



The Nyadire Connection

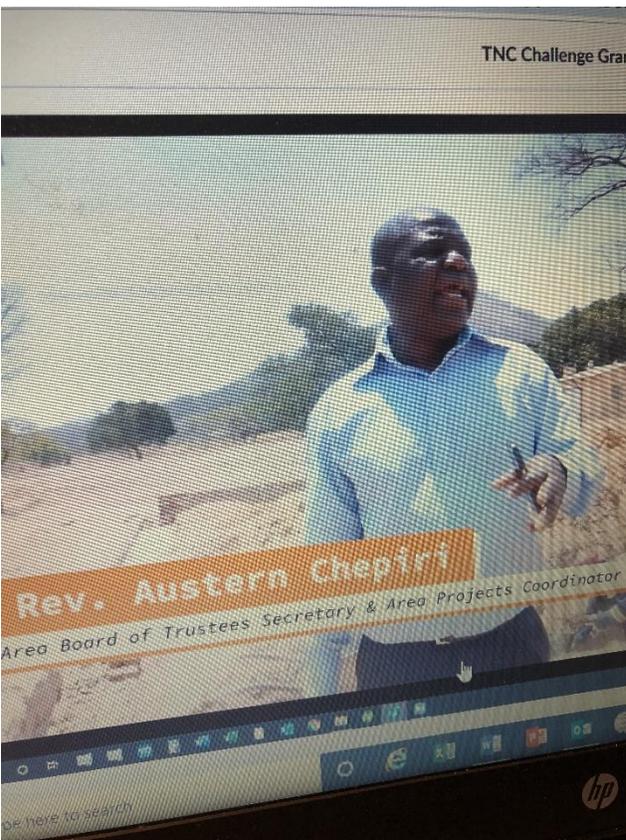
The Nyadire Connection (TNC), based in Pittsburgh, PA, is a faith-based non-profit volunteer organization that seeks to support and sustain the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe.

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TNC Supporters Meet Clinics Funding Challenge



Tatenda! Thank you! No matter what language we use, words seem inadequate to express our gratitude for your contributions to TNC and our “Cash For Clinics” challenge.

Thanks to your abundant generosity and support for our Dec. 2 fundraising webinar (see screenshot at left), we met the challenge and will receive an additional matching grant of \$25,000 from the **United Methodist Foundation of Western Pennsylvania**. We will continue our efforts to raise about \$22,000 more to complete **Mashambanhaka**, which has a total cost of about \$274,000. In addition, later this year we plan to begin raising funds for the sixth and final clinic, **Chindenga**.

When we began the clinics project, we didn’t know where the funding of nearly \$2 million would come from, but we have been amazed and awed by God’s hands at work and by your generosity and support.

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Despite Tough Conditions, TNC Accomplished Much In 2020

Facing unprecedented challenges in Zimbabwe in 2020 – including extraordinary inflation, 90% unemployment, country-wide food shortages and hunger, drought and water shortages, and a COVID lockdown since early in the year – TNC and its partners in Nyadire still managed to accomplish much during the year.

“In many ways, this was perhaps our toughest year since TNC was established in 2006, but it was also very gratifying to see how we came together to overcome so many obstacles and once again make a difference for the people of Nyadire,” said **Drew Harvey**, TNC chairman.

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TNC Supporters Meet Clinics Funding Challenge...

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Our clinics journey began in 2012, during a Saturday morning meeting of the **Dutilh Men's Ministry**. In 2013, three TNC representatives travelled to Zimbabwe to assess the needs for water and other resources at the six rural medical clinics affiliated with the hospital there.

That assessment revealed not only a need for water at the clinics, but for a complete rebuild to bring them to a condition where they could provide basic medical care in a clean, safe facility to thousands of local villagers. Most patients arrive at the clinics on foot, some by oxcart. They are

treated for broken bones, infections, malaria, HIV, hepatitis, and other diseases. Pregnant women often walk as far as 10 miles to deliver their babies. They come about a month ahead of their expected delivery date and wait at the clinics, living communally in very poor conditions. We also learned that none of the clinics had running water or indoor toilets, most had no electricity and none had separate wards for men and women, or separate facilities to separate people with infectious diseases from pregnant women and children.



TNC then started a new program to rebuild the six rural clinics, prioritized in order of their need for refurbishment. Construction of the first clinic, **Chikwizo**, began in the fall of 2013, followed by **Nyahuku** in 2015, **Dendera** in 2017 and **Dindi** in 2019. Project management of the refurbishments has been excellent, with all projects completed on schedule and close to budget. Project managers issue monthly progress reports to stakeholders, including TNC. The fifth clinic, **Mashambanhaka**, is currently under construction, thanks in part to donations from the Dec. 2 webinar, during which several people from Zimbabwe told the story of the life-changing and life-saving work of these clinics.



