



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

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TNC Team Completes Successful Mission Trip In June/July

We're back!

For the first time since 2020, TNC sent a team of 12 volunteers to Zimbabwe in June/July. Team members were mostly from the Pittsburgh area, but also included folks from Erie, Pa., New Hampshire; Maryland; California; and the country of Qatar!

Activities included events at the **Home of Hope** orphanage, coding training for teachers and students at Nyadire, and visits to four of the **rural health clinics**, including **Chindenga**.

(Continued on page 4)



Rotary Hosting Annual BBQ Chicken Dinner

The **Upper St. Clair/Bethel Park Rotary Club** is hosting its 33rd Annual BBQ Chicken Dinner Sept. 17 from 11 am to 7 pm at Bethel Park High School (for takeout/drive-through only). TNC has sold more tickets than any group for the past several years and, in turn, has received \$5,000 grants from the rotary, which we use to fund **college scholarships for Nyadire-area students**. Tickets cost \$15 and each meal includes half of a barbecued chicken, baked beans, potato chips, cookies, and a roll. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact **Phil Himmler** at philhimmler@msn.com and put "BBQ tickets" in the subject line. Send checks made out to Upper St. Clair/Bethel Park Rotary Club to Phil at: 585 Fruitwood Dr., Bethel Park, PA 15102.

If you can't attend, please consider purchasing and donating tickets to the **South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM)**, which uses the meals for its Food Pantry Distribution Days. TNC donors have provided hundreds of tickets to SHIM in prior years and they are greatly appreciated. Tickets donated to SHIM must be received by Sept. 7.

TNC Leadership Profile: Bonnie Lawson

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.

Hometown: Currently lives in Presto, Pa. Previously lived in Mt. Lebanon, Pa., and West Virginia, and in Indiana during graduate school. Born in West Haven, Conn. Been in the Pittsburgh area for over 20 years.

TNC Role: Started by sponsoring several **Home of Hope** students, and currently sponsors Natasha, a **Hearing Innovation** student. Worked with many of the programs over the years and now leads the **Girl Empowerment Program**.

What is your profession and how has that helped in your TNC role:

I have a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from Purdue University and worked for Mobay/Miles/Bayer for 20-plus years. Working for a large international firm, I could remain in the same company and work in different areas. I have worked in research, process improvement, manufacturing, quality, product stewardship and the supply chain. Each of these experiences has been provided me with insight to the various roles I have played in TNC. After Bayer, I taught Chemistry as an adjunct professor at CCAC for 10 years. I loved teaching without all the meetings! I am now retired. I got to work with people from all over the world both at Bayer and at CCAC.

How and why did you get involved with TNC: I am a member of **Mt. Lebanon UMC** and learned about the programs from friends. Over time, my husband, **Steven Schilling**, and I became more and more involved. I like being able to use my skills to help others, and the joy of meeting people from different backgrounds and countries lifts me up. I have been involved for at least 10 years.

Why do you think TNC has been so successful: TNC has had an amazing amount of continuity in its leadership for a grass roots volunteer program. There are so many opportunities to help and pitch in.

Have you been to Nyadire and, if so, what's your favorite part about the trip: I am not able to travel to Nyadire for medical reasons, but I'm still able to feel very connected to my teams, both here and over there. This network of women is strong and works well. It shows that you don't have to travel to Nyadire to make a difference. There is a place for everyone to help. I certainly appreciate the enthusiasm of the folks that can make the trip.

(Continued on page 3)



TNC Leadership Profile: Bonnie Lawson...

(Continued from page 2)

What do you like best about TNC: I have great partners both in Pittsburgh and Nyadire that make this happen. **Charity** (below left photo in middle), **Crescencia** (photo at right) and **Annamore** (below right photo in back) have become part of my family. We chat often via WhatsApp. The Pittsburgh TNC team is awesome. The original group of women (and men) have been very supportive, and I have been privileged to work with small church groups and women's organizations around the state and beyond. The power of a small group of committed people should not be underestimated.



How has your involvement with TNC helped you to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ: Finding the light in all people and God in all things, is what I have come to appreciate.

