

DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2009



Over the last eight years the school has grown strongly with support from around the world but this year we faced severe pressure on our ability to operate at the same level. Our costs have risen sharply for several reasons:

- over the last four years local staff salaries have increased markedly as we attract more experienced and well trained local teachers,
- costs of fuel, electricity and food have increased sharply over the same period,
- transport maintenance needs and expenses have risen sharply,
- two years ago we introduced weekly boarding accommodation for all students above Standard 3 to increase the standard of health (better food and sleeping conditions) and education (extra tuition and study) and decrease transportation costs. Although the capital costs have been fully donated, our food bill has jumped over 200% now we provide three meals per day to boarding students rather than one.

And at the same time we faced reduced income for various reasons:

- the global economic downturn affecting our sponsors and donors,
- the fall in the Australian dollar against the Tanzanian shilling by approximately 25%,
- the number of sponsors not in line with the increased student intake,
- sponsorship fees not being increased since 2005.

So to ensure the school was able to continue running for the rest of the year and beyond, the following measures were implemented:

- a staff freeze for 2009,
- all staff took a 10% pay cut effective from 1 February to 31 December 2009,
- 48 staff including 16 teachers were retrenched in February with assurances that they will be the first reemployed when possible while all remaining staff members agreed to undertake additional duties to cover the positions in the meantime,
- food budget was reduced by cuts in milk, meat and fruit (seen as luxuries in Tanzania),
- improved procurement processes were put in place to ensure further savings in fuel and food in particular,
- I undertook a successful sponsorship drive in Australia from May for two months,
- and, sponsorship dues were raised around 30% as of 1st March 2009.

All of us here on the ground understand how much our sponsors mean to us so we have tried not to increase sponsorship dues since the first increase in 2005. We have had special appeals and supplementary sponsorships for teachers, buses and classrooms to help make up the difference but these do not cover all expenses.

The cost of running the three St Jude's sites was a little over AU\$2,200 per child in 2008 where as a full child sponsorship fee was only AU\$1,100. In 2009 while we were still aiming to reduce running costs to AU\$2,000 per child, due to the economic situation, we were unable to cover the shortfall between costs and sponsorship fees any longer.

However, it wasn't just from overseas that we received financial assistance. After I discussed the school's financial situation with the parents of our students (all living in poverty), unbeknown to me, the Parents' Committee members had a meeting and it was announced that every family (besides those facing extreme hardship) would like to contribute TSh 5,000 per term (approximately AU\$12.00 per year). Of course I explained that it was a wonderful gesture but I couldn't accept the offer. However, they were adamant that they wanted to contribute. In the past they have pitched in to help harvest the school's food crop and given several loads of firewood for the kitchen. This contribution also will go towards firewood.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our loyal and generous supporters for their continuing care and concern for some of the disadvantaged and most deserving young people in Tanzania who continue to show their appreciation for the opportunity they have been given by working hard and aiming high.

kindest regards, *Gemma Sisia*

GENERAL BACKGROUND

The School of St Jude is owned by a company limited by guarantee, The School of St Jude Limited, operating as a non profit making organisation registered with Certificate No 47555, 24 November, 2003.

The school is registered with Ministry of Education in Tanzania vide Certificate No. AR027ER011 and AR0277011 for Nursery and Primary School respectively and Certificate No. S.4262 for the Secondary School.

The original campus is situated in Moshono Village with the boarding houses just a ten minute walk to the village of Moivaro, just 6 kilometers east of Arusha Municipality. The second campus (with boarding houses on site), opened in 2008, is situated 20 kilometers from the Moshono campus in the area known as Usa River.

THE PUPILS

On the 6th January 2009 there were 520 students enrolled at Moshono campus and 660 at Usa River campus.

Of the pupils enrolled 96% are on a full sponsorship. Pupils come from villages up to 40 kms away and, as per the school's policy, have all passed an academic test, been assessed as having aptitude and suitable attitude and come from very poor homes or disadvantaged backgrounds.

Children from seven local orphanages are sponsored at the school - Huruma (7 children), St Joseph's (10 children), Samaritan Village (3 children), Living Water Children's Centre (6 children), Paradiso Mpya (2 children), Future Happiness (2 children) and St Lucia (2 children).

The Std 4 exam was sat by 206 students across both campuses and all passed exceptionally well.

The Std 7 class (final year of primary school and an important Tanzanian Government examination) this year was sat by 118 students across the Usa River and Moshono campuses. Both campuses achieved excellent results and were among the top 30 schools out of the 15,000 that had students sitting this exam.