To watch the TNC Cash for Clinics Webinar, please click the link below and advance the video to the 5:00 minute mark, where you can begin listening to a song from Zimbabwe: https://dentons.zoom.us/rec/share/nK7r6D_8G7AEJw1xVK8PKvxEML3_RiaO2fkcuP7OgCIVYT7340TPOE_eZiXevdg.xUvUpvnj9tSPVKq9

To continue supporting the clinics project, you can **donate through the following link** on TNC's website: <http://www.nyadire.org/donate.html> Please specify that your donation is for Rural Medical Clinics, and remember that donations to TNC are tax-deductible.

Despite Tough Conditions...

(Continued from page 1)

Our 2020 accomplishments included:

- Created **Nyadire Social Committee** and **Home of Hope Outreach** school committees
- Hunger became a major priority, with an extremely generous response to our funding appeals. We funded monthly distribution of **food bundles** to 410 families
- To fight ongoing drought and electrical outages, we added **solar power** to two major mission boreholes, connected a smaller borehole to the mission reservoir, added solar to the first **Home of Hope** borehole and drilled a second HOH borehole
- TNC's "**network**" of churches continued to grow with commitment and effectiveness
- Two **shipping containers** arrived in March, filled with very specifically chosen items
- Clinics progress: We completed **Dindi** and Phase 1 of **Mashambanhaka**, while hosting a successful Dec. 2 "Cash for Clinics Webinar" to raise funds for Phase 2
- Sent about \$15,000 for **drug purchases** and continued funding stipend for Nyadire doctor
- Sent many **Girls Empowerment Pad** kits and sewing machines sent via container, and held classes at several clinics and schools
- **Eyeglass** program has a trained team in Zimbabwe prepared to conduct clinics and distribute large numbers of eyeglasses
- We had an excellent **VIM** trip in February, but had to cancel others due to COVID
- The solar street lights installed by **Engineers Without Borders** continue to work very well, and we continued to work on a biogas cooking system for the primary school
- **Scholarships** enabled about 20 students to continue their tertiary education
- We supported about 20 students through our **Hearing Innovation** program
- We continued to support the **Home of Hope** orphanage, providing perhaps 75% of its monthly operating budget
- Through our **Home of Hope Outreach** sponsors, we support about 425 students in school, and we funded the purchase of materials enabling HOHO schools to safely reopen after a COVID lockdown
- Through our **fund development** efforts, we created a "Go Fund Me" page for Mashambanhaka and hosted the very successful "Cash for Clinics Webinar"
- We improved **communications** with our stakeholders by distributing four newsletters, updating our website and brochures, and placing several articles in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and various newsletters



Food Bundles Still Meeting Vital Needs In Nyadire



In 2020, TNC worked with the **Nyadire Social Committee** to help meet the critical need for food during the COVID-19 pandemic, and our efforts are ongoing in 2021. In fact, thanks to generous support from TNC's stakeholders, we raised enough funding so that we can continue to provide basic food bundles through April of this year.

The January distribution (see photos) was greatly appreciated by the 410 families who received food bundles. The local committee purchases, collects and distributes the food, a complex operation that runs efficiently. Prices have increased so TNC sent additional funds so beans can remain in the food bundle.

In December, we received the following message of thanks from **Rev. Mukundu**:

“Seasonal greetings and I hope you had a wonderful Christmas. We want to thank you TNC for coming in to rescue the Nyadire community in such times of need. We don't have enough words to thank you but it is only the Lord who will always remember the hand that feeds the vulnerable communities. Thank you so much and we make this appreciation from the deepest part of our hearts as the Nyadire community. You will be advised as always when the funds have reflected in the new account. May good Lord continue to bless the entire TNC group. Wishing you a wonderful and spirit filled New Year.”



Home Of Hope Updates: Lindarose Joins Staff; Prayers For Rain

Lindarose (photo at right), a recent graduate with a degree in Social Work, is volunteering at the **Home of Hope** orphanage. She has been a wonderful addition to the staff. Director **Emmanuel Chiimba** reports that she takes on each and every task with great energy and that she is completely “hooked”. The bond she has with the children is inseparable! If you’re a HOH sponsor, look for her reports of the children in your email box.



After so many years of drought, in December the skies opened and it began to rain! The hope is that the streams, rivers, and underground water sources will be rejuvenated. Ironically, it rained so much that plowing in the red earthen fields was impossible. Pray for continued rains this planting season for a bountiful harvest!



Special Thanks From Hannah Mafunda, Health Coordinator

Since 2012, TNC has worked with local partners to refurbish rural medical clinics affiliated with the Nyadire Hospital. **Hannah Mafunda**, Health Coordinator of the Zimbabwe Episcopal Area Health Board, has been one of those local partners and a major champion of the projects. Hannah shared these words of thanks for TNC’s efforts:

“As a Zimbabwean and a Christian, it gives me unspeakable joy to see those rural patients getting healthcare service at a clinic like Chikwizo and Nyahuku. It gives me pleasure seeing those folks getting treated in dignified, private, clean and state of the art facilities. I do not want to tell those people that Jesus Christ loves them but I want them to see the love of Christ in those clinics when they are being treated.”

