



# 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.

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[www.nyadire.org](http://www.nyadire.org)

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## Nyadire Offers Thanks For Food Support

Due to an extended drought, the COVID pandemic, and difficult economic conditions, many Zimbabweans faced food shortages and hunger over the last many months. To help during this challenging time, TNC worked with the **Nyadire Social Committee** and began purchasing food that was organized into bundles and distributed to Nyadire families, staff families at the health clinics, and pastor families of the Mutoko Mudzi district. Each bundle contained items such as cooking oil, beans, sugar and mealie-meal. The bundles were distributed each month since last May through this April, the final month.

Now that rains have come and with the current harvest, conditions have improved. TNC wants to offer abundant thanks to the generous donors and many volunteer workers who have made this program possible, and our friends in Nyadire also send thanks (see banner in photo at right).



## Calling All Event Planners: Help TNC Celebrate 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

As you can see from the logo in the left-hand corner of this page, TNC is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021 – and we need your help to plan a celebration event. We expect to host the event in the Pittsburgh area late this year, and we're hoping to have guests from Zimbabwe. **Debbie Little** of **Dutilh UM Church** is serving as chairwoman of the event committee. If you have a flair for event planning and a heart for TNC, please contact Debbie at [Deborah.little@dentons.com](mailto:Deborah.little@dentons.com) or 412-951-4330 to join the team.

# TNC Leadership Profile: Drew Harvey

**Editor's Note:** This is the first in a series of profiles about TNC's Leadership team, highlighting their roles and why they are involved in TNC.

**Hometown:** Originally from Pampa, Texas; now living in Mt. Lebanon (Pittsburgh), PA

**TNC Role:** One of the leaders who planned and led first team to Nyadire in 2006, then became chairman and have served in that role since. Also lead several programs: Medical, Engineers Without Borders, and Container Shipments

**What is your profession and how has that helped in your TNC role:** Grew up on a Wheat

Farm/Ranch in Panhandle of Texas. Worked for the Aluminum Company of America for 36 years as a Mechanical Engineer. Farming background

has helped, as much of our work with Nyadire has been support to the farm and efforts to develop the agricultural potential of the mission. Engineering background has greatly helped to guide our working relationship and establish an organizational structure with the UMC, the Nyadire Leadership, and TNC so that we strategically work toward common goals. Program management is a big part of engineering and this has been foundational with TNC: Who's the leader? What skills do we need? Who does what? How much will it cost? What's the schedule? What's the justification? How do we track our progress? How do we communicate? What results do we expect?



**How and why did you get involved with TNC:** After retirement, I became a Habitat for Humanity team leader and took several teams to Africa, then joined a first team trip to Nyadire initiated by my church, CUMC, expecting it to be a one-time trip. Upon return, we were so taken by the people and potential of Nyadire that we knew we wanted to stay connected; it was clear we could help Nyadire and they could help us.

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# TNC Leadership Profile: Drew Harvey

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## Why do you think TNC has been so successful:

Our original guidelines were developed early and have been followed: 1) Long-term commitment that is relationship-based; 2) A partnership that enables human connections; 3) Focused on one place: Nyadire leads, TNC enables; 4) Strive for sustainability and avoid toxic charity; 5) Prioritize communication and feedback.



## What do you like best about TNC: The

people; Zimbabweans and Americans are some of the most inspiring people I have ever known. I have learned, been challenged, grown spiritually, become more humble, thought deeply about what it means to be an ethical world citizen.

**How many times have you been to Nyadire and what's your favorite part about the trip:** 10; I enjoy the long talks and making plans with Nyadire friends.

**How has your involvement with TNC helped you to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ:** My simplified version of the Two Greatest Commandments: Develop a personal relationship with God and help others. I find these synergistic; as my love and relationship with God grows, it leads me to help others. As I help others, my relationship with God becomes ever richer. I have seen this in everything I do with TNC.

