



The Nyadire Connection

Founded in 2006 and based in Pittsburgh, TNC is a faith-based, non-profit, all-volunteer organization that seeks to support and sustain the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe

Volume 34

www.nyadire.org

July 2023

Message From the Home of Hope: “Every Child Deserves A Chance”

Editor’s Note: Following is a story written by Tinashe Chiimba, Procurement Officer at the Home of Hope Orphanage in Nyadire. Tinashe, photo at left, is 30 years old and married.

At the **Home of Hope (HOH)**, I am responsible for the sourcing and purchasing of goods and services, assisting in HOH outreach activities and coordinating projects at the Home. We have a few projects running at the Home, including horticulture, a piggery, and goat and cattle keeping.

Thanks to the contributions of different donors including TNC, we have been able to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children in the Home ensuring they receive proper nutrition, education and healthcare. I am proud to report that we have seen significant improvements in the well-being of our children. The continual support is essential in helping us

achieve even greater success in the future.

Some of the challenges we face at the Home include the lack of farming equipment. We depend on hiring and it has proved to be costly and very time-consuming. We also face chronic network challenges due to our location. It is our hope that we may have a Wi-Fi connection in the future.

(Continued on page 2)

Shooting For The Moon: Chindenga Clinic Closer To Completion

Earlier this year, TNC set a goal to complete the sixth and final rural medical clinic renovation, at Chindenga, by the end of this year. We called that goal a “Moon Shot,” harkening back to the 1960s, when the U.S. announced a goal to land a man on the moon. We’re pleased to report that we’ve made progress toward our clinics goal, but we still have much work to do to complete this journey.



(Continued on page 2)

Shooting For The Moon...

(Continued from page 1)

Our journey began 10 years ago, with a brick-by-brick campaign to refurbish these six rural medical clinics. At the time, we had no idea how – or if – we could raise the necessary funding, about \$1.8 million. But we were driven by the faith that these clinics would improve the standard of health care for tens of thousands of residents, especially mothers-to-be who would walk miles to have their babies there.

Today, thanks to the passion and support of our donors, we're pleased to say that God has provided and that we are close to completing our clinics journey. Five clinics have been refurbished – on-time and on-budget – and we are roughly halfway to finishing **Chindenga**. To complete this clinic by year-end, we set a fund-raising goal of \$250,000. Thanks to your support to date, we are almost halfway toward reaching that goal. Members of the TNC leadership team continue to make personal donations toward the clinics, and we ask that you prayerfully consider joining us in this life-saving and life-changing effort. To make a tax-deductible donation, you may send a check to: The Nyadire Connection c/o Christ United Methodist Church, 44 Highland Road, Bethel Park, PA 15012. Please put "clinics" in the memo line.

(Shown here at the Dindi clinic, Gweshengwe, left, trains a nurse's aide to use a microscope to diagnose malaria.)



Message From the Home of Hope...

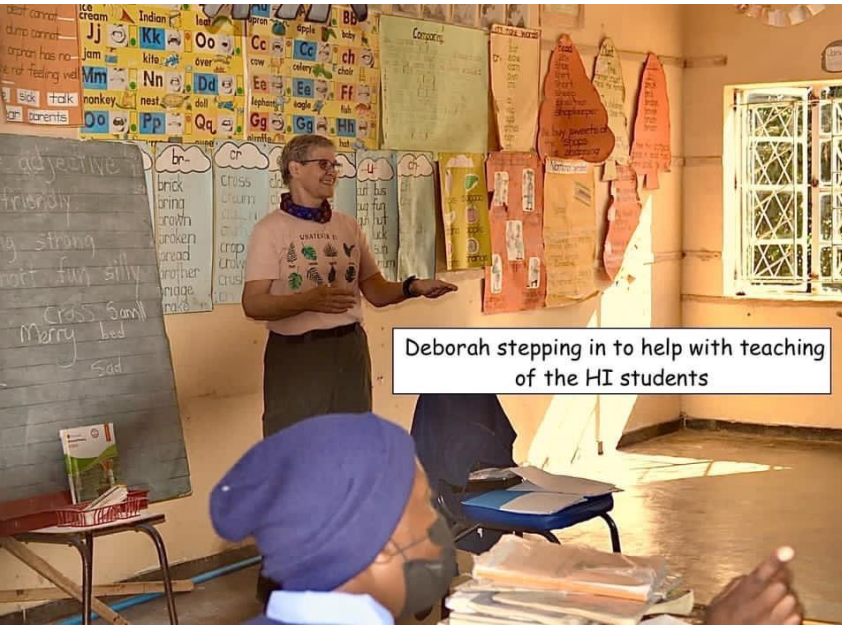
(Continued from page 1)

Working at the HOH is a life-changing experience that has taught me about empathy, compassion and giving back to the community. You learn to appreciate even the smallest of things in life, being grateful and not taking anything for granted. By interacting with children from different backgrounds, it helps in developing understanding, patience, tolerance and understanding others.

