

Director's Annual Report 2007

The Students

On the 1st January 2006, there were 662 students enrolled. On the 1st January 2007 there were 841 students enrolled. The 179 new sponsored children started school and their new futures in 2007.

Students and staff come from villages up to 15 kilometers away and arrive at school on one of 20 school buses. As the school's policy dictates, all students have passed an academic test, been assessed as having aptitude and a suitable attitude and come from very poor homes or disadvantaged backgrounds.

The school has students from Kinder class through to Grade 6 primary with up to six streams of each class. The average size of each class is 28 students, which is highly unusual for this country.

Children from four local orphanages are sponsored at the school – Huruma, Women in Action, St Joseph's, Living Water and Samaritan Village.

The Staff

Fulltime Staff	1 st Jan 2007	31 st December 2007
Academic Staff	45 Tanzanian + 12 foreign	64 Tanzanian + 1 foreign librarian and 2 foreign teacher mentors
Grounds Men and employed tradesmen	4	9
Cooking/Cleaning/Sewing Staff for both school and boarding houses	19	42
Security Guards for both school and boarding houses	9	20
Drivers	13	20
Administration Staff	15	25
Nurses	1	2

NB: With two major building projects in progress throughout 2007, over 1000 people have been employed at the work sites for doing everything from planting grass, welding steel and carrying cement to making door frames, tiling, roofing and painting walls.

Mr Nestory Msoffe, Academic Head, lead a hardworking and motivated teaching staff who achieved very pleasing results for all the school's examinations as well as the Standard 4 National Examination held in December. This year all 147 Std 4 pupils passed the exam with tremendous results, yet again with many of them achieving 100% in the various subjects.

In 2007 we reduced the number of teaching staff employed from overseas as we were able to find and afford well trained and experienced local teachers. Those who did not come up to our more exacting standards were replaced and those who worked hard and showed initiative were given salary increases or bonuses and many were elevated to leadership positions.

Currently at the school we have a western librarian and two western teacher mentors – one from Australia and one from the USA. Both are very experienced in the field of education and were a great support to the local teachers. Thanks goes to the Smith Family Foundation from the United States who granted the school a great gift – the expertise of two education experts who came to the school three times during the year to spend three weeks with the teaching staff working on leadership skills and innovative teaching techniques. Our goal is to give first rate professional development to our academic staff so that the teaching standard will be brought in line with that of the western world.

The Administration staff has increased in line with the exploding student population. Within the administration are teams working on sponsorship, visitors/groups, staffing, accounting, donations, IT, school management and teaching support administration. Currently the office staff members come from seven different countries – Tanzania, Australia, Germany, Israel, Ireland, Canada and USA.

Sponsors of Students, Teachers, Buses and Classrooms

As the school receives no support from any government body, it relies totally on sponsors for its running costs (including maintenance of all buildings and equipment). It cost us around 1,000,000 (one million) Australian Dollars to run the school this year.

Australian and Non Australian Sponsorship amounted to AU\$974,579.56

Below is a break down of the number of student sponsors from the many countries helping St Jude's:

Country	No of Sponsors	Country	No of Sponsors
Australia	1331	Northern Ireland	9
England	36	Tanzania, Italy	5 each
Ireland, USA	31 each	United Arab Emirates	3
New Zealand	30	Netherlands, Singapore, Germany	2 each
Canada	14	Japan, PNG, Sth Africa, India, Austria, Scotland, Senegal, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France	1 each

Donors

It is only thanks to our hundreds of donors that we are able to expand and make all our dreams and future projects a reality. Donations help to buy water tanks, electrical lines, school buses, all furniture and equipment for boarding houses, dining halls, classrooms, administration equipment and all the bricks, steel, glass and cement for actual construction.

However a special, special thanks has to go to Helen and Gordon Smith and family from the USA and Mark and Amanda Cubit and family from Australia who not only give generously to our building program but are always there to lend an ear, give emotional support and love so that all the purchase of land and construction comes to fruition.

It is the donations that make the difference between an average school and a school where the students are obtaining some of the best academic results in the country.

