



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.

VOLUME 16

www.nyadire.org

June 2017

Through TNC, Avonworth Students Reach Out To Zimbabwe

Thanks in part to TNC, students at Avonworth Middle School recently reached out to students in Nyadire and surrounding high schools in Zimbabwe. The process started when the students read "I Will Always Write Back," a true account of two teenagers, Caitlin from an upper middle class family in the US, and Martin from an impoverished town in Zimbabwe. The book turned into a project based on the question, "How can I change the life of a student in Zimbabwe?" The students' teachers, Sarah Flowers and Amanda White, eventually found the TNC website, then contacted Jeanna-Mar Simmons, Christ Church Outreach Coordinator, who in turn



contacted Molly Michael, TNC Education. A series of visits to the Avonworth classrooms was scheduled.

This led to a connection with Engineers Without Borders (EWOB), a group of engineering students from Carnegie-Mellon University, who are involved in bringing solar street lighting to the Nyadire Mission. The CMU students, who will travel to Nyadire in August, visited the Avonworth classrooms to share their project (photo at left) and asked the Avonworth students how they would improve life in Zimbabwe. Said Sarah, "Our

students had phenomenal suggestions: ways of bringing clean water, a foot powered washing machine, building or renovating schools, starting thrift shops, and creating community jobs." Jillian Schmidt, a nursing student, had the same effect. A member of the 2016 TNC Mission Team, she will return to Nyadire this summer. Her photos of her experiences, particularly her involvement in the Nyadire Hospital and with TNC's Eyeglass Project, were evidence of what they could do in the future. Elsa Zollars, another TNC member, answered students' questions about what they should write about and passed out a list of greetings and common words. The results: The Avonworth students wrote 130 letters, which will be passed out to high school students in Nyadire and surrounding high schools.

Sarah said, "I am excited to envisage where students will take this SPARK. Some may become teachers, nurses, or missionaries or be called in a different way to make a difference."

Clinic Update: Dendera Nearing Completion



Thanks to members of Christ UMC in Bethel Park, the renovation of the Dendera clinic – the third of six rural health clinic projects that TNC is supporting – is nearing completion. As of May, only the Mother’s Waiting Shelter, the Maternity Ward and Observation Ward, and the second bore hole were yet to be finished.

Dutilh UMC Hosts TNC Month

Dutilh UMC recently hosted “TNC Month” and raised more than \$13,000 for TNC’s various programs. During the month, TNC members provided mission minutes, hosted display tables, sold crafts, and communicated TNC’s story. Associate Pastor Jim Gascoine has long been a strong advocate for TNC and wrote the following for Dutilh’s E-News:

“I love what our church is doing through the Nyadire Connection. It gives Dutilh Church the opportunity to be a part of a global presence. TNC is our church’s primary global mission outreach and a true partnership. Each TNC program has a Pittsburgh-side coordinator and a Zimbabwe-side coordinator. There are 7 partner United Methodist churches in the Pittsburgh area partnering with all the United Methodist Churches in the Nyadire region of Zimbabwe. “The key word for TNC is “partnership.” To be honest, it is really easy to get it wrong when churches strive to be involved in global mission and service. TNC gets it right. We are not *doing for* or *doing to* the people of Nyadire. Instead, we are *working with*. The Zimbabwe-side coordinators work with pastors and churches there to determine the needs of their communities. We don’t tell them what to do – they know their own communities!

“Then, once that step is complete, and the needs identified, we work together to figure out ways to meet those needs. Our Pittsburgh-side coordinators work together to determine how we can use the resources available to our churches to meet those needs. As I said: a true partnership, where we work together as brothers and sisters in Christ.”

Mt. Lebanon UMW Sponsors Sewing Party

Thirty-five United Methodist Women members from Mt. Lebanon UMC, Christ UMC and Baldwin Community Methodist Church attended a sewing party to support TNC's Girl Empowerment Program (GEP) in May. The event was sponsored by the Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Women. Generous donations allowed the participants to produce over 260 kits.

If you were not able to attend this event, please consider joining the Fourth Annual Pittsburgh sewing party on Sept. 10 from 3 to 6 pm in Mount Lebanon UMC Asbury Center. Last year close to 100 women from the region attended and produced almost 1,000 kits! These kits have arrived in Nyadire and have been distributed and are very much appreciated and welcomed!



Two new groups have joined the program: First UMC and Hill Memorial UMC in a big way by donating supplies such as bars of soap, flannel & knit circles, Ziploc freezer bags, underwear, pads, empty pill bottles, pill bottles with needles, safety pins, thread, and t-shirt fabric. For more information, please contact Bonnie Lawson at bonnielawson58@comcast.net or (412) 343-3498. Bonnie is hard at work in her garage converting seven sewing machines from electricity to hand cranks before they will be sent to Zimbabwe.

Interested In Going On A Mission Trip To Zimbabwe?