What Bible verse(s) inspired you to become involved in TNC: "If today you hear God's voice, harden not your heart." Psalm 95:8. This verse spoke to me before I became involved in TNC. Sometimes that voice does not come at a convenient time. Sometimes the message is not something you want to hear.

What's your message to anyone who's considering getting involved in TNC or making a trip to Nyadire: Start small. Do what you can. Listen for that voice.



TNC Team Completes Successful Mission Trip In June/July...

(Continued from page 1)

Chindenga is the last of the six clinics affiliated with the Nyadire Hospital to be refurbished by TNC, and we hope to start construction in the near future. There was a well-attended planning meeting held at Chindenga on July 4. Along with TNC's representatives, attendees included District Superintendent **Heather Zisengwe**, Nyadire Station Chair **Rev. Lance Mukundu**, Chindenga Station Chair **Rev. Godwell Dzika**, Nyadire Pastor In Charge **Rev. Godfrey Gumunyu**, the Chief for the local Community, representatives from the Methodist Church in Harare, and even a member of the Zimbabwean Parliament!



Ralph Duckworth, TNC's Chairman and one of the mission team members, said: "With God watching over us, we all returned home safely from a successful trip with many tasks accomplished. As always, it was an amazing experience."

Below and on the next several pages are more stories and photos from team members...



Molly Michael: "At Nyadire, I was inspired by everyone's eagerness to help and work together. On Saturday we came across a teacher, **Nicodemus**, and some students. They were filling in potholes on the mission road." Above, Molly visits with **Home of Hope** students.

Ralph Duckworth shares some smiles with students from the **Home of Hope**.





Kevin Riley: “In spite of crazy high inflation and unemployment, the people were friendly and hopeful that things would get better.” Kevin spent some time working on bikes with the students. **Dutilh UMC** provided funding for bike parts and tools.



Molly Michael: “Meeting all of the new **Home of Hope** children was very exciting. The older boys were eager to show off their skills in art, engineering, and maintenance. Here, a young man shows off the circuit board he had just created.”



As TNC’s program leader for the **Home of Hope**, **Mary Beth Zollars** never misses a chance to spend time with the students and cherishes every moment.



Karen Cahall: "Greater and Savie (photos above, left and right) are the two 'angels' who kept us well fed. The **Hearing Innovation** students (right) enjoyed a field trip to the Manemba Caves to see the petroglyphs. I fell in love with the people, especially the students, and the sunsets! I can't wait to go back!!"



Two Home of Hope Outreach students (left) model their new hats and backpacks, while other students flash their smiles.



Rev. Lance Mukundu, left, and TNC Chairman **Ralph Duckworth** shake hands beneath a plaque that honors former TNC Chairman **Drew Harvey**, who served in that role from our organization's inception in 2006 until 2021. The plaque was placed in the Nyadire guest house, where Drew and other TNC travelers have stayed many times over the years. Although he stepped down as chairman, Drew continues to be very active with TNC as a leader of multiple programs and we are all grateful for his ongoing and tireless service, commitment and passion.



Deborah Swineford (left) and **Marie Hunt** lend a helping hand with cooking a meal during their visit.

As leader of our **Home of Hope** orphanage program, **Mary Beth Zollars** (right) has forged a strong relationship over many years with Nyadire's **Emmanuel Chiimba**, director of the HOH.



Dutilh UMC Leads Successful Drive To Increase TNC Sponsorships

During May, **Dutilh Church** highlighted TNC's orphan programs with a series of sermons, leading to a significant increase in sponsorships from church members. In all, we added the following number of sponsors to our programs: **Home of Hope-33, Home of Hope Outreach-23, Hearing Innovation-9, and Scholarships-6.** Some of our new sponsors are supporting multiple students.

"It was a Spirit-filled moment for our church, and I am looking forward to how our relationships with the children will blossom over the next few years," said **Tom Parkinson**, Dutilh's senior pastor.