Most of the children at our Home have come from very challenging backgrounds and some experienced loss and trauma at a very young age. Despite these challenges, they show hope and resilience. Spending time with them, one will learn to appreciate the simple things in life and reminds us that every child deserves a chance to live a happy and fulfilling life, regardless of their circumstances.

TNC Leadership Profile: Deborah Swineford

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



Deborah stepping in to help with teaching of the HI students

TNC Role: I began my involvement with TNC after attending a Deaf Culture workshop and signed up to sponsor a deaf child in 2019. In 2022 I became the leader of the **Hearing Innovation** program.

What is your profession and how has that helped in your TNC role: I have had many "jobs," but I wouldn't say I had a profession. Through our many moves as a pastoral family, I have worked in a variety of positions, many of which involved working with the deaf and also children with mental health and behavioral issues. In college I was involved with a ministry to the students

at Kentucky School for the Deaf. After graduation, while my husband, Dennis, was in seminary we lived on the campus and I worked as a houseparent and substitute teacher. I was connected for many years with the Pittsburgh Hearing Speech and Deaf services as a freelance interpreter for the deaf and was also employed by two churches to interpret their services. My passion for working with children and my love of sign languages have been beneficial.

How and why did you get involved with TNC: I have been interested and involved in various aspects of missions for a long time and began to sense a call to be involved beyond financial support. So when I saw the announcement in the conference newsletter about the Deaf Culture workshop sponsored by TNC, I made plans to attend. This led to sponsoring a deaf child, then a trip to Zimbabwe, and to eventually becoming program leader.

Why do you think TNC has been so successful? What I see in terms of success is its focus on partnership and commitment to building relationships and not on taking over or dictating the work of Nyadire Mission.



(Continued on page 4)

TNC Leadership Profile...

(Continued from page 3)

How many times have you been to Nyadire and what's your favorite part of making the trip?

I have been to Nyadire twice, summer 2022 and January 2023. My favorite part is the interactions with the people on the mission and learning their culture, and taking part in the instruction and activities of the deaf learners.

What do you like best about TNC: The people, the culture, the opportunity to serve Jesus in another culture, and new friendships both here in the U.S. and in Zimbabwe.

How has your involvement with TNC helped you to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ: Since I've become involved with TNC I have sensed the Spirit's

pleasure as I walk in obedience to His call on my life. There is so much in our society that we take for granted, so to be immersed in a culture that can joyfully worship amid difficult circumstances encourages me to "learn to be content (to be satisfied) regardless of whatever my circumstances." (Philippians 4:11) In whatever my circumstances I want to be a reflection of Jesus; I want to "serve the Lord with gladness" and "have a river of living water flowing from my heart" to all those I connect with through TNC.

What Bible verse(s) inspired you to become involved in TNC: I don't know that there is a specific verse that inspired my involvement in TNC, but a verse that has sustained me and encouraged me for many years – and I think has been especially relevant to my involvement in missions – is Isaiah 58:11: "The LORD will guide you always, He will satisfy your needs in a sun scorched land and strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail." The Lord guided me to TNC and He has strengthened me through doubts and health issues, and has given me the vision that I am to be that garden and spring of water providing nourishment and refreshment to others as He has nourished and refreshed me through all the seasons of my life.

What's your message to anyone who's considering getting involved in TNC or making a trip to Nyadire:

Just do it! If there's a consideration of international mission work, that in itself may be the Lord's call. Ask Him to give you some confirmation and then step out in faith. God's call for all believers is to GO, but what that looks like for each individual is different. Step out in faith, just do it, and God will bless your obedience.

(Photo at top left shows Deborah and her daughter, Leah, with Evajoyce Nyamukapawho, who teaches Early Childhood Development to 4th grade; photo at bottom right shows her with Simbarashe Mandaza, who teaches 5th to 7th grade.)



Nyadire Students Benefit From TNC's Connection To S.Y.STEM Coalition

Editor's Note: This article was published last year by the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Carnegie Mellon University and is reprinted with permission.



