

# HEARING INNOVATION

Newsletter: Summer 2022

## TNC VIM Team travels to Nyadire, Zimbabwe

A team of 6 departed Pittsburgh to visit the Nyadire mission from June 17th—July 6th. Joining us were 3 volunteers from SySTEM Coalition and a smaller 3 person team. While we faced obstacles when it came to our plans with the Hearing Innovation program, we were blessed to gain many positive connections, spend quality time with the students, and develop a deeper understanding of the program's needs. Find more about our team trip on TNC's Facebook Page!



Student Banquet



2022 VIM team minus 1



Ear Exams and Testing



Climbing Manhembra

## Deborah Subs for the HI Unit



One of the HI teachers was on leave and the other was called to assist with the development of the Zimbabwean Sign Language Curriculum. While 1 substitute was available, the unit needed another. One of our team members, Deborah, took on that challenge—and did a magnificent job!

Deborah is an ASL interpreter and has a passion to help those with hearing needs. I first met her at a Deaf Culture Workshop TNC held a few years ago and she has been eager to join a team since then. Though ZSL is different, Deborah adapted quickly and was able to encourage the students to think deeper and use descriptive language when expressing themselves.

## Donor Gifts Uniforms & Hats

A generous donor purchased new uniforms for the girls and winter caps for the boys. The students were grateful to receive these items. Thank you, Kumbi Mutasa!



## Day Trip to the Manhembra Caves



The HI students never get to attend school trips because of costs. This year, we took a day trip to climb Manhembra mountain. Our tour guide's homestead was in that area, so we received an extensive 3 hour tour. There were 21 students, 1 teacher, the deputy headmistress, the bursar, and 3 from my group including myself. We learned about fruits and plants, saw wildlife, viewed ancient cave drawings, and trekked (slipped) down the mountain in the rain! Somehow we climbed up the whole way until the last 10 minutes! There were a few steep sections where we had to crawl or shuffle. The teacher ripped his trousers, something I will never let him forget! The memory of the entire adventure is something I will cherish forever.

## A Special Banquet & Boarding Kits

When we returned from Manhembra a special banquet was prepared for the students. We enjoyed a huge meal of chicken, sadza, coleslaw, soda, popcorn, and ice cream. It was a HUGE deal and very special. Thank you to Phil Himmler for sponsoring the entire day! Afterwards, we distributed the boarding kits. These kits were put together by various donors including Paradise UMC, BCUMC, and St. Paul's Youth. The kits included essentials such as socks, underwear, shoe polish, hygiene supplies, towels, Christian materials, and so much more. Thank you to Nancy Michael for putting together all of the kits! By the time the day was done, everyone was exhausted—in a good way.



## Additional Activities

- Parent consults for students who leveled/aged out to determine steps for vocational, secondary, or tertiary education.
- Ear Exams & Testing by SASH Therapy
- Distribution of Sponsorship Mail & Gifts

## Announcement

- Some learners are reaching the point of "leveling" or "aging" out of the Nyadire HI Unit. The unit only serves primary learners, not secondary. For this reason, we are establishing relationships with nearby secondary, tertiary, and vocational programs with the hopes to continue sponsorships for these learners. This way, they can follow through with their education and gain skills to become a contributing part of society and to sustain themselves. If any changes affect your student, I will reach out to you individually. Some students will qualify for TNC's Scholarship Program rather than the HI Program. I would encourage you to continue sponsoring your student as their journey unfolds.



\*\*Interested in volunteering with The Nyadire Connection? We are always looking for volunteers to assist here in Pittsburgh or to travel to Nyadire. I am looking for someone to assist with maintaining sponsorships for this program. If you are interested or know someone who may be, please contact me!

Thank you for your support. The impact of your giving is endless.