In 2017, teams through The Nyadire Connection (www.nyadire.org) will be traveling to The Nyadire United Methodist Mission in Zimbabwe, Africa to serve God and help others. We are looking for volunteers with a wide range of skills such as reading with a child, participating in a pastor's workshop, assisting with maintenance, Bible School, or helping at the hospital. There are endless opportunities to fit with the skills of the team members and projects are adjusted to the current needs of the mission.

If you are interested, please contact Molly Michael at mollyalice.michael@gmail.com for more information.

Don Ziegler Keeps His Eyes On The Process



Don Ziegler (in photo at left) is a process guy. He sees the whole picture and breaks it down into steps which can be evaluated for quality.

He has used his process approach for the Eyeglass Project in Nyadire and surrounding communities.

The result – he has trained volunteers there so that they can carry on the Eyeglass Project when he has returned to the US.

The backstory is that Don was on TNC’s July Mission Trip in 2016 which began eye testing. After being trained by Mission Vision, another Pittsburgh non-profit, Don enlisted and trained twelve unemployed young people through the nine step-by-step process he devised. They carried on the testing when Don returned home. On his next trip he recruited and trained twelve more youth who demonstrated good English

speaking skills and became “real leaders,” Don reports. “They were able to take the eye testing and eyeglass fitting process to the newly refurbished Dendera rural clinic.”

Don returned to Nyadire this year having been trained and certified (again by Mission Vision) to use an auto-refractor (a computer-controlled machine used to determine prescriptions for glasses or contact lenses), which he carried with him on the plane. He will use this device for testing again for a three-day clinic in Nyadire. Mission Vision has contributed 14 cases containing eyeglasses, cases, and sunglasses for shipment to Nyadire in an ocean-going container and will provide a supply for future container shipments. When asked what others can do to support the Eyeglass Project, Don suggests:

1. Collect eyeglasses and deposit in the Mission Vision boxes in churches, libraries, etc.
2. Go on a mission trip.
3. Participate in a local clinic held by Mission Vision at schools, helping with eye charts and picking out frames. See www.mission-vision.org
4. Help clean eyeglasses and test for measurement; enter inventory data in computer. See www.mission-vision.org
5. Donate to Mission-Vision or The Nyadire Connection.

Container Shipments Provide A Variety of Critical Goods

From its beginning over 10 years ago, TNC has sent large amounts of requested items to Nyadire via 40' long ocean containers.

Almost all items are donated, but the shipping cost alone is still \$10,000+ with a four-month transit time. Typically we have sent one container/year, but because of connections and opportunities we have shipped four in the last ten months.

One container was filled with furnishings for Dendera Health Clinic - beds, cabinets, tables, chairs, a birthing table, and all things needed to allow the newly rebuilt clinic to function. A second container was dedicated to Nyadire with backpacks, empowerment pad materials, sewing machines, worship books, educational supplies, sports equipment, eyeglasses and more. The third and fourth containers are to be shared with two other Methodist Hospitals in Zimbabwe and included more manual beds, stretchers, medical supplies, an Ultrasound Machine, and mobility carts specifically designed for the disabled.



The list of items sent is long, but always reviewed carefully to ensure that items are needed and used. The list of people and organizations that must work together to enable these shipments is equally long. Partners include Brother's Brother, Global Links, Engineers Without Borders, several local rotary clubs, Computer Reach, various schools & groups, as well as the following:

- Folks who call and ask if TNC can use a variety of items: discarded reading programs, textbooks, choir robes, pastors' study materials, children's books, toothbrushes and toothpaste, office supplies, early childhood resources/materials.
- Individuals who provide storage and packing boxes for container shipments.
- The leadership of Drew Harvey whose passion and vision has made the relationship between people and programs 8,400 miles apart a "GO" for both parties.

Home Of Hope Lives Up to Its Name

By Elsa Zollars

There may be a thousand definitions or heart-held memories for these words, but at the Nyadire United Methodist Mission, there is a special place that is both HOME and FAMILY. The Home of Hope (HOH) has a fitting name. Located in the center of the mission, the HOH may be one of the first places a visitor goes – to be with the children.

Its construction was financed by the Finnish United Methodist Church and prompted by the revered Finnish missionary nurse, Sister Rut Lindgren who lived in Nyadire. Jump back to 2006 and our first mission trip to Nyadire. At that time, the Home was managed by the Nyadire Hospital. The team was impressed with the Home's "mothers" and their abilities to muster resources although they had not been paid for several months. There was no administrator.

