



The Nyadire Connection

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

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Tickets On Sale For 20th Anniversary Event May 3 At Christ Church

TNC is celebrating its 20th anniversary, and we're hosting a celebration event on Sunday, May 3 at 5 pm, at Christ Church in Bethel Park, 44 Highland Road.

Please join us for a sit-down buffet, silent auction, and to hear more about TNC's future from our local leadership and special guests. Tickets are \$40 each and can be purchased at our network churches or at the following link: <https://tnc20thevent.eventbrite.com/>

You can reserve a group table by purchasing eight tickets. After purchasing those tickets, please email Carol Butler at cbinharmony@verizon.net with a name for your table reservation.

Join us as we celebrate 20 years of accomplishments in Nyadire!

Richard Dickey: A TNC Founder Who Worked 'To Make Things Better'

In December, **Richard Dickey**, a TNC founder and long-time supporter, passed away at age 87. Richard was on the first trip to Nyadire in 2006, and for the next 15 years he served as our financial leader, tracking and reporting our progress at each monthly meeting.

Drew Harvey, former TNC chairman, said this about Richard: "He was a strong advocate and tireless worker for TNC, and an inspiring, very good friend. Richard was a person who truly cared about others, and then did the work to make things better. I always valued his friendship, his perspective and his counsel. The church and his faith were his foundation and from that base, he inspired and quietly guided all those around him. I, and so many others, will miss him greatly."

Other TNC folks shared thoughts about Richard on Facebook.

Sue Bower: "A 'founding father' of TNC, hard-working whether he was making repairs in Nyadire or handling finances in Pittsburgh. Definitely one of the good guys."

Lois Swestyn: "Richard was such a faithful and dedicated man to TNC and his church family. Our sympathy and prayers for all who mourn his loss. We are all better persons for having known him."

We will miss Richard, and send our condolences to his family, especially his wife, **Sara**, another TNC founder.



'Cash for Crops' Campaign Making Progress Toward Goal

In late 2025, TNC launched "Cash for Crops," a campaign to raise funds to purchase farm equipment for the Nyadire mission. The equipment will be used to expand crop production and to perform related road maintenance.

Our goal is to raise up to \$75,000 and deliver the equipment by May, in time for the next planting season. So far, we have raised about one-third of our target.

"This investment is a first step in a broader plan to help the mission achieve long-term sustainability," says **Ralph Duckworth**, TNC's chairman. "We expect this pilot project will demonstrate what's possible when we work closely with our partners in Nyadire and with God's blessing and guidance."

Scott Sanford, leader of our **Agriculture** program, has collaborated with people from the **Nyadire Farm Department**, the **Home of Hope Orphanage** and the **Nyadire Maintenance Department** to determine their equipment needs.

"This equipment will enable the mission to produce nutritious food for use at the mission, to feed their livestock and to produce crops to sell, with the profits used to help fund local programs," Scott says.



In 2023, Scott's team completed an analysis of the farming operations at the mission and the team noted that the existing farm equipment was generally in poor and unreliable condition.

Funds from "Cash for Crops" are expected to be used to purchase a new or used tractor, a disc harrow, a front-end Loader and a dump trailer.

The Nyadire farm was once a star performer for the mission. In 2001 the farm encompassed about 60 hectare (150 acres) growing maize, cotton, and vegetables, had a small herd of dairy cows producing milk and yogurt, and a herd of 179 beef cows. But government policy in the early 2000s caused the collapse of the country's agricultural sector.

"TNC has been working with its partners at the mission to revitalize agriculture through education and by modernizing processes and equipment," Scott says. "Our goal is to supply some tools and education so the people at the mission can feed themselves and thrive."

For more information, please contact Scott at sasanford56@gmail.com or you can donate to the project through this link: www.nyadire.org/donate.html Please note that your donation is for "Cash for Crops."

Home of Hope Caregivers Provide Essentials To Children

By **Mary Beth Zollars**, Home of Hope program leader

We are so blessed to have dedicated staff at the **Home of Hope**. Care and well-being of the children are completely dependent on the staff. The “mommies” and the “daddies” provide all the essentials, as well as guidance, a listening ear, a role model, informed minds, and a God-centered life. Here’s a look at some of the staff:

Wishing you many more years, Ndaizevei!



Ndaizevei started working as a “mother” at the first Home of Hope site at Nyadire Mission 20 years ago! Thank you for 20 years of service! She recalls the dormitory set-up with day and night shifts. She emphasizes the importance of the roles that former “mothers” have had over the years and makes special mention of them (**Nancy Kapfunde, Everjoyce Chagwedera, Tsitsi Kapfunde, Wendy Chadzamira, Joyce Matonga, Edith Marange, Mrs. Chapfika**). She speaks of the children who are now grown, some have jobs and families, and some have gone to colleges and universities.

I asked if there was one child who really touched her heart. Without hesitation, she named **Nyasha Katema** whom she took home for holidays. (He is now finishing his training in law at the Zimbabwe Institute of Legal Studies.)

When Ndaizevei’s husband passed in 2005, she needed to find work. Living in nearby Nyamhara, she was able to walk to the mission to help at the Home of Hope.

