



# The Nyadire Connection

*The Nyadire Connection (TNC), based in Pittsburgh, PA, is a faith-based non-profit volunteer organization that seeks to support and sustain the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe.*

## TNC Summer Happenings in Nyadire

### FORTY PEOPLE FROM U.S. VISIT NYADIRE

On six separate mission trips, forty volunteers traveled to Nyadire to work in TNC's various programs, get to know the people and sample the Zimbabwean culture. An overview of the teams' experience follows:

**Jan.22 -28:** Co-leaders - Drew Harvey & Sandy McKnight. Review of all programs, initiate farm rejuvenation, completion of water project.

**May 17 – June 5:** Co-leaders – Janet Elders & Sue Bower. Six team members. Large amount of drugs delivered. Major emphasis on Farm, Micro-loan Program, Pharmacy renovation, Home of Hope interaction.

**June 28 – July 17:** Co-leaders Kathy Surma & Rev. Kimberly Greway. Pastor Workshop conducted, major review of TNC hospital drug purchasing process, sanitary products program with Girl Child Network. Excursion to Victoria Falls.

**July 13 – Aug.3:** Team Leader – Mary Beth Zollars. Team size 13, many from Latrobe UMC. Met with Hakan Wiik of Finland to prepare proposal for Hearing Impaired Center. Home of Hope Outreach School Sponsorship Program (HOHO) updated. Volunteers tutor HOHO students in English. Victoria Falls Excursion via 12 hour bus ride from Nyadire.

**August 2 – 19:** Co-leaders – Mark LaRosa and Pat Cook. Team size 7. Vacation Bible School, work with hospital and Home of Hope, Teachers' College. Jodi Stoltenburg from CA and son, Frankie, will produce several promotional videos for each TNC program which can be used on website etc.

**July 13 – Aug. 19: Immersion Program.** Seven people are spread out geographically and staying with host families in hopes of understanding Zim culture and seeing the role of laity in the Zim church.

### Brother's Brother Foundation & "The Africa Initiative"

TNC has developed an extensive network of community partners. One is Brother's Brother Foundation (BBF), located on Pittsburgh's North Side with the mission of "Connecting People's Resources with People's Needs". [www.brothersbrother.org/](http://www.brothersbrother.org/). BBF scavenges from the medical industry and ships items via ocean container to places throughout the world where they are desperately needed. A frugal and passionate organization, BBF is consistently rated by Forbes magazine as the country's most cost effective charity.

A 40' ocean container holds a LOT of stuff. Think about pouring your living room full of backpacks, tools, computers, medical supplies of all varieties, hospital equipment, school supplies, and more. TNC averages sending 2 containers each year to Nyadire, and most have been done together with BBF. TNC collects & stores in a South Hills storage unit, BBF adds many items, and BBF manages the ocean transport.



Ocean transport means traveling 8400 miles, about \$15,000 transit cost, and 4 months before things reach Nyadire. So --- you don't send junk. TNC works very hard to insure that Nyadire requests and truly will use everything that is sent.

BBF recently began an "Africa Initiative" to greatly increase the number of medical containers sent to African countries. But first, effective Health Care Providers must be developed that can identify what is needed, receive, clear thru customs, and insure that all is safely delivered. The plan is to start with a few countries, and expand. In 2012, BBF is already working with >100 African hospitals. About 30 containers will be sent, most to Zimbabwe, Liberia, & Malawi. BBF is building on the initial relationship with Nyadire Hospital and is now working with the Zimbabwe Association of Church Related Hospitals (ZACH) to send supplies to hospitals throughout Zimbabwe.

Donations to TNC are tax deductible and will bring greatly needed services and help to Nyadire. All electronic donations are made through a secure server.

For more information about The Nyadire Connection, see [www.nyadire.org](http://www.nyadire.org)



Do you remember your "blankie," or the comfort you felt drifting off to sleep fingering the soft material?