Service has always been important to **Maddie Gioffre**. As an undergraduate in **Carnegie Mellon University's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department**, she served on the student executive board of ASCE, helping to plan and run events within the department. This experience developed her leadership skills and led her to her current position as CEO of **S.Y.STEM Coalition**, a volunteer-run nonprofit that works to deliver hands-on, community-centered STEM experiences to students, in partnership with industry.

In her role, Gioffre helps to set the strategic direction of the organization's work in Pittsburgh, Tucson, and **Nyadire, Zimbabwe**. "I make sure the organization is staffed with volunteers and that we're continuing to serve our communities in the best way we can," she says.

S.Y.STEM Coalition engages students through specialized workshops, insider tours at STEM workplaces such as robotics labs, career outreach in classrooms, guided internships, and STEM camps focused on electronics and robotics. There's also a month-long summer program for high schoolers that pairs students with business and technical mentors as they work to develop a product and pitch to a panel of sharks – for the chance to earn a scholarship. Gioffre adds that working with S.Y.STEM Coalition is extremely rewarding because she participates alongside peers who believe in the organization's mission and want to make a difference. "I get the opportunity to work with kids who may not have had exposure to different STEM fields. I see the excitement in their eyes when they get their robot moving for the first time."

To achieve the organization's goal to inspire youth to envision new possibilities and pursue success through STEM, S.Y.STEM Coalition relies on immersive hands-on activities and games. "During the robotics camp at Hosanna House this summer, we had students instruct the teacher on how to make a PB&J sandwich, which helped to simulate giving instructions to a computer. The teacher would only do exactly what the kids told him to do, which wasn't always what they wanted." Gioffre adds that the final project involved programming a robot to go through a maze. "We try to be creative and make the most of the time, activities and games."



(Continued on page 6)

Nyadire Students Benefit...

(Continued from page 5)



In the summer of 2022, S.Y.STEM Coalition launched a **brand new program in Zimbabwe** that provides students with training in computer sciences – allowing them to pursue higher education or secure a remote job with a software company. The program is the brainchild of Gioffre and four other CMU alums – **Angela Ng, Tara Stentz, Kim Kleiven, and Rohan Varma.**

In partnership with The Nyadire Connection, students in Zimbabwe had the opportunity to attend robotics workshops and learn about a planned Coding Club that will put STEM learning into practice. Additionally, CMU’s CS Academy is

assisting in training on-ground instructors who will work closely with S.Y.STEM Coalition to keep the programs moving forward.

Gioffre’s volunteerism is a continuation of work she began at CEE. There, she volunteered as the project manager for the university’s chapter of **Engineers Without Borders.**

“The CEE department was always very supportive of [my work] and gave me the room I needed to grow outside of my formal education. I’m thankful for being given the opportunity to learn both inside the classroom and out by the CEE department.”

Gioffre encourages students and graduates to get involved with their communities for the benefits it provides those served as well as personal satisfaction. “Whether you’re a year-round volunteer who helps to plan and run events, or you’re a volunteer who gives up their Saturday morning to mentor kids, it’s truly an amazing experience to be able to give back.”



Deborah Swineford, leader of our **Hearing Innovation** program (see page 3) was one of several TNC volunteers who set up an information table at the annual meeting of the **Western PA Conference of The United Methodist Church** in Erie in June. The TNC group answered questions from attendees about our organization and received donations in exchange for Nyadire crafts.

TNC Looking For Mission Trip Volunteers For November Visit

Ralph Duckworth, TNC Chairman, is looking to plan a mission trip to Zimbabwe in November this year and invites others to join him. The team would be involved in various programs and projects, with a possible focus on refurbishing the guest house at the Nyadire Mission.

“We would really like someone who is skilled in construction to make an assessment of the repairs needed at the guest house at Nyadire,” Ralph says. “We would then plan/lead a team at a later date to assist with those repairs. The guest house is where visitors to Nyadire stay during mission trips, and it could use some maintenance and improvements.”

If you have the skills and desire to join Ralph on this trip, please contact him directly at either taxplan1951@gmail.com or 724-272-0069.

Nyadire Primary School Receives National Award

We want to offer our congratulations to **Nyadire Primary School!**

The school recently won the Secretary's Merit Award, the highest award that the Ministry gives in recognition of excellence in the provision of education services.

Moreover, the award is given to the best school in the Province in the implementation of the competence-based curriculum.

Nyadire Primary received this award and was recently recognized in a national event.