When the 2006 mission team returned, debriefed, and decided to organize into what we now know as TNC, the group decided to invest their energies into the revitalization of the hospital and the Home of Hope. Mary Beth Zollars accepted the Home of Hope challenge and is handling those responsibilities a decade later. First job – to understand how much it cost to operate the Home. Second job – offer sponsorships for the children, first to Christ UMC members, then to other churches. It is interesting to note that many sponsors still support "their child." At first only one sponsor was needed per child. As the children grew, and school fees had to be paid, and more mothers and an administrator, Emmanuel Chiimba, hired, several sponsors were needed to pay for housing, food, clothing, and staffing. The best parts of the sponsorships were the relationships that developed – "watching the children grow."

Today some of the original HOH children still live there – Precious, Beauty, Tinashe, Nyasha, Godknows and Tsungi; others have been relocated to live with relatives – Susan, Tadfadzwa, Lorraine, Charles, Lindiwe, Lovemore, and Kudah. Two have gone on to further education. Catherine is in third year at Nyadire Teachers' College, and Chriswell is now a master builder.

A newly constructed HOH, built again with the Finnish UM funds, occupies a large parcel of land behind the hospital. Mr. Chiimba hopes to use the land for growing crops for the Home's sustenance. Presently maize and potato crops are flourishing thanks to good rains. The building will provide more space for boys and girls and staff. The good news is that new or old building, good care and love prevails. The children take responsibility for themselves and their new space and help each other.

As they say in Zimbabwe, "God is good all the time. All the time, God is good."

Rummage Sale Benefits Home of Hope

Plants, picture frames, putters, paperbacks, Pirates earrings, flower pots, and you name it were donated, unpacked, sorted, priced, and purchased at The Nyadire Connection's Rummage Sale to benefit the Home of Hope Orphanage (HOH) in Nyadire. The May 19-20 event, headed by Diane White and Kim Koser, and aided by dedicated volunteers, raised over \$3,000 for the orphans and operating costs at the HOH. Thanks to all for your valuable support!

Funds Provided For Ongoing Medicinal Needs



Ask any Zimbabwe doctor what is most urgently needed, and drugs/medicines are always high on the list. Because of short expiration dates, it is difficult to provide donated drugs so TNC has purchased drugs for Nyadire hospital for many

years. Initially these were purchased and air freighted, but the shipping expense was very high. Fortunately many drugs are now available for purchase within Zimbabwe.

TNC strives to connect people "face to face", or for example - "pharmacist to pharmacist".

Irina Sheyko (above), pharmacist at Pittsburgh's Jefferson Hospital, & Wilson Nhamoinesu, pharmacist at Nyadire Hospital have developed a consumption tracking system that clarifies what drugs are used and what drugs are needed. Each quarter, TNC provides funds and the specific drugs needed are purchased in Zimbabwe.

Mail Call Deadline: July 17

The Volunteer-in-Mission Team is preparing for the July trip to the Nyadire United Methodist Mission in Zimbabwe. It's time to write your LETTERS! Letters (and photos) are the most precious gifts of all! The deadline for letters is JULY 17.

Mary Beth Zollars is collecting letters and you can send them to her via one of the following methods:

- email -- mbzollars@aol.com
- USPS -- 3248 Comanche Road Pittsburgh, PA 15241
- in person/USPS -- bring or mail them to the office at Christ UMC, 44 Highland Rd, Bethel Park, PA 15102

Every year we get questions about sending gifts. You may send gifts, but they must be SMALL and PACKABLE! Small gift ideas include: a book, stationery, stickers, pens, a t-shirt, a jump rope, etc. It must be SMALL, but remember, there is no need to send a gift....a letter is always more important than a gift.

Alternatively, you can contribute to the Underwear Campaign. The Home of Hope sent a plea for underwear! If you would like to contribute to this campaign, please send a \$10 check to Christ UMC and write *HOH-underwear* in the memo line.

Please remember that the children pray for you every night. Thank you for loving them!

Save The Date: TNC "Friend-raiser" Set For Sept. 21

TNC will be holding a "friend"-raising event on Thursday, Sept. 21 from 4-8 pm at Calvary United Methodist Church and Brother's Brother Foundation (<http://www.brothersbrother.org/>). The event will be a great opportunity to expand TNC's message to a larger audience. Brother's Brother (BBF) has been recognized by Forbes Magazine as one of the Top 100 U.S. Charities, one of ten charities with 100% fundraising efficiency and one of eleven charities with 99% or higher for charitable commitment. BBF operates warehouses on Pittsburgh's North Side where they collect, sort, and ship scavenged medical and educational supplies to impoverished countries throughout the world. TNC is proud to partner with them to send our ocean container shipments to Nyadire. Calvary, also on the North Side, is a beautiful, historic church known especially for having three of the world's largest Tiffany stained glass windows, which were installed in 1895. Appetizers and desserts will be offered, and guests will move from one location to the other mid-evening. We hope that you will encourage folks from your church to attend with friends and learn more about TNC's programs and your church's work with TNC. Tickets to the event are priced at \$25 to cover expenses. For more information, contact Debbie Little of Dutilh UMC at 412-562-3923.