**The "Knotty Ladies" of Franklin Christ UMC made quilts and designated them for each HOH child -"from our hearts to your hands."**



**Other young people of Southwestern PA also**

**made blankets for the children and the staff of the Home of Hope. The children at Carmichael UMC in Washington, PA under the leadership of Arta Witke made blankets of two bed sized colorful fleece pieces whose edges have been fringed then knotted together.**

**The Interact Club of Bethel Park High School that is connected to the Bethel/Upper St. Clair Rotary Club, chose making fleece blankets for their international service project. Bethel Park Superintendent Nancy Rose, a long time advocate of The Nyadire Connection (TNC), informed Interact's sponsor, Matthew Kallis,**



**about TNC and its programs in Zimbabwe. The club's members held fundraisers to raise \$600 to purchase the fabric for the 25 blankets. Some of the projects were selling muffins & "remembrance t-shirts" of the old BPHS.**

**For all the warm and comfies, we offer thanks.**



Ndaivizei, HOH Mother arriving at the orphanage.



Delight, Kuda, & Delight's brother & sister

Home of Hope News

*\*The children are growing and developing so well and bring joy to all who interact with them. \*TNC bought four bicycles from World Bicycle Relief for use by the employees of the orphanage-a great addition for those whose daily walk from home was up to four hours each way. The bicycles are made in Zimbabwe to withstand the country's conditions. Additional bikes are welcomed at cost of \$160 each. \*HOH children took an excursion to the Mutoko Ruins to experience part of their history. On the way, a child spotted a sign to Mother of Peace Orphanage and wanted to visit Delight, one of the HOH children who was transferred there to join his two siblings. What a happy reunion they had! Kuda never let go of him. \*A strategic plan is being developed for expansion of the HOH. \*Additional sponsors are urgently needed for children at the Home of Hope. Monthly sponsorship is \$30. Contact Mary Beth Zollars [mbzollars@aol.com](mailto:mbzollars@aol.com)*

WHAT'S IN A SUITCASE ?

*Packing for a Nyadire mission trip may mean a minimum of clothes and personal items, but also a birthing simulator named Mama Natalie, (that should provide a reaction from customs), vegetable seeds, soccer uniforms, medicines, Sunday School curriculum, midwifery textbooks, 60 "Fanny Health Packs" for palliative health care nurses, lab tools, Vacation Bible School materials, Christmas cards and about 20 pounds of diapers/supplies for Baby Gracious ( p. 3.) All these items reflect the 11 TNC programs now in place.*

*And we cannot forget the many, many letters and small gifts from sponsors to the children of the Home of Hope Orphanage and the Home of Hope Outreach School Sponsorship Program.*

Home of Hope Outreach School Sponsorship

- Mission team members began a new phase of the HOHO program by working with high school students on English. They interacted with primary children by having them draw, then talk about their work. When one of the Nyadire HS students found out Rev. Lois Swestyn was a former math teacher, she was instantly surrounded.
- The Home of Hope has a new vehicle which will allow the administrator to safely conduct the program's business and get him to the neighboring village schools.
- Christ United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School collected over \$300 and many boxes of school supplies for the Home of Hope Outreach School Sponsorship Program. The theme was "God's Promises."
- 100 new orphans were added to the program in a giant leap of faith to find new sponsors allowing these children to remain in school
- Many thanks to all the sponsors.** For those who are interested in sponsoring, contact [mbzollars@aol.com](mailto:mbzollars@aol.com).



## GRACIOUS

A few days before she was to leave for her fourth trip to the Nyadire Mission, TNC member **Sue Bower**, a nurse at Jefferson Hospital, was given \$20 by fellow nurse, **Cindy Nelson**. Cindy told Sue to use it wherever it was needed. Sue clipped the bill inside her journal and forgot about it. Fast forward. A week later at the Nyadire Hospital in Zimbabwe, station chair, **Ngoni Kadonhera**, arrived holding a baby he found abandoned on the side of the road. The nurses, personnel, and mission team fussed over the infant and took turns holding her. They named her **Gracious**, but were concerned. **Gracious** would need milk, and there was no mother, no breast milk.



Sue Bower removed the \$20 bill from her notebook and exclaimed, "We can buy formula starting with this." Within moments enough money had been given by team members to buy a six-month supply of formula for **Gracious**. To date, the baby lives at the hospital and is thriving. Hospital aides carry her around in a sling on their backs as they go about their daily work.

