



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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Mission Trip Planned For July-August

Molly Michael plans to lead a team on a mission trip mid-July – early August. Plans will be finalized when Zimbabwe election dates are known. Education, health and medical, farm, eyeglasses, and children's programs are some interests that have been expressed. Dependent on airfare and time of year, the total cost of a mission trip (not including the optional excursion) is approximately \$2,800 - \$3,000. Trainings are mandatory and will begin soon for all interested members. The training sequence is 1- informational; 2-cultural; 3- project planning; and 4- packing. Contact Molly Michael – (412) 805-6481 or Mollyalice.michael@gmail.com

Eyeglass Program Expands

The Eyeglass Program is experiencing great success and expansion thanks to program leader, Don Ziegler. Don reports that 18 boxes of eyeglasses have arrived in Nyadire to replenish the supply needed for the eyeglass clinics. In 2017, 1,841 pairs of eyeglasses were sent. Six assistants from Nyadire have been trained by Don and certified by Mission Vision of Pittsburgh to work as a team and independently conduct eyeglass clinics. Each clinic is five days



long. Clinics have been conducted at Dendera, Nyahuku, and Nyadire. Don and his team are exploring fundraising

options to fund more clinics. For more information, to request a presentation, or obtain a Mission Vision collection box, contact Don Ziegler, (412) 956-2660 or don.ziegler@icloud.com

Girls Feeling Empowered

Bonnie Lawson, leader of the Girls Empowerment Pad program, reports:

- Supplies to produce 325



Hygiene Kits are being gathered and will be assembled at a Mt. Lebanon UMC United Methodist (MTLUMC) Women meeting on April 12 followed by a session to assemble GEP kits on May 10.

- “Growing Up in School” reprints will accompany hygiene kits thanks to fundraising efforts.
- Nurse Crescencia and Nyadire teacher Charity are distributing GEP products in Nyadire and neighboring schools.
- 1,841 kits and 17 sewing machines were sent in 2017.

Welcome Home, Jessie!

Jessie Mazzoni has returned to Pittsburgh after serving in **Peace Corps Zambia** as a Rural Health Volunteer. She lived in a rural village of about 6,000 people. Her responsibility was to create health education projects for the community; and she focused on child development and nutrition, safe motherhood, malaria, HiV and gardening as some of her 30 health projects in her two year stay. Jessie reports she was “fortunate to work with amazing community members who were progressive, hard-working, and motivated to improve their community.” She now heads a team working to launch a crowd-funding program to raise funds for the **Home of Hope Administrator House**. **Jessie and Natalie Geer** sponsored a crowd-funding project in 2014, (taking the Polar Plunge in the Allegheny River) to raise funds to renovate a rural clinic.



Sponsorships Make A Difference

If you're looking for an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our friends in Nyadire, sponsorships provide that opportunity. For example, currently there are 16 Home of Hope orphans, 335 orphans in the 11 neighboring rural schools, and 24 hearing-impaired students who are able to attend school thanks to TNC sponsorships. Here are the specific opportunities:

HOME OF HOPE (HOH Orphanage) - \$40 a month

Contact: Mary Beth Zollars – mbzollars@aol.com or (412) 498-2281

HOME OF HOPE OUTREACH (HOHO) RURAL SCHOOLS) –

For \$75 a year a child can attend school. (\$100 provides a backpack filled with school supplies or you can elect to pack your own backpack). This sponsorship program provides school fees for students in the rural areas of Zimbabwe. Children are not allowed to attend school unless they can pay their school fees. All the students sponsored have either one or no living parent. Education is a tool that provides the children an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and gives them hope for the future. The children are delighted to receive letters and pictures from their sponsors and love to share a little of their lives with their sponsor through letters. As one of the children said in her letter to her sponsor, "I am happy to write this letter to tell you thank you!"

