



## **The Nyadire Connection, Celebrating 15th Anniversary, Announces New Leadership Team As Part Of “Forward 15”**

Pittsburgh, Oct. 15, 2021 -- The Nyadire Connection (TNC) is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year and has selected a new leadership team as part of its “Forward 15” strategy.

Founded in 2006 after a mission trip by 18 Pittsburgh residents to Zimbabwe, TNC ([www.nyadire.org](http://www.nyadire.org)) is a faith-based, all-volunteer, non-profit organization that supports the Nyadire United Methodist Mission in the northeastern part of Zimbabwe. Since then, TNC and its donors have provided more than \$5 million of financial and administrative support for 12 programs focused on orphans, health, and education.

As part of TNC’s leadership transition, Chairman Drew Harvey and Treasurer Richard Dickey will be retiring from the roles they’ve held since the organization’s inception and will be succeeded by a five-person leadership team of experienced TNC members.

“Through the generous support of our donors, the commitment of our program leaders, and the strong relationships we have with our friends in Zimbabwe, TNC has built a solid foundation during the past 15 years,” Harvey said. “As we transition to a new leadership team, we look forward to the next 15 years with just as much energy and passion. Personally, I have been blessed by the many TNC relationships I’ve developed over the years, both here and there, and I expect to remain involved as we continue to fulfill our mission.”

The new leadership team, effective Jan. 1, 2022, consists of Ralph Duckworth of New Sewickley Township, Chairman and Director-Strategic Outreach; Chuck Billerbeck of Upper St. Clair, Director-Finance; Debbie Little of Cranberry Township, Director-Strategic Inreach; Sandy McKnight of Adams Township, Director-Administrative and Programs; and Tim Wesley of Cranberry Township, Director-Communications. Members of the leadership team have been involved in TNC for an average of about 10 years and bring extensive professional expertise to their roles.

The team said: “On behalf of TNC, we want to thank Drew and Richard for their many years of dedicated service. Under their leadership, along with the efforts of the entire TNC team and our partners in Zimbabwe, our organization has made a difference in the lives of many people. We are committed to maintaining these important relationships and building on our accomplishments for at least the next 15 years.”

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The Nyadire Mission offers a hospital, primary and secondary schools, an orphanage and many other services to the community. In 2006 the TNC team provided medical and pastoral care, conducted a Vacation Bible School for primary school children, and converted a dormitory into individual rooms at the Nurses' Training School. The team returned with a commitment to develop a lasting relationship with the people and institutions connected with the Mission. Over the years, TNC has supported programs and projects including building maintenance, water wells, irrigation systems, food relief, rebuilding and expanding rural medical clinics, hospital equipment and medicines, scholarships for orphans to attend school, and solar power for the hospital.

Donations to TNC are tax-deductible and can be made through its website at [www.nyadire.org](http://www.nyadire.org).

For more information about TNC and its programs, you're invited to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on Nov. 14 at Dutilh United Methodist Church in Cranberry Township. For more information and to purchase tickets, please go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-nyadire-connection-15th-anniversary-event-tickets-168013521967>

**Contact:** Tim Wesley, TNC Director-Communications  
[Timwesley61@zoominternet.net](mailto:Timwesley61@zoominternet.net)