Tendayi Mushapaidze, school headmaster, said the implementation of the Biogas Digester (top photo) and the ongoing work with the Computer Coding Club (bottom photo) were important contributors to the school's selection.

“The biogas is performing very well,” he said.

Regarding the coding club, Tendayi said the students “were interviewed on the day of the award presentation about coding and showed they knew what they were doing. Their response was impressive.”



Girl Empowerment Says Thanks For Your Support



Bonnie Lawson, leader of TNC's Girl Empowerment Pad (GEP) program, wants to say thanks to supporters of this initiative.

In Africa, girls fall behind their male peers academically due to a lack of feminine hygiene items that forces girls to miss school, often for days. In addition to the girls, also affected are African women and those working in and around TNC's orphanage, schools and clinics in Nyadire. To address this issue, in 2011 TNC created the GEP program.

The program's goals are to: 1. Keep girls in school during their menstrual cycle to avoid learning loss; 2. Give them tools to make their own sanitary supplies; and 3. Provide culturally- and age-appropriate health education.

Bonnie wants to thank several churches – **St. Paul's UMC, Mt. Lebanon UMC and Dutilh UMC** – for using the program's **Lenten Calendar**, which increased awareness and raised more than \$700 to support the program. Funds collected were used to keep girls in school all year.

"An educated girl has the opportunity to dream big and to eventually realize the dreams she once thought would be impossible to achieve," Bonnie says.

"Education catapults girls into a brighter future, creating an empowered woman capable of changing her own life, her community, and the world. Thanks to all the local leaders in Nyadire and to all of our supporters everywhere.

"On behalf of the girls and women in Zimbabwe, thank you again!"



If You Have Newsletter Story/Photo Ideas...

In our newsletter, we strive 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

Program Highlights From TNC's June meeting

Each month, TNC leaders gather by Zoom to review programs and discuss future plans. Below are highlights from our recent meeting:

- Sister Rut Scholarships: The **Bethel Park-Upper St. Clair Breakfast Rotary Club** awarded TNC a grant of \$5,000 for the Sister Rut Scholarship Program at its annual Night of Giving (photo at right). This Club



meets every week and supports many local organizations. We are truly grateful for this partnership! And we want to say a special thank you to **Phil Himmler** of TNC for her tireless effort to sell tickets for the club's BBQ Dinner, which is its main fundraiser.

- Home of Hope: **Dutilh UMC's Preschool** hosted its annual Hop-A-Thon (photos at left), dubbed "Hop for Hope." The children hopped to raise funds for the Home of Hope. This year's funds were used to purchase textbooks and workbooks for the little library at the orphanage ... A solar system was set up for the borehole at the Home of Hope (see photos on page 10).



- Eyeglasses: We plan to set dates for future eyeglasses clinics later in the year.
- Hospital Support: TNC leaders met in person at **Dutilh Church** recently with **Kathleen Griffith** of the **United Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM)**. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways for TNC and GBGM to work together to support the Nyadire Mission. Discussions included how health care planning decisions are made by the United Methodist Conference in Zimbabwe, the relationship with the Zimbabwe government in hospital operations, and the complexity this creates for international non-profit organizations such as TNC to provide support.

(Continued on page 10)

Program Highlights...

(Continued from page 9)



Water flows from a new, solar-powered bore hole at the **Home of Hope** orphanage.

- Agriculture: In the Nyadire Farm Department, a concrete slab has been built to handle grain; a chicken house is under construction; electricity and water supplies are still not resolved, and a borehole is needed to feed the poultry house; they intend to start a garden project with 1,000 cabbages and 1,000 tomato plants by August; the tractor is working but needs servicing; they are harvesting the maize crop.
- Girl Empowerment Pad: See page 8.
- Rural Health Clinic Rebuilds: See page 1 ... The **United Methodist Foundation** awarded TNC a grant of about \$5,000 in June ... At Chindenga (photo below), the Outpatient Department is about 70% completed, the Staff House is 85% complete, and the Maternity Ward is about 65% complete. Local communities have delivered 130,000 farm bricks, 50 cubic meters of river sand, 40 cubic meters of stones, 200 cubic meters of gravel, and 130 cubic meters of pit sand.
- Engineers Without Borders/CMU: See page 7 ... The CMU Chapter has been addressing EWB National's feedback on the Biogas Digester and continuing research on potential next projects.
- Hearing Innovation: See page 3 ... **Mt. Zion UMC** in Kentucky donated \$700 for the program.
- Volunteer-in-Mission trips: See page 7.