HEARING-MPAIRED STUDENT –

\$125 – school fees and you pack a backpack of school supplies, or

\$150 – school fees WITH a backpack of school supplies, OR

\$20 a month for room and board

Contact: Molly Michael - (412) 805-6481 or Mollyalice.michael@gmail.com

News and Notes: Dendera Clinic Dedicated

- The newly refurbished **Dendera Clinic** was officially dedicated on January 13, 2018. **United Methodist Bishop Nhiwatiwa** presided over the celebration. Although TNC was not able to attend the dedication, the following is part of a message that was read. “We thank Bishop Nhiwatiwa for his leadership and support to ensure that these clinics would be built. We thank Rev. Gurupira, Rev. Chepiri, Mrs. Mafunda, the Community, all of the people who made the bricks for the new clinic, the people who carried the water and the gravel, Hama and his workers who did the construction work, and many others for all of the hard work that was needed to complete the clinic. The new clinic would not have been possible without the great efforts of all of these people. We rejoice with you and celebrate with you upon the completion of the new clinic at Dendera. The clinic is a blessing that God has provided.”



- **Dr. Ronald Nyabereka**, one of the doctors at Nyadire Mission, will be attending the University of Zimbabwe for a Master’s in Public Health. TNC sponsored Dr. Ronald for his medical degree in return for five years of service at Nyadire Mission, and he intends to return in December 2019.

- TNC sadly announces the death in January of **Mr. Isaiah Mudiwa**, headmaster of Nyadire High School.



News and Notes, continued...

- **SAVE THE DATES** - The TNC Rummage Sale to benefit the HOME OF HOPE will be held on Friday, May 4 (pre-sale 4 - 7 pm) and Sat., May 5 (9 am – 2 pm). Please call **Diane White** (412) 257-1969; diane.white257@gmail.com or **Kim Koser** (724)941-5109; kimkoser@gmail.com to volunteer to help.
- **250 Commerce O-Level textbooks** were purchased and distributed to Home of Hope Outreach (HOHO) schools. The recipients of each school will decide on the service project they will undertake.
- The ocean-going container that left Pittsburgh in Sept. 2017 has arrived, and the contents of 236 boxes are now being distributed in Nyadire. Items include medical supplies, eyeglasses, pastoral supplies, hospital maintenance supplies, sewing machines and hygiene kits for the **Girl Empowerment Pad** program, backpacks for the **HOHO** children, teaching and educational supplies, sleeping cots, and mobility carts for the disabled.
- TNC Chairman **Drew Harvey** authored an article “**Making the Pittsburgh - Zimbabwe Connection**” that appeared in the **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette** on Dec. 2, 2017. Visit <http://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/Op-Ed/2017/12/03/Making-the-Pittsburgh-Zimbabwe-connection/stories/201712030024>
- **Chartiers Valley High School Family, Career, and Community Leaders (FCCLA)** members donated over \$4,000 to **The Nyadire Connection**. For the past 11 years, the club has sponsored four Zimbabwe orphans by paying their education fees, packing backpacks filled with school supplies and shoes, and by selling candy and CV Gear Wear. The donation will ensure the orphans their full education especially needed in this time of political uncertainty in Zimbabwe. The funds will be divided between the Home of Hope and the Home of Hope Outreach Programs.



TNC Forming Scholarship Committee

TNC celebrates the accomplishments of several of the **Home of Hope** children, now high school graduates and hoping to go on to higher education. In Zimbabwe, this is no easy entrance since one must pass challenging exams and have the funds to matriculate. As a result, TNC is forming a **Scholarship Committee** to examine the ways funds may be raised to send these deserving students on to higher education. We welcome those with financial expertise, and anyone who wants to see the potential of these students realized. Please contact **Molly Michael** for more information at (412) 805-6481, or Mollyalice.michael@gmail.com

Consider these former Hope of Hope graduates:

Catherine, who graduated from Nyadire Teachers College and is now the teacher of an early childhood class in a rural school.

Kudah, who is now a medical technician working in Harare.

Engineering New Light In Nyadire

There is new light in Nyadire. As TNC Chairman **Drew Harvey** reports: “The student chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWOB) at Carnegie Mellon University, and Nyadire United Methodist Mission celebrate the arrival of the first Solar Street Lights. Installation is in progress for 24 street lamps, with the first ones shining brightly!” EWOB’s next project is to replace firewood as a method for cooking high-volume meals. Bio-Gas has been selected as the best alternative. Over the coming months a pilot project will be designed and installed at the Nyadire Primary School Kitchen.



Remember, as they say in Zimbabwe,
“God is good all the time; all the time, God is good.”