiene and helping to reduce the spread of the virus. This innovative effort quickly caught UNICEF's attention, leading to his appointment as a youth ambassador, expanding his mission of improving health access and awareness.

Soon after, he was named one of 9 Young African Activists to Look Out for in 2022 by Global Citizen, furthering his advocacy horizon.

"It was an incredible honor that motivated me to keep pushing for change."

This recognition opened doors for partnerships and collaborations, allowing him to scale his impact and inspire more youth to take action.

With the success of his handwashing machine, he went on to establish a community library under his peace project. The Peace Library in Kizimkazi, Zanzibar was established by Emmanuel, thanks to the Davis Peace Prize that he won in early 2024, and support from the Assalam Foundation.

"The idea for the library was fueled by my conviction that peace education begins with accessible knowledge. I envisioned a

vibrant space where students could explore peace, leadership, and advocacy, equipping them to become peace ambassadors in their communities and fostering long-term social change," he says.

Emmanuel describes it as more than just a library; it's a thriving space where children can learn, connect with their cultural roots, and build community. With a theater hall that accommodates over 400 people, the library hosts gatherings, events, and features screens displaying educational resources, opening doors to knowledge and connections beyond Zanzibar.

His mission? "I want to inspire African youth to create change," he says.

Through workshops and public speaking, he reaches young people across the continent, rallying them to advocate for climate, education, and peace. His journey is a call to St Jude's alumni, showing the impact they can have in leading Africa forward.



Help empower students like Emmanuel to turn their ideas into impact.

Donate today.



Q&A with primary teacher, Ms Janeth

Hear from Ms Janeth, an English teacher at St Jude's who helps ignite the dreams of her students

Every year on 5 October the world recognizes the vital role teachers play in shaping future generations as we celebrate World Teachers' Day. At St Jude's, this day is one of our favorites on the calendar, as we proudly honor the dedication and passion of all our teachers who inspire students to dream big.

We value every contribution and the hard work our teachers pour into helping students thrive. Recently, we caught up with Ms Janeth, one of our primary school English teachers, to hear more about her passion for teaching.



Celebrating our teachers: Primary school English teacher, Ms Janeth, shares what she loves most about teaching at St Jude's.

What is the most interesting thing about working at St Jude's?

Nurturing students from the beginning and helping students to perform well. It's always great to see them progressing and learning new things about the world around them.

Why is it important to celebrate World Teachers' Day?

It is very important to recognize the hard work of teachers and see the challenges that we are going through. I am lucky to work in a wonderful team of teachers and I am happy to be appreciated.

What advice would you give to aspiring teachers?

Love the job! Because teaching is a calling, and being a teacher, you should always be committed, since teaching is endless learning.

Growing up, did you always want to become a teacher?

Yes, I always wanted to be a teacher because I always wanted to see young children grow and achieve their dreams. I have been teaching for 10 years now, and I am still happy to see my students growing, something that I have always dreamt about. where my journey in the tech industry truly began.



Great teachers shape great futures, and you can too!
Sponsor a student **scholarship today.**



Kiswahili word of the month

Improve your Kiswahili vocabulary with our word of the month

JAMII

jah-MEE-ee] Noun. Singular

The word Jamii means community. It represents the idea of people coming together, supporting one another, and sharing a common purpose or identity. At St Jude's, the spirit of Jamii is everywhere. No more so than this month, where the entire St Jude's community of 1,800 students and 350+ staff gathered on the campus to celebrate St Jude's Day. It is one of the biggest and most anticipated events on the school calendar, and it is a reminder of our shared mission and vision.



Living in unity: Celebrations like St Jude's Day are a perfect example of Jamii in action.

History

While Jamii is a common Swahili word used across East Africa, its meaning has grown over time. Traditionally, it referred to villages or neighborhoods where people relied on one another for daily life and survival. Today, Jamii extends beyond physical locations to any group bonded by shared purpose, values, or experiences. In places like St Jude's, it represents the modern idea of a supportive, inclusive community.

How to use the word...

- The school garden project showed real Jamii, with everyone pitching in to help.
- The spirit of Jamii was seen when students helped each other in class.
- Everyone enjoyed a sense of Jamii during the lunch time activities.

Want to put your Swahili into practice? We love visitors!
Plan your visit to St Jude's.





Threads of opportunity

How one Rotarian helped St Jude's students sew their way to a brighter future



Making a difference: Linda travelled to St Jude's in 2024 to present to two sewing machines to students and staff.

When American Rotarian Linda first read about a Rotary project in India teaching women life skills to support their families, it sparked an idea: what if she could bring the same opportunity to students at The School of St Jude?

"I love to sew, and maybe The School of St Jude would be interested in having a sewing machine to teach students to sew," says Linda.

The timing couldn't have been better. St Jude's Founder, Gemma Sisia, had recently added sewing machines to the school's donation wish list. Having learned to sew herself, Gemma knew firsthand how valuable this skill could be.

What started as a plan to donate a single sewing machine quickly became more ambitious. With the support of her Rapid City Rushmore Rotary Club in South Dakota, Linda secured the first machine

However, after enlisting the support of her family, notably her brother, a member of the Scottsbluff/Gehring Rotary Club in Nebraska, she was able to donate a second machine as well.

In 2024, Linda had the opportunity to visit St Jude's campus in Arusha, Tanzania, to present the sewing machines to students and staff in person. Before her arrival, the school had recruited two teachers to train students in sewing, including practical skills like mending their uniforms.

This initiative has empowered the school's 1,800 students to repair uniforms internally, extending the impact of the donation far beyond the initial gift.

"The sewing machines are the gift that keeps on giving," she says.



Want to make a difference? Support our US Annual Appeal. **Give today.**