Debbie Little, a member of Dutilh and leader of TNC's efforts to expand relationships with our network churches, said: "Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who helped make this a resounding success: To **Pastor Tom** for asking TNC to develop the idea and for his passionate preaching; to **Mary Beth Zollars, Marie Hunt, Molly Michael and Katie Gascoine**, who will manage all the new sponsors; to **Pete and Tracy Eckstam** for recording their personal experiences; to **Matt Cosgrove** for editing videos; to **Julie Willoughby and Ashley Burns** of the **Dutilh Preschool**; and to everyone else who pitched in, including **Carol Butler, Scott Sanford, and Ralph and Jan Duckworth.**

Some sponsors decided to make their contributions in honor or memory of others, as follows: In Honor of the **Diesel Family**, in Honor of **Emmie Bush**, and in Memory of **Russ Bush.**

Please keep in mind, we always need additional sponsors for these vital programs!



Support TNC Through Golf Outing Sponsored By Christ Church

The **Christ Church-United Women in Faith** group is hosting a "Let's Play Golf" outing, Saturday, Sept. 10 at Ponderosa Golf Course in Hookstown, Pa. **A portion of the proceeds will benefit TNC.** Links to golfer registration and sponsorship opportunities can be found at www.christumc.net/golf

If you'd like to participate:

- Gather your golfing friends and register a foursome for a fun day of golf and fellowship; cost is \$100 per person/\$400 per foursome. Note: several sponsorship levels have foursomes as a perk.
- Donate gift certificates or items that can be included in a basket for our silent auction. Better yet, donate an entire basket!
- Share the link above with friends by social media. The group is looking for additional business and individual supporters.
- Volunteer to assist with the logistics of making it a fabulous event.

If you have any questions or want to lend a hand, please contact, **Jeanna-Mar Simmons**, director of Missions and Outreach at Christ Church, at jmsimmons@christumc.net or 412-835-6621, extension 129.

Scholarship Students Gain Experience Through Attachments

As part of their higher-education journey, Nyadire students can gain valuable experience through “attachments,” which are similar to internships in the U.S. Below are several TNC scholarship students, with comments about their attachments:

Tinashe Mapfumbidze

“I’m working for an Institution of Applied Entrepreneurship. My main hand in the company is marketing to find clients through advertising, and also preparing business tips each day when I’m asked to do so, as well as a salesman at fumigation as part of the daily activities when I’m not marketing. Fumigation is one of their projects. They fumigate houses and other affected areas. My main services are in the Institute of Applied Entrepreneurship, where I’m doing the attachment in the marketing area and decision making.”



Fungai Chigumbura

“My attachment is going well. I’m enjoying my work. I am learning the roles and responsibilities of the work profile: Consolidating leave balances, writing weekly operational reports, writing confirmation of employment letters, making employment contracts, carrying out training needs analysis, performance appraisals. I’ll be going to another department because the organisation is big. I’ll be going to the Industrial Relations department, where I’m supposed to learn about the relationships of the employer and the employees in the organization. I still have a lot to learn, including safety and health, recruitment and selection process. I’m glad that I’m going to cover all the important things before the end of my training period.”

Bernard Madyauta

“Some of the most exciting things are what we call land use zoning, whereby we attend to a person or company that needs to do development on a particular site/property. We refer to local development plans (maps) and see if the proposed use is permitted. It can be freely permitted or permitted through what we call ‘special consent,’ whereby we will evaluate if the proposal won’t affect the neighborhood in a negative way; negative impacts can be noise, traffic problems. For example, if one needs to propose a Medical Centre, it should site the positivity of the proposal so that he or she can convince the local authority that there’s need to propose that development.”



(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)



Lovemore Mbozvi

“This is a short summary of my experience at Lenox Mine Mashava. Last year in May I went to Lenox TFT mine for attachment. It was a nice experience applying theory we learned at school into practical work. We started work at 6:30 am until we reach an 8-hour shift. Lenox Mine is a gold mine which is rich in iron-banded formation as well as quartz ore which contains a greater proportion of gold ore. After surveying for gold ore and taking samples, gold is mined using sublevel stopping. Gold is mined at blocks from vertical to horizontal. For gold ore to be processed to pure gold there are stages which we went through. We first did sampling, then drilling and blasting, then lashing. After that the ore goes to a mill for mineral processing where it is finally processed to pure gold. I learned a lot from the mine. We learned five safety rules which were crucial to all workers. The rules helped all employees to work safely! As an attachee, I discovered the problem of flooding at deeper levels, so as an upcoming mine engineer I will design a way to remove that water from underground until it becomes possible to reach better gold reserves. Lenox Mine has a good grade of 13g per ton. I learned how to adapt into a new environment as well as being obedient to my bosses. I loved everything I experienced and it’s my hope that one day I will enjoy the future job!”

