

TNC Revitalizes Eyeglasses Program



TNC has helped to revitalize the **Faith Geer Eyeglasses program** by funding vehicle repairs and storage space at the Nyadire Mission.

Through the program, **TNC partners with Mission Vision to provide eye exams and eyeglasses** to improve the vision of people in Zimbabwe. TNC volunteers were trained and certified to conduct eyeglass clinics, and our volunteers then trained medical personnel in Zimbabwe to conduct the clinics, which has enabled significant expansion of the program throughout the region. Since inception, **the program has served nearly 10,000 patients in Zimbabwe.**

TNC recently provided funding to repair the vehicle that transports teams to the clinics, and to provide shelving and bins to store

eyeglasses donated in the U.S. and sent to Nyadire. Members of the TNC mission team that visited Nyadire in June/July helped to sort the glasses and prepare them for the next clinic. (Top photo: TNC's Pam Harden and Deborah Swineford. Bottom photo: Theodora, an assistant in the clinic, and Jonathan, an optometrist.)

If you'd like to help with the program, there are many opportunities to participate:

- Help at a Mission Vision clinic in Pittsburgh. Mission Vision conducts clinics in schools in the Pittsburgh area. Contact Terry Snider, executive director, at 412-303-7687 for more information.
- Clean, measure and catalog eyeglasses. You can help individually or as part of a group. The completed eyeglasses are sorted and sent to Mission Vision for distribution. In the Pittsburgh area, TNC has eyeglasses groups in both the North Hills and the South Hills. Our North Hills contact is Kathy Belcastro at St. Paul's UMC in Allison Park; she can be reached at belcastro@verizon.net or 412-487-3678. Our South Hills contact is Marie Hunt at Christ UMC in Bethel Park; she can be reached at emptynest05@comcast.net or 724-207-0281.
- We continue to look for a new Eyeglasses program leader in the U.S. No travel to Zimbabwe is necessary, and training and support will be provided. Please contact Tim Wesley at timwesley61@zoominternet.net if you're interested.