Return to Pittsburgh and Jefferson Hospital. **Sue Bower** shows **Cindy Nelson** and others the photos of **Gracious** and tells the story of how the \$20 gift started the fund for formula. **Cindy** is energized to do more, and many more have added to the fund that TNC members have started. **Gracious** will be well fed and diapered. The last but not final word is that when **Mark LaRosa** was going through Zimbabwe customs, one official wanted to see the suitcase carrying the orthopedic drill. Upon opening it, he saw Pampers earmarked for **Gracious**, put his hand on his heart and said "Ahh-h-h," and forgot about the drill that may have caused some delay.



Check out [www.southhillsortho.com](http://www.southhillsortho.com) & click on LINK TO ZIMBABWE Also UMCOR'S video on Water in Nyadire can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?>

## **Dr. Kasombo Tshiani, head physician at Nyadire**

**Hospital** was welcomed to PA the week of July 28 - August 6. Dr. Tshiani was in Washington, DC for an AIDS Conference and extended his time in the US to see his many TNC friends and be acquainted with the many sources that provide support to improve health care in the Nyadire community.



Rick King, Dr. Tshiani, Luke Kingson of BBF inspect a delivery table at Chosen.

Included in his busy agenda were a TNC social gathering at **John and Janet Elders**, visiting **Allegheny General, West Penn, and Jefferson Hospitals, Tri-Community Emergency, Brothers' Brother Foundation, Global Links**, as well as trips to Cleveland to visit **Medwish** and Erie to visit **Chosen**. He also saw **Niagara Falls** and took a **Ducky Tour** for a taste of the 'burgh. (Word is that the good doctor had a tour driving the Ducky vehicle in the Ohio River.) He also spoke four times at **CUMC**, once at **Liberty UMC**, and twice at **St. Paul's UMC**.



Dr. Tshiani, Kathy Surma, Sandy McKnight, Keith Wilson at Niagara Falls

Dr. Tshiani had an opportunity to reconnect with **Kayla Mahalchak**, who visited Nyadire in 2008 and 2011, first as a high school senior and then as a college senior. She introduced him to her dad, **John Mahalchak**, a TNC supporter, and Home of Hope sponsor. Through John's persistence and the generosity of the **Stryker Corporation** and **Project Cure**, TNC obtained two surgical kits. One has a refurbished orthopedic drill and the other a large bone saw, plus batteries, recharger, and accessories, two invaluable instruments on Dr. Tshiani's wish list.

**CATCH THE SPIRIT - Kathy Surma caught the spirit.** She was troubled when she learned young Zimbabwean girls missed school every month because of the lack of sanitary products. She had seen met **Makoni** and had seen the documentary, "**Tapestries of Hope,**" describing **Betty's** efforts in Zimbabwe the organization, **The Girl Child Network** which provides safe homes for young girls. **Kathy** brought the concern to her Bible Study Group. **The spirit ignited.** **Carol Drabek** scoured the internet found a pattern for washable sanitary products and started sewing. **Barb Greway** of St. Paul's UMC, Allison Park, found a different pattern and packaged her version in a zip lock bag along with girls' underwear. **Rev. Lois Swestyn** and **Diane Welty** of Liberty UMC took donated fabric, scissors, & underwear on their mission trip to Nyadire this summer.

**Bonnie Lawson**, also in the Bible Study, took a different tack. She researched sewing machines that would work best in Zimbabwe where the electricity is unpredictable. **Bonnie** acquired 7 machines & refitted them with cranks & treadles. They are on their way to Nyadire in the Brother's Brother container. One machine will go to the Girl Child Network. **Sandy Waters** appealed for printing, & **Marcus Grando** offered services. **Kathy Surma** delivered money, fabric, & thread to the Girl Child Network from **Upper St. Clair High School Girls Empowerment Project**. And so it goes. **YOU CAN CATCH THE SPIRIT!** Donate fabric, notions, thread, etc. Contact Kathy Surma at [ksurma2008@gmail.com](mailto:ksurma2008@gmail.com).