Young Dutilh Entrepreneur Doing His Part To Help

By Jenny Monahan, Director of Marketing and Communications at Dutilh UMC

Twelve-year-old **Joe Wagner** is part activist, part entrepreneur, and all about helping others.

For the last several years, Joe has organized lemonade stands to raise funds for organizations that assist people in need.

“I do a lemonade stand every year, at least for the last four years,” Joe explained. “Normally we sell lemonade and homemade trail mix, but in 2020 [because of COVID-19] we had bottled water, lemonade mix packets, and individually-packaged Pirate’s Booty.”

Joe and his business partners – sister Grace (age 10 and in fifth grade) and neighbors Mary (seventh grade) and Nina (fourth grade) – have donated the proceeds to a variety of organizations, including TNC. The majority of Joe’s fundraising efforts have focused on organizations working in Africa.

“We have some connections with these programs in Zimbabwe through the United Methodist Church,” explained **Rev. Amy Wagner**, Joe’s mom and a United Methodist pastor.

Last summer, Joe chose to support a water project in Yemen, on the Arabian Peninsula. He learned about the water crisis in Yemen during a social studies class with his teacher, Mrs. Miloser, in sixth grade.

“The people in Yemen have less than ten years before they are out of water,” Joe said. “Kids end up drinking the poorest quality water of anyone in that community, and then the kids get sick. All it takes is \$1 or \$2 for a bottle of clean water, and a larger donation can provide a new well. People can make a difference!”

Joe says the reason he wanted to help with the water crisis in Yemen is simple.

“I wanted to get involved because I see people suffering – they are enduring a civil war already, but now they have to face a water shortage also,” Joe said. “It’s giving people another chance to live their life. These are basic necessities, not luxuries.”

Joe said a typical lemonade stand pulls in about \$75. He usually organizes the fundraiser during his neighborhood-wide yard sale. Last year, with less foot traffic due to the pandemic, the event brought in about \$60.

Joe’s favorite year was when he raised about \$150 for Imagine No Malaria. In addition to selling the lemonade and snacks, Joe makes signs to explain the cause he is supporting.

“One lady came up and said she didn’t want any lemonade, but she wanted to support people in Zimbabwe, and she gave me \$50,” Joe said.

“Joe is a very good salesman,” Amy confirmed. “If people come in our driveway, they do not leave without buying a lemonade.”



TNC Helping To Bring New Sources Of Water To The Mission

Water has reached the reservoir! With water shortages a recurring challenge in Nyadire, TNC has continued to support new efforts to bring critical water to the mission. Recently, a relatively small but very helpful pump began adding water to Nyadire's reservoir.

The final section of trenching was dug through rocky, uphill ground and a new poly pipe is now delivering water. Distribution is improved, and there should no longer be parts of the mission without water!



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

Program Highlights From TNC's December Meeting

Health Area

- Eyeglasses: Several bags of eyeglasses are now at **Christ Church**, and **Don Ziegler** will coordinate a collection time and deliver them to **Mission Vision**...Don and **Dr. Larry** plan to bring the team in Nyadire together for advanced training after the COVID lockdown
- Ocean Container Shipments: We hope to participate in a shipment this year, which could include sewing machines, medical supplies, blankets/caps from **St Paul's**, eyeglasses, and various books
- Empowerment Pads: Currently active at the Waiting Mother's Homes in Nyadire
- Medical Supplies: Transferring funds for purchase of drugs to be used in the first quarter of this year.
- Rural Health Clinic Rebuilds: See page 1.
- Medical and Hospital Support: Thanks to a grant, plans to improve **Nyadire Hospital** include a blood bank, centrifuge machine, water bath, operating theatre bed and light, anesthetic machine, diathermy machine, three incubators, resuscitator, and defibrillator...Nyadire will provide bricks, river/pit sand, river stones

Education and Relationships Area

- Engineers Without Borders/CMU: After receiving quotes from two Zimbabwe companies for supply of a **BioGas Cooking System** for the **Primary School**, a decision was made to place the order with **Blessing Jonga** and **Lewis Makurumure**, pending further testing to determine the amount of cow waste that can be collected as feed for the system
- Hearing Innovation: We are working to support **Simbarashe** for a Masters in Special Education
- Volunteer-in-Mission trips: If you're interested in leading or joining a team at some point, please contact **Molly Michael** at mollyalice.michael@gmail.com...we are hoping to organize a trip for this summer, depending on COVID restrictions
- Sister Rut Scholarships: We're exploring the possibility of initiating an agricultural aspect for the program. See TNC Minutes for an update on current scholarship students

Orphans Area

- Home of Hope: The **United Methodist Church of Finland** has contacted us regarding some funds to go to a playground...the HOH Rummage Sale was not held in 2020 due to COVID, and scheduling a date for this year is on hold
- Home of Hope Outreach: Several projects are on hold, but you can see photos of the Outreach Schools in action on TNC's Facebook page at the link below
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2369547983/>