



## Dorice Livingstone-Abel

Graduate, The School of St Jude

[schoolofstjude.org](http://schoolofstjude.org)

No one knows the value of a St Jude's education better than Dorice Livingstone-Abel. Before joining us in high school, she attended a severely under-resourced government school, where she was one of 100 students in a class, fighting through hunger while trying to learn.

'It was hard,' Dorice says. 'Sometimes the teacher was at class; sometimes she wasn't. We spent from morning until night without any food and we didn't have any books.'

Unfortunately, this situation is all too common in Tanzania, where there is a severe lack of teachers and resources. Students often go hours without meals because of extreme poverty, with an estimated 84.5% of families living on less than US\$2 per day (according to United Nations).

Dorice grew up in the Arusha district of Sombetini, in a cramped three-room house she shared with her parents and five siblings. Her parents, whose income came from operating a small vegetable farm near the family home, did not have money to provide their children with a quality, private education.

'If I wasn't at St Jude's I don't think I would have finished Form 6 (Year 12) because the conditions (at government schools) are so tough, without teachers, without books,' Dorice says. 'My parents couldn't afford to send me to a private school. Because I was at St Jude's I passed Form 4 (Grade 10) very well and Form 6 very well!'

Because of the pressures of poverty and the cost of education, many Tanzanians don't finish high school. Of the 1.63 million students in Tanzania who, like Dorice, enrolled in their first year of school in 2002, fewer than 39,000 graduated Form 6 in 2015. That is just 2.4%.

Dorice was part of a St Jude's graduating class that finished in the top 10% of all schools in Tanzania. Through the Beyond St Jude's program, St Jude's continues to support her as she goes to university and becomes a future leader of Tanzania.

'I want to become a doctor because here in Tanzania we have very few doctors,' she says. 'I want to be a gynecologist because there are very few and there are lots of women's diseases that are not addressed!'

Before Dorice embarks on her tertiary education she is showing her gratitude by volunteering as a teacher at her local government school. The experience is both eye-opening and rewarding for Dorice.

'They have no teachers,' she says. 'I remember the first day I came they had no biology teacher here. From January to July the Form 1s had no biology teacher. I started an introduction to biology!'

Embodying St Jude's mission of educating community-minded leaders, Dorice has relished in the opportunity to use her St Jude's education to help those who need it most.