Following is a breakdown of the amount of donations received in the last 12 months and areas from where these donations have come:

Australian Donations **2.2 million Australian Dollars**
Non Australian Donations (mainly from the USA) **8.9 million Australian Dollars**

The Buildings and Land

On the 15th July 2006 we signed the contract for the perfect site for the second campus. Thirty acres of flat, land with good soil, paved road access and water was found at **Usa River**, just a 20-minute drive from the current campus. Payment of this land (AU\$300,000) was accomplished by 'selling' small parcels of land to over 600 of the school's extensive team of loyal, generous and hard-working supporters.

By March 2007 the final payment was made and construction of the new primary school and boarding houses started soon after. Construction included 32 classrooms, 4 project rooms, 4 staff rooms, library, 4 computer labs, 4 primary girls boarding houses, 3 primary boys boarding houses, dining hall seating 1,000 for 3 meals a day, assembly hall and administration. All this had to be built in a little over six months as the school is due to open with an enrolment of over 500 primary students in January 2008....and all is on track!

Usa River campus under construction



Also seven acres of land about ten minutes walk from the current school were purchased for the **boarding houses for the Moshono campus** and negotiations were made with the sisters of The Oblates of the Assumption to manage it. Construction started on the boarding houses in April 2007 and was finished by the end of the year. Three girls' houses and two boys' houses along with a dining hall were completed. The rooms were actually opened to students from Grade 4 who were sitting for their National exams on the 6th November. However, the landscaping has only just begun as we had to wait for the wet season to start.

Moshono boarding houses under construction



Std 4 girls enjoying their first night of boarding school



Buses

Thanks to both individuals and Rotary International (through Matching Grants) we have been able to increase our fleet of buses this year from 13 to 20. Although many of the students will be boarding during the week, we have enrolled another 170 children for 2008 so we will be using all the current buses but not needing to purchase any more. However, the maintenance of a fleet of refurbished second hand buses which are driven on very rough roads is extremely costly so running costs continue to be exorbitant.

Containers of Donated Goods – 3 from Australia and 1 from the USA

A big thank you must go to Lloyd Fleming, his family and Rotary Club for collecting goods, packing and sending us three containers of goods throughout 2007. Thanks to everyone involved, we will now have enough library books to open the new library at the new school in January 2008 as well as being able to fit out the new school with computers. Also a big thank you to Ruth Knoll from the USA who helped to send a container of books from the USA for our new library.

Computers arrive by container from Australia



Publicity and Promotion

The Website: Thanks again to Richard Pagliaro and Roumen Staykov (web designer) from Adelaide, South Australia, for their commitment to our school website – www.schoolofstjude.co.tz. The number of genuine hits on the website has now doubled since the start of 2007, indicating the website has become a serious source of information on the school and a place for donations to be taken.

St Jude's, the book went on sale in bookshops in Australia on 1st April and during May hit Number Three in the Australian Best Seller list. Thanks so much to Sophie and Tom Gilliatt for their patience and belief in the book. The word of mouth about the school has doubled and so have enquiries. In April I returned to Australia for two and a half weeks to promote the book, through an average of five events per day – an exhausting but worthwhile schedule! Thanks to everybody who came to a book launch function and who has since helped to share the news about the book with family and friends.

'Friends of St Jude's' Pack has been a great way to get word out about the school. A friend's function is to "raise awareness, not money" and thanks to so many people who have become 'a friend' we now have many gatherings happening around the world where people are learning about this school. The 'Friends of St Jude's' pack includes:

1. A DVD about The School of St Jude
2. A power point presentation about The School of St Jude
3. A power point picture presentation that can be shown in the background at a gathering while people are mingling
4. Pamphlets about The School of St Jude

Visitors to The School of St Jude

You can show as many pictures as you like, but it's only when you see the school for yourself, that you can grasp what truly is happening over here. With over 1000 visitors coming to the school in 2007, many people now have first hand experience of how the school functions and what we stand for.

Thanks must go to everyone involved in the Rotary Volunteer groups as they not only help with building furniture for us but they also go back to Australia as great ambassadors of the school. We look forward to hosting even more visitors in 2008!