

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the GEP program, or to donate or help raise funds for the Sewing Scholarship or Giving Tree, please contact our Program Coordinator:

Bonnie Lawson
Bonnielawson58@comcast.net
412-759-3546

You can also go to the TNC website at www.nyadire.org to get on the TNC mailing list and learn more about GEP and other programs.

Thanks for your help!



TNC OVERVIEW

The Nyadire Connection (TNC), based in Pittsburgh, Pa., is a faith-based, all-volunteer, non-profit organization that seeks to support and sustain the Nyadire United Methodist Mission in northeastern rural Zimbabwe, Africa. The Nyadire Mission offers a hospital, nursing school, school system (preschool through high school), orphanage, teachers' college, farm, and many other services to the surrounding community.

TNC was founded in 2006 after a Volunteer in Mission team of 18 Pittsburghers traveled to Nyadire for three weeks. After returning from the mission trip, many felt that support to Nyadire should be ongoing and more in depth. Since then, TNC has developed partnerships and relationships among friends in the U.S., supportive Methodist churches and Nyadire, and has provided administrative, financial and spiritual support for numerous projects and ongoing programs.

www.nyadire.org

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Girl Empowerment

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GIRL EMPOWERMENT

In Africa, girls can quickly fall behind their male peers academically due to a lack of feminine hygiene supplies that forces girls to miss school, often for days. Grown women are often likewise hampered in their daily work and activities.

In 2011, TNC created the Girl Empowerment Pad (GEP) Program. GEP at first provided reusable cotton pads. It evolved to furnishing kits with all items needed for girls to sew their own pads. Now, due to supply chain issues, the program is starting to source kit materials locally. In addition, GEP volunteers now offer culturally and developmentally appropriate hygiene education, and teach girls to sew not only pads but also clothing as well as facemasks for COVID prevention.

The result: More girls stay in school and more women support their families with the confidence to pursue their dreams.



Deaf students learning to sew

WHAT WE DO



U.S. and Zimbabwean GEP volunteers collaborated on design of the pad and composition of the kits. Kits contain pre-cut cotton fabric for a "base pad" with leak guard; three inserts that can be layered; underwear; soap; needle and thread; instructions in English and Shona on how to sew (by hand), use, and wash the pads; and health information. The U.S. team solicited, refurbished, and shipped manual and electric sewing machines to partners, and identified and secured donations of a book on hygiene education appropriate for young African girls. Pilot studies and teacher training in Nyadire led to other improvements.

Supply chain issues and the need to recruit future leaders as current teachers leave have led to two new initiatives: 1) A Giving Tree program to support local purchase of materials; and 2) A Scholarship program to train future sewing teachers at the Tabudirira Vocational School.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate. Suggested levels:

-**Scholarship**: \$100 for recipient equipment; \$250 for ¼ tuition; \$500 for ½ tuition or business startup; \$1000 full scholarship.

-**Giving Tree**: \$5 per kit, multiples of \$5 please; \$50 to support sewing machine repair or a set of sewing lessons; \$100 for 50 copies, *Growing Up in School*, the chosen hygiene book appropriate for young African girls.

"Bundle" donations from family or friends to sponsor a sewing student; or host and manage a Giving Tree at your school, church, or workplace.

If you are involved with a foundation or non-profit, contact us to nominate GEP to receive funds from your group.

Checks are payable to The Nyadire Connection (TNC) with *Girl Empowerment Pad* (GEP) in the memo line. --Mention of GEP is crucial! [As needed, specify if your donation is for the Sewing Scholarship or Giving Tree.]

Send to: The Nyadire Connection; c/o Christ United Methodist Church; 44 Highland Road; Bethel Park, PA 15102