Ndaizevei had one child, a boy, who passed away. But she was soon taking care of many children. Her sister’s husband passed away, so together they took care of Shyleen, Yvonne, and Primrose. Then her twin brothers passed away in 2019 and 2020, leaving her with Raymond, Richmond, Ropafadzo, Rutendo, Ruvimbo, Rukudzo, and twins Raphael and Russell.



She is proud of her work at the Home of Hope and of the strong Nyamhara community. “Strong communities take care of one another – the orphans, the elderly, the vulnerable.”

Thank you, Tinotenda Mupaya!

In 2022, Tinotenda completed a three-month attachment at the Home of Hope as part of her degree in Social Work. At 27 years old, she returned to the Home of Hope, employed as one of the caregivers. She has just been offered a job as a social worker after one excellent year as a Home of Hope “Auntie”.

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Home of Hope Caregivers...

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Each “Mommy” or “Auntie” works 24/7 for a weeklong shift, then has a week off. She is in charge of the 10 children in her house, considered a family unit. She enjoys getting to know the children, playing with them, and doing Bible Study with them, as well as cooking, cleaning, doing laundry, supervising, and guiding.

Tinotenda was born in Harare. Her mother and father are both teachers in primary schools. In 2012, they moved to Nyadire, where she attended Nyadire High School through her O-levels. She then transferred to Murewa High School, where she completed her A-levels. She completed her bachelor’s degree in Social Work in Bindura at Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University. She was also involved in Shamva, a government food program, as a social worker for three months.



In January 2025, Tinotenda came to the Home of Hope. The Home’s population had grown and more caregivers were desperately needed. We are thankful for Tinotenda’s educational background and her deep desire to promote social justice in the community. Her energy and determination to help with academics and Bible studies shine.

Any wishes for the Home? To thank TNC abundantly and to ask God to bless them and protect them. And – solar lighting, please, for the children to study in the evening!

Welcome, Maidei Chipembere!

Maidei and her late husband, Fradreck, go way back to the earlier days at the Home of Hope. Fradreck was one of the “daddies”, hardworking, enthusiastic, and a real family man. He died in a tragic motor vehicle accident. With the more recent growth in the population of the Home of Hope, Maidei was able to be hired as a “mommy”. And she has lots of experience with her own! (See photo!)



Maidei says that her home area is Kasambarare Village in Uzumba, which is near to the schools, roads, and a clinic. Her house is near a small mountain. Most importantly, she is near other families, which are all good

friends. During her childhood, the most important things were going to school every day, going to church, and playing with others. She attended Rudawiro Primary and Secondary schools. At school, Maidei was a netball player!



She describes her important role as a “mommy” at the Home of Hope most importantly to care for the children, play with them, and wash and cook for them. She encourages them to go to school and to church. She wants to be a good mother to them. This job has given her so much hope! She can work and earn money and support her own family, as well.

Baby Blankets Needed For Upcoming Mission Trip

TNC is seeking new baby blankets and hats for children at the **Home of Hope**. If you would like to make or purchase these items, please send them to **Mary Beth Zollars**, who's leading a mission team later this year and will carry them over. Send your blankets and hats to Mary Beth by May 15 to 3248 Comanche Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241.

Or, you can deliver the blankets to these TNC folks at our network churches:

Dutilh - **Tracy Eckstam**

First Bethel - **Stephanie Alstadt**

Mt. Lebanon - **Louanne Baily**

St. Paul's - **Tom Greway**

Christ Church - **Bernice Heisey**

Program Highlights From TNC's Monthly Meeting

Each month, TNC leaders gather virtually to review programs and discuss future plans.

Below are highlights from our recent meeting:

- Sister Rut Scholarships: Students are completing their required 10 hours of Community Service prior to the upcoming semester. Work includes tutoring, weeding, cleaning, assisting in clinics, and pastoring. A shout-out to **Morejoy Madziko**, who has initiated a health-based seminar for the Nyadire-area schools as her community service!
- Home of Hope: We have a new addition: Precious Kunashe Mushingi arrived at just two weeks and two days old. The hospital has trained the staff in her care. Pray for all involved! ... The **Dutilh Preschool** held its annual **Hop for Hope** this month ... A donation of three buffalo bikes has been made from generous donors.
- Home of Hope Outreach: O-level exam fees have been sent. **Lindarose** and **Tinashe** did a great job traveling to the Outreach schools to verify the candidates. Their collaboration with the teachers and Outreach representatives provided us with all the information necessary to grant the fees.
- Engineers Without Borders/CMU: Weekly meetings have focused on consolidating and formalizing the data obtained during the Nyadire visit last May. The assessment report (a key step) was submitted to EWB National this month, and the students have discussed a return trip to Nyadire late this year or in 2027 ... Field bore hole pumps conversion to solar has been completed. TNC provided a \$2,300 advance payment and the Mission is funding 10% of the cost ... The fire protection system at the hospital has been replaced via a Conaway Munden Grant of \$2,000 of the \$2,800 cost.
- Eyeglasses: **Ralph Duckworth** and **Scott Sanford** took hundreds of glasses on their mission trip ... **Jonathan**, the trained ophthalmologist coordinating the Nyadire clinic, is very enthusiastic about his work and sent us the prescriptions that are most needed.
- Volunteer-in-Mission trips: **Mary Beth Zollars** will be leading a trip in June/July. If you're interested in joining future trips, please contact our VIM program leader, **Molly Michael**, at mollyalice.michael@gmail.com