



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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www.nyadire.org

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Christ Church Collecting “Kaps for Kids” – Deadline June 2

Christ UMC of Bethel Park is sponsoring “Kaps for Kids,” an opportunity to donate homemade or purchased caps for children at the Home of Hope Orphanage in Nyadire. The deadline to provide caps is June 2.

Because the seasons are opposite in Africa compared to the U.S., it’s now cold in the mornings. TNC has a mission team headed to Nyadire in June, and the team is requesting homemade or purchased caps for children in kindergarten through high school, cap sizes small to large. Caps can be knitted or purchased. If



you’re able, feel free to use your random yarns to make a creatively colored cap, or use your best yarn for a show-stopper. The team will take as many caps as possible. If you are moved to participate, please drop off the caps by June 2 at Christ Church (44 Highland Road, Bethel Park), inside door #2 in bins marked “Kaps for Kids.”

If you have questions, please contact TNC’s Marie Hunt at: emptynest05@comcast.net

Dutilh Preschoolers Raise Funds With “Hop for Hope”

Preschoolers at **Dutilh Church** recently raised \$1,782 through “Hop for Hope,” then donated the funds to TNC to purchase playground equipment for the Home of Hope (HOH) orphanage in Nyadire.

Dutilh preschoolers learned to help others as they raised funds for the project. In April, the students brought in their donations, learned about the lives of children at the HOH orphanage and enjoyed a Hop-A-Thon to support it. Funds are expected to be used to help purchase a swing set for the orphanage.

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TNC Leadership Profile: Debbie Little

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: Meadville, PA; currently lives in Cranberry Twp., PA.

TNC Role: I've been involved in TNC for about five years, planning events that help us to raise funds and friends, and help to increase awareness of the organization. In January 2022 I assumed the role of Director-Strategic Inreach. As part of the TNC leadership team, I'm charged with strengthening relationships with our existing seven network churches and developing new relationships with other churches.



What is your profession and how has that helped in your TNC role: I am an attorney, which involves advocacy, and that's what TNC is about as well. My strengths include organizational skills, and that helps me with event planning.

How and why did you get involved with TNC: I was inspired by **Ralph Duckworth** and **Tim Wesley**. They jumped in with both feet, and later Ralph asked me to get involved, so I did.

Why do you think TNC has been so successful: The people involved are very passionate. It is a partnership with leaders for all programs, both in Pittsburgh and Nyadire. The folks in Nyadire set the priorities and we at TNC try to enable them.



What do you like best about TNC: The people I have met, both in Pittsburgh and Nyadire. Everyone is so devoted and dedicated to this. It is inspiring.

How many times have you been to Nyadire and what's your favorite part about the trip: I visited once, and it helped me to understand who the people are and the programs we talk about during our monthly meetings. To have been there and experienced how they live has been helpful. I was impressed with how faithful and hopeful people are there, considering their circumstances.

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Debbie with Bonnie Lawson and Ava Ekstam, as they support the Girls Empowerment Program.

TNC Leadership Profile: Debbie Little...

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How has your involvement with TNC helped you to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ: It has helped me to appreciate that God loves everyone, all around the world. And to understand the tremendous poverty and opportunities to do something to help, however small.

What Bible verse(s) inspired you to become involved in TNC: Songs like “Oceans” by Hillsong UNITED: “Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders ... Wherever you would call me. Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander and my faith could be made stronger.” Also, the song “Do Something” by Matthew West: “God, why don’t you do something? I did. I created you. If not us, then who?”

What’s your message to anyone who’s considering a trip: Just do it! TNC is a very easy way to plug in. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. TNC has established long-standing relationships and programs, all of which need help. We are very appreciative of any help and fresh ideas, and you will soon feel like you’re making a difference. The people with TNC and those living at Nyadire are so inspiring.



Dutilh Preschoolers Raise Funds...

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“Here at Dutilh Preschool, we value outreach and provide monthly mission focus times where we teach the children to love God, love others, and love to serve—in both word and action,” said Dutilh Preschool director **Julie Willoughby**. “We are thankful we have this opportunity for all our Dutilh Preschool families to come together to bless children in Nyadire with swings—a very tangible and valuable resource our children here can relate to!”

“For 15 years TNC and Dutilh Church have been in partnership with the people of Nyadire, Zimbabwe. Our preschool children are helping us take that partnership to the next level,” said **Rev. Tom Parkinson**, senior pastor at Dutilh Church. “I can’t wait to see the expressions on the faces of Zimbabwean children when they receive their new swing set! What a great way for our preschoolers to learn about the difference they can make in the world!”