**What Bible verse(s) inspired you to become involved in TNC:** John 15:12: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." And I have always loved these three quotes, together: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Together with "God, grant me the serenity To accept the things I cannot change; The courage to change the things that I can; And the wisdom to know the difference." And from The Talmud: "Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it."

**What's your message to anyone who's considering a trip:** An African friend once told me: "Everyone goes to Africa for the first time with great anxiety and uncertainty. But once they go, they always want to go back." It's very true; go on the first trip for yourself. What you contribute will come later.

## Thousands Benefit From TNC's Eyeglasses Program



Through our **Eyeglasses** program, led by **Don Ziegler**, TNC has improved the eyesight of more than 8,000 people throughout the Nyadire region.

Here's how the program has worked: Many TNC supporters collect used eyeglasses which must then be cleaned and sorted. Don then delivers the glasses to Mission Vision in Pittsburgh, where they are separated and packaged according to prescription. Eventually large quantities of eyeglasses are either carried to Zimbabwe via suitcases, or sent via an ocean container to maintain the stock of glasses needed during an Eyeglass Testing Clinic. (Clinics have recently been paused because of COVID.)

From donation to placement on the eyes of a patient, all this is done by many, many volunteers. Don recently presented the program to a circle of the **United Methodist Women** and they followed up with a service project where members cleaned and sorted glasses. Thanks to all!

Recently, TNC renamed the program in memory of the late **Faith Geer**, who was an early organizer and supporter of this vital effort.

## The Journey Begins: 171 Boxes Bound For Nyadire



In coordination with **Brother's Brother Foundation**, TNC gathers items to be sent to Nyadire through our **Ocean Container Shipment** program. Recently, a team of volunteers – including **Mary Beth Zollars**, **Bonnie Lawson** and **Sue Bower**, above – loaded 171 boxes on a BBF truck, the first leg of a journey that will eventually take those boxes to Nyadire via ocean container.

# Home of Hope Receives New Playground Equipment



Thanks to the **United Methodist Church of Finland**, the **Home of Hope Orphanage** received some new playground equipment, and the kids wasted little time in putting it to good use.

In addition, a multi-purpose kitchen/gathering place was recently completed (right).



## Sponsors Needed For New Children



We're always looking for sponsors as new children arrive at the **Home of Hope!** Recently, the sibling group at left became residents: Wayne (3 years old), Anna (5 years old), Evidence, and Tanatswa (10).

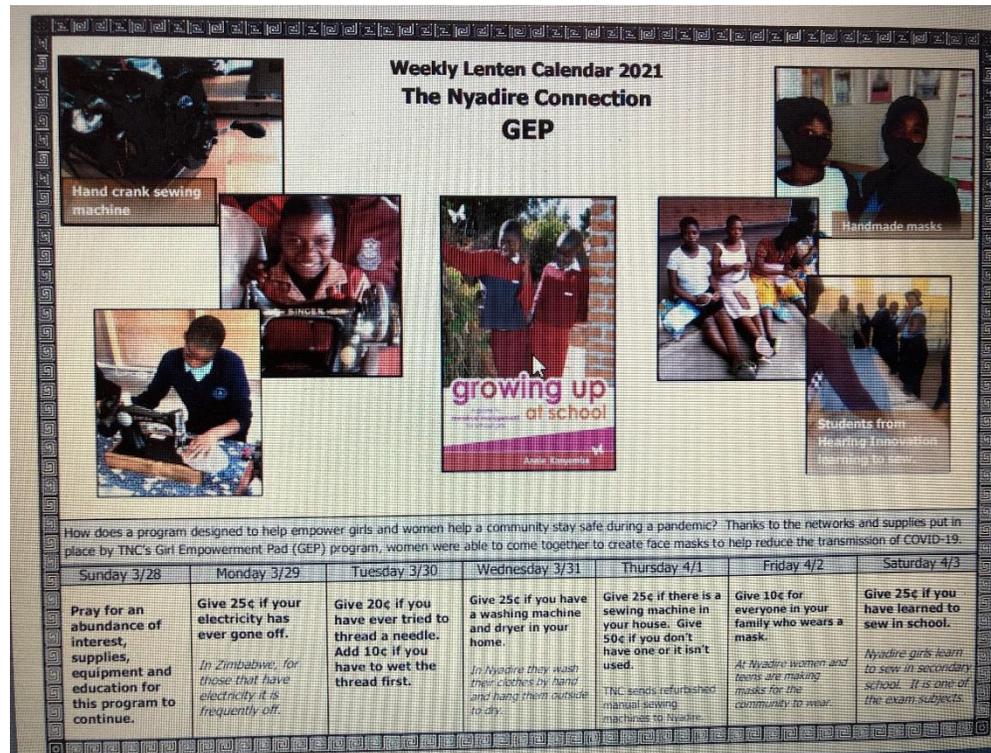
For \$40 per month, sponsorships cover all expenses for food, clothing, medical and schooling needs. To become a sponsor, click the link below for information and a registration sheet.