THE STAFF

Fulltime staff by end of 2009	Moshono/Moivaro campuses	Usa River campus
Academic staff	60 Tanzanian + 3 non-Tanzanian	61 Tanzanian + 3 non-Tanzanian
Grounds men	6	4
Cooking / cleaning staff	32	22
Trades people	21 covering both campuses (+ 30 casual employees)	
Nurse	1	1
Security guards	29	10
Drivers	21 covering both campuses	
Administration staff	17 Tanzanian 18 non-Tanzanian	4 Tanzanian + 3 non-Tanzanian

Moshono Primary School campus: We were very pleased to elevate Mr Rasul Abdul to the position of Academic Master of this campus where he worked alongside the Deputies Husna Mdoe and Benard Mainga. This was a strong leadership team that worked well with the Director and Deputy Director to run the Moshono campus.

Moivaro Boarding campus: Although this is the boarding section for the Moshono school students it is separated by a short distance and treated as a separate campus. The students from Std 4 to Std 7 in primary and Form 1 and 2 in Secondary walk to and from the campus to the classes at Moshono each day. The nuns from the Oblates of the Assumption order, managed by Sister Celestine Nasiali, are in charge of the day to day running of the facility.

Moshono Secondary School campus: This year was the start of our Secondary school when the first class of students graduated from primary school last year. As this was our first class enrolled at the school in 2002 there were only 33 students so we recruited an extra 23 deserving students who had excelled in their Std 7 exams at government primary schools. They integrated very quickly and happily with the original St Jude's students and despite their lack of English initially, they soon caught up and achieved great academic and sporting results.

Mr Nestory Msoffe was the Headmaster of the Secondary campus assisted by the Deputy, Diana Msafiri, and Desdery Tarimo as Academic Master.

Usa River campus:

As Headmaster, Peter Manjalla oversaw the overall running of this campus. He was assisted by his three deputies, George Stephen, Archard Ruyange and Wanyaga Nyaga, who was also in charge of the boarding facilities. Sebastian Gitbang was the Academic Master.

The whole school was thrilled that the library finally had a teacher librarian who worked hard to unpack the container load of books and set up the library. It quickly became the favourite place at the school for both students and staff.

Sponsors and Donors

As the school receives no support from any government body, we rely totally on our overseas supporters for running costs, including maintenance of all buildings and equipment.

In 2009 it took approximately AU\$2,125,000 to cover the total cost of running the school this year. This was covered mainly by: sponsorship payments (AU\$3,100,000), donations (AU\$1,084,000), fees from our original fee paying students (AU\$37,500) and income from visitors (AU\$4,900).

A very successful Boarding House Appeal netted the school AU\$277,510.00

Below is a break down of the number of student sponsors from the countries helping St Jude's in 2009:

Country	No of Sponsors	Country	No of Sponsors
Australia	1,197	Singapore	7
USA	95	Germany	3
UK	35	Holland, Italy, Tanzania (+ 1 unidentified country)	2 each
New Zealand	19	Austria, Denmark, France, Hong Kong, Malta, Scotland,	1each
Ireland	13	Sri Lanka, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates	
Canada	13		

New Buildings

At the Moivaro boarding campus two new buildings with dormitories and study rooms for a further 128 students were built.

At the site of the Secondary school the school dining and assembly hall was erected.

Buses

No buses were purchased in 2009 but as soon as funds allow, new buses will be add to the fleet of 20.

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 really increased over the past few years, indicating the website has become a valuable source of information about the school and a place for donations to be made.

Friends of St Jude's: With the world economic downturn causing a lack of funding for all charities around the world we are extremely grateful to all the people who chose to become a Friend of St Jude's. So many people have worked so hard to spread the word about the work that is being done at St Jude's by having functions to "raise awareness, not money". Every event from a gathering of friends at home to school and club functions have ensured that more people around the world are learning about this school. They have informed their friends and colleagues by using the 'Friends of St Jude's' pack which 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

New school promotional DVD: Great supporters of the school, Mary Elaine, Brian and Anne, came from Ireland for a week to research and film our latest promotional DVD. Focusing on two students and a teacher from the school, they produced an informative and entertaining addition to our promotional material.

Visitors and VIPs

We are grateful that so many of our supporters make the effort to come to Arusha and see for themselves the difference they are making to so many young Tanzanian lives.

Over 1,000 visitors called in to see us and spent the day or up to a week so they could have first hand knowledge of how the school functions and why we are here. Sponsors enjoy the opportunity of meeting their sponsored student and/or teacher, travel in their sponsored bus or visit the boarding house room they support. The staff and students enjoy meeting the people from around the world who show they care about their future and relish the opportunity to entertain them in the weekly assembly, share a meal with them in the school dining room or introduce them to their family at their homes.

We were also grateful to several Rotary Volunteer groups who offered their many skills to work on such projects as furniture building and book covering in the library.

The Director met with the Governor General of Australia, the Australian Prime Minister and his wife and the President of Tanzania. The Shadow Treasurer of Australia visited the school.