Tsungirai Makoni

“I am attached at City of Harare Council. It has many departments, so I am working at the department of Finance in the Risk and Insurance office. In this department we mainly undertake the insurance of the City of Harare, and we make sure it is handled properly and that all assets are insured, including motor vehicles, buildings, etc. In the insurance section we undertake a number of policies such as fire, public liability, motor insurance and many more. So when a motor vehicle belonging to our company is involved in an accident we work with our insurance brokers and insurers, who determine the percentage they have to pay for the claim. The same applies when a fire incident happens. We also have a public liability whereby the City of Harare is responsible for the public. Claims can arise when a third party’s cars are damaged by potholes, or when trees fall on their property, or when pedestrians are involved in motor accidents.”



Program Highlights From TNC's July meeting

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

Health Area

- Eyeglasses: We're planning a clinic for later this year, possibly December, which could have higher attendance due to people traveling home for the holiday. **Nurse Primrose** would be able to run a clinic then.
- Ocean Container Shipments: We have no plans for a container shipment at this time but we continue to wait for a decision between **Brother's Brother Foundation** and the **Zimbabwe Association of Church-Related Hospitals (ZACH)** about the possibility of a future shipment.
- Girl Empowerment: In conjunction with partners in Zimbabwe, the program will be updated. The focus is expected to be on local purchasing and a fundraising/sponsorship/grant approach will be developed.
- Rural Health Clinic Rebuilds: Several members of the June/July VIM teams visited the **Chindenga Clinic** to get an appreciation of what the clinics look like in a "before renovation" condition. TNC should soon be able to send \$50,000 to Zimbabwe for the first phase of Chindenga, the sixth and final clinic to be renovated ... **Jim Gourley, Sue McCann** and **Ralph Duckworth** visited the **Chikwizo, Dendera** and **Nyahuku** clinics. All were clean and well maintained.
- Hospital and Pharmacy: We continue to work with Nyadire Hospital to identify and prioritize projects.

Education and Relationships Area

- Engineers Without Borders/CMU: For the **biogas digester** project, the students are waiting for approval from the national EWB. Pending that approval, the target is to issue a purchase order in August with installation in September. The students would manage the installation remotely with daily updates from the contractor and inspectors. A student team would then travel to Nyadire in December to assess operations.
- Hearing Innovation: Thanks to **Kumbi Mutasa**, who purchased uniforms for the girls and hats for the boys ... During the VIM trip, TNC's **Deborah Swineford** (photo at right) taught the older classroom and did a fantastic job. The students really enjoyed the connection and time with her.



(Continued on page 12)

Program Highlights From TNC's July meeting...

(Continued from page 11)

- Volunteer-in-Mission trips: See pages 1 and 4-7 ... The Nyadire guest house has been an ideal place to stay for VIM teams, as well as guests other than TNC. There are several things that could be repaired in the house: flooring, ceiling, electrical wiring, etc. We will make plans for a future VIM team to work together with the folks at Nyadire to make improvements.
- Sister Rut Scholarships: See pages 9-10 for stories and photos about student attachments (internships) ... For complete updates, see our July meeting minutes.

Orphans Area

- Home of Hope: See page 8 ... In June our children rose to 26, with two new arrivals, a sibling pair ... **Lindarose Chibinge** has volunteered at the HOH for one year and has blended with the family well.
- Home of Hope Outreach: During the VIM trip, **Marie Hunt, Karen Cahall** and **Mary Beth Zollars** led our efforts to visit all 22 outreach schools. During these visits we updated photos and worksheets, distributed hats ("Kaps for Kids") and backpacks with school supplies, along with letters, gifts and dollar bills from sponsors.



If You Have Newsletter Story/Photo Ideas...

In our newsletter, TNC strives 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