[http://www.nyadire.org/uploads/4/7/6/4/4764398/hoh\\_informational\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.nyadire.org/uploads/4/7/6/4/4764398/hoh_informational_sheet.pdf)

# Lenten Calendar Highlights TNC's Programs

Thanks to **Sandy McKnight** and **Barb Greway** of **St. Paul's UM Church**, TNC published a Lenten Calendar, which highlighted its programs and partnership with The Nyadire Mission.

Each week, the calendar provided insight into a TNC program, while offering a fun learning experience for the whole family. For example, the week of March 28 highlighted our **Girl Empowerment Program**, which enables young girls to make their own feminine hygiene materials. As part of the program, TNC sends refurbished sewing



machines and kits to the Mission, to be distributed to schools and medical clinics throughout the region.

The calendars also suggested small donations of money as part of the responses to questions, such as: "Give 20¢ if you have ever tried to thread a needle. Add 10¢ if you have to wet the thread first." At the end of Lent, participants could contribute any funds collected to TNC, either through the PayPal link on our website <http://www.nyadire.org/donate.html> or by sending a check to:

Christ United Methodist Church  
Attn: The Nyadire Connection, Richard Dickey  
44 Highland Road  
Bethel Park, PA 15102

Thanks to everyone who participated and contributed, and look for another TNC calendar during Lent 2022!

## If You Have Newsletter Story/Photo Ideas...

In our newsletter, TNC strives to highlight a variety of our programs, and the efforts of our network churches and other supporters. If you have story/photo ideas that you would like us to consider for publication, please submit them to **Tim Wesley**, at [timwesley61@zoominternet.net](mailto:timwesley61@zoominternet.net)

# Program Highlights From TNC's March Meeting

Each month, TNC leaders gather – we've been using Zoom calls for the past year – to review our programs and discuss future plans. We always begin with a prayer, and this month we'd like to share the opening prayer offered at a recent meeting by **Molly Michael**, who leads several TNC programs: "Lord, pray for us. Pray for us during this time of uncertainty. We look to you throughout this season. Thank you for all that you have given us, especially the love we share with those in Zimbabwe. Thank you for bringing this passionate group together to serve Your will. You have moved mountains with this partnership. We pray for our friends at Nyadire as they navigate the difficulties of COVID-19 and daily struggles to live. Lord, bless everyone who serves You through TNC. May we continue to spread light in darkness, establish hope during times of fear, and provide for those in need. Amen."

Below are highlights from our March meeting:

## Health Area

- Eyeglasses: See page 4.
- Ocean Container Shipments: **Steve McPherson** has donated a 35 HP John Deere tractor and a plow for use at the **Home of Hope**. We expect to ship the tractor along with other items in a container later this year (see page 4)...The tractor is from 1973, but has low hours, has been refurbished, and Steve will install new, foamed tires.
- Girl Empowerment: Packed and prepared documentation for an upcoming shipment, including 14 sewing machines (4 manual and 10 electric)...Shipment also contains master kits for the production of 50 master kits for each of the 7 primary schools supported by the program...Additional fabric and sewing supplies were provided to continue the support of school sewing programs active at the Waiting Mother's Homes in Nyadire...Also, **Bonnie Lawson** is now TNC's contact with the "Stitching Together" group at **St Paul's UMC**...This group was previously "Creative Hands" and has provided many blankets/caps for newborns at **Nyadire Hospital**.
- Medical Supplies: Transferring funds for purchase of drugs to be used in the second quarter of this year.
- Rural Health Clinic Rebuilds: Total cost to rebuild Mashambanhaka is about \$274,000, with project nearing completion...Furnishings will be sent in the upcoming container...TNC expects to begin raising funds for the final clinic later this year.
- Medical and Hospital Support: As of late March, **Nyadire Hospital** was expected to be a COVID vaccination center for teachers, security forces, judiciary services, health care workers and religious leaders.



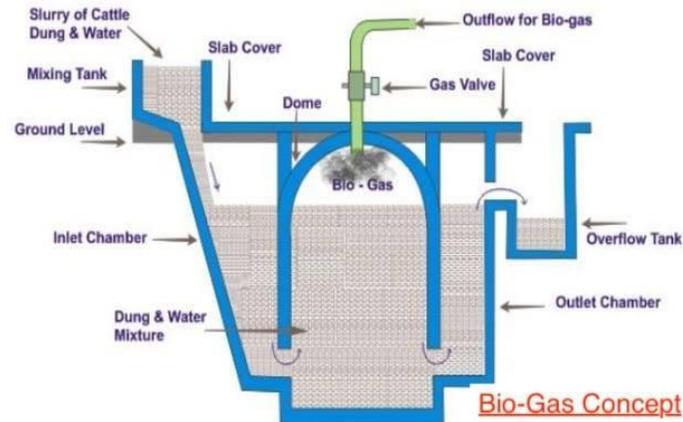
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# Program Highlights From TNC's March Meeting

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## Education and Relationships Area

- Engineers Without Borders/CMU: Nyadire collected and weighed cow manure for 13 days to demonstrate the amount that can consistently be available as feed for the biogas digester (see diagram at right)...The average daily amount is 106 kg/day, and EWB believes this is close to the amount needed to cook all meals required, but this has not yet been confirmed with the provider...Target completion date (not committed) of the BioGas Primary School Cooking System remains September 2021.
- Hearing Innovation: Two boxes of books were donated from **Susan Eyrolles**, a sponsor, and will be included in the shipment...**Simbarashe Andrew Mandaza** has been a strong leader and motivator of all things related to the Hearing Innovation programs at Nyadire...He hopes to attend Great Zimbabwe State University for a Masters in Special Needs specializing in Sign Language Education...The program is 2.5 years long, would be distance learning, and he would travel to GZSU during holidays...Fees are \$400/semester and TNC will consider some level of scholarship support.
- Volunteer-in-Mission trips: If you're interested in leading or joining a team at some point, please contact **Molly Michael** at [mollyalice.michael@gmail.com](mailto:mollyalice.michael@gmail.com)...Depending on COVID restrictions, Molly hopes to lead a team to Nyadire sometime between June and August, although the decision to travel may have to be made at the last minute.
- Sister Rut Scholarships: **John Sperry** has provided funds to the "Foundation for Tertiary Education" for agricultural scholarships at Africa University or other schools, and we already have candidates expected to apply...See TNC Minutes for an update on current scholarship students.



## Orphans Area

- Home of Hope: **HOH Rummage Sale** will be held outside on Saturday, June 5, in CUMC's parking lot. Details will be forthcoming...See page 5 for pictures of the children playing on the new playground equipment...Boxes of books, children's magazines, games, balls, school supplies, and some backpacks have been packed for the upcoming container.
- Home of Hope Outreach: School fees have been sent for Term 1, and funds were sent for new tires for the Outreach vehicle...A business plan is being proposed for **Winnet (HOH/Tabudirira)** to make uniforms for the HOHO students.