

Friends of St Jude's

Fighting poverty by spreading awareness

Dear Friend's of St Jude's,

Not so long ago I felt quite daunted by the challenges ahead of me. St Jude's has come such a long way...In 2002 we opened the doors of St. Jude's to three small children, one teacher and a single classroom. Six years later, through a worldwide support network, we have two campuses, with over 1000 students and over 250 staff. How amazing!!!

But the story obviously does not end there. This is a success story...but the story is far from over. Since we are not associated with any government, our continued success relies solely on donations, sponsorships and the raising of awareness around the world. It is this international support network that allows us to continue fighting poverty, corruption and political instability in Tanzania. So when the economic crisis hit, and I saw donations ceasing, and sponsors dropping out, I became afraid. Everyone was struggling, and St Jude's certainly does not have the funds to launch a big PR campaign....what could I do?

In this time of immense need, I turned to our Friends. To all of you, some are donors, some sponsors and others ardent vocal champions. What you all have in common, however, is that you go that extra step...raising awareness, spreading the word, and allowing us to make it through this difficult time. The response and support was immediate, and so uplifting that it has inspired us all here at St Jude's. Enjoy some amazing stories of friends who stood up to the challenge. Also, if you have not already seen this article, St Jude's was on CNN.com, thanks to a dedicated Friend.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/africa/04/20/charity.troubles/index.html>

Thank you so much and enjoy!!!

Rising to the Challenge...

For Chelsea Hobert, helping St Jude's is old news. Chelsea signed her first letter to me with *"And just by the way, I love St. Judes! I have loved it since I first heard of it 4 years ago"* and all I could think was thank you for loving St Jude's still today!! When Chelsea heard about the Friend's program she immediately signed up and promised to make an event to spread awareness in her school and community. Ideas began to circulate, and support for her plans grew back home, but when Chelsea heard about the troubles St Jude's was facing, she knew that the time to rise to the challenge was now.

Together with the Service Learning group at St. Paul Academy and Summit School, a fun scrabble tournament was held in support of St Jude's. They had 40 teams of two sign up, (so 80 people), and charged \$20 per team to play. In addition they sold pizza, soda's, and baked goods as well. Every single person that was there learned about the school and contributed towards helping St Jude's make it through the tough times.



When Chelsea contacted me to tell me about the results I was just blown away: "We actually exceeded our goal by a little bit, raising (rough estimate) \$1060.00!!!"

Thank you Chelsea and thank you to the Service Learning group. You have once again demonstrated what amazing feats can be achieved by dedication, love and amazing team-work. We really appreciate it!!!



The School of St. Jude

May 20, 2009



Chelsea Hobert, in red, together with just some of the Service Learning group at St. Paul Academy and Summit School, to whom the credit for the fantastic scrabble tournament goes. The awareness and funds you raised is what keeps us fighting poverty through education :) Asante Sana!!!

Rising to the Challenge...

Our second story has much in common with the first. For Jennifer Shelley, St Jude's is an old Friend, as she has actually been to Tanzania and The School of St Jude. When she came and visited on our October'08 tour, she went back home full of ideas on how to organize a School of St. Jude's fund raising 'Cultural night.'



Together with her work friends from the Wesley Hospital in Brisbane, a fun get-together was organized, where the guests had to dress appropriately according to theme. From exotic foods, to Australian Bushmen, the night was filled with laughter, friendship and one stunning looking Jenny as she wore her "beautiful kanga, thanks to the school!" The merry gathering raised awareness and about \$300, which could not have come at a better time to support St Jude's. Thank you Jenny and all your wonderful Friends. Hopefully we will see you in Arusha one day again :)



Jenny and Annie, enjoying their "cultural night." (top), and proving once again that diverse foods are always the tastiest (left).



...And Winning!!!

The School of St Jude has always owed a lot to Rotary Groups. The first donations, the first volunteers and the most persistent supporters of the schools have always been Rotarians. It is no surprise then that at a time like this it once again is the Rotary teams that are coming to St Jude's rescue.

This March, The Rotary Club of Sylvania, cordially invited all Friends, near and far, to join them for a Trivia Night benefitting St Jude's.

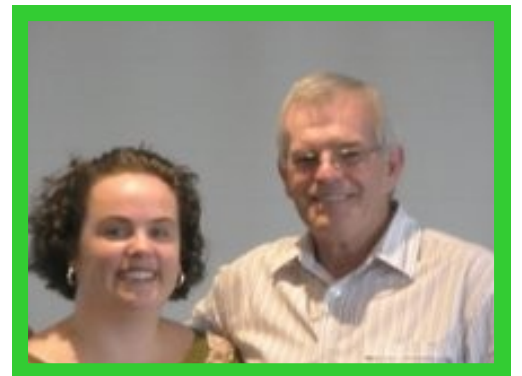


This was quite a new idea and has inspired other groups to band together for a common cause.

How did they do? "We raised about \$3,400 for our 2 purposes - - \$1200 went towards a Rotary Shelter Box and the other \$2,200 to St Jude's. We are a small club but had about 100 people together for the night and had a great time raising money for 2 very worthwhile causes" says Ken Coleman, the International Director of Rotary Club

of Sylvania.

For our part we are incredibly impressed and thankful. Not only are we receiving much needed support, but through this communal effort and outreach, other groups have been inspired to join in actively helping us spread awareness and the news about St Jude's.



Ken and me, at the presentation of the cheque in Sydney. Thank you for your amazing and continued support!!!

Looking Forwards...

As I start working on the June Newsletter, I find myself in the unprecedented position of already having a full set of stories to feature. From dance recitals to flower sales, our Friend's are out there in full force. This school was founded through hard work, and a dedicated and loyal team. This school will survive because we keep working hard and because we are still one big and dedicated team. The Friend's program proves this every month, and from all of us here in Arusha...ASANTE SANA!!!

Thank you for your support, and for not giving up. You can be rest assured that we are doing the same from our end. If you have held an event, big or small, formal or informal, or have a story that you would like featured, please send me some pictures. I would love to share your efforts with all our supporters.

With Love

Gemma