Dutilh Preschoolers have participated in similar events for many years. Their 2019 Hop-A-Thon raised \$1,200 to purchase bicycles for the Home of Hope Orphanage



Mission Team Headed To Nyadire In June

TNC is sending **Volunteer-in-Mission** teams to Nyadire in June! A packing party will be held on June 5, from 1-4 pm, at Christ Church. (Use entrance #17.)

Travelers include **Molly Michael, Mary Beth Zollars, Marie Hunt, Deborah Swineford, and Kevin Riley**. In addition, two volunteers will travel through S.Y.STEM Coalition.

Also, TNC's **Ralph Duckworth** will be making a separate trip in June/July, during which he will spend time with the June team and tour several of the rural medical clinics which have been refurbished with TNC's support.

Please pray for the safety and success of our travelers, and watch for a complete trip recap in the next issue of our newsletter, and on our Facebook page.



TNC and Nyadire Mission Partner With S.Y.Stem Coalition

TNC and the Nyadire Mission are now partnering with **S.Y.STEM Coalition** to bring more computer-related skills to Nyadire's students.

S.Y.STEM Coalition was founded by a young engineer in the U.S. who interacted with a lot of young kids and realized that if she could spark the interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) in just one child, it could lift an entire family out of poverty. S.Y.STEM is a 501(c) 3 which empowers youth in STEM through partnership with industry.

Created and run by STEM professionals, S.Y.STEM Coalition makes science and engineering accessible and fun for kids.

TNC's **Mary Beth Zollars, Violet Mutasa, and Drew Harvey** are working with S.Y.STEM staff and Nyadire to plan two weeks of computer coding workshops at Nyadire. Two instructors are expected to accompany TNC's June VIM team.

There is now a STEM Committee in Nyadire that will be responsible for communications with S.Y.STEM and for organizing the workshops, which will be conducted together with Nyadire High School and Primary School, and possibly some outreach schools. The "Pop-Up Classrooms" provided by TNC and sent in the recent container shipment will be used.

"Many thanks to S.Y.STEM Coalition," Drew said. "We're very much looking forward to this; it has a lot of potential."

See the following link for information about how you can donate to this important initiative:

<https://systemcoalition.org/zimbabwe-coding-club/>

Dutilh Sermon Series Includes Focus on Orphan Sponsorships



A sermon series at **Dutilh Church**, titled “Activate,” highlighted TNC’s orphan sponsorship programs, in a drive to expand these initiatives.

Here’s more information from the Dutilh website: Johnny Cash famously sang, “You’re so heavenly minded, you’re no earthly good.” The salvation that is ours in Jesus Christ isn’t just a ticket to heaven – it’s a calling to be part of what God is doing to change the world right now. In this series, we activate our faith in Jesus, hearing the gospel’s call to bring good news to the poor, bread to the hungry, and to put our faith into action. TNC is seeking individuals

interested in sponsoring children and youth in Zimbabwe. One out of every four children is an orphan in Zimbabwe. Most live with extended family, a friend, or even as “child-led households.” The Dutilh website currently includes a sponsorship page, followed by descriptions of the various programs: <https://dutilhchurch.org/tnc-sponsor>

At the **Home of Hope Orphanage** 26 children are well cared for by “mothers, aunties, and daddies.” Sponsors help to pay for their food, clothing, school fees, and medical care. The children with HIV/AIDS who live at the orphanage have flourished thanks to the access to good food and antiretroviral medications. Sponsors donate \$40 per month to help cover expenses. Contact: **Mary Beth Zollars**, 412-498-2281, mbzollars@aol.com

The **Home of Hope Outreach** program reaches 400+ orphans who attend rural schools near Nyadire. HOHO sponsors donate \$100 a year to cover school fees and school supplies for a student. Education is not free, and without financial support most of these children will not remain in school. Sponsors receive photos and updates from the program, and often have the opportunity to write letters back and forth with their child. Contact: **Marie Hunt**, 724-207-0281, emptynest05@comcast.net

TNC’s **Hearing Innovation** program serves children from the entire province. Students learn the Zimbabwean Sign Language and life skills such as arts and crafts, market gardening, welding, fashion and fabrics, and carpentry. Sponsors can donate \$125 to cover annual school fees and/or \$240 to cover annual boarding costs. Contact: **Molly Michael**, 412-805-6481, mollyalice.michael@gmail.com

TNC offers a **higher-education scholarship** fund to provide further schooling opportunities for orphans and hearing innovation students. The fund is named after **Sister Rut Lindgren**, a Finnish missionary nurse who devoted her life to the orphaned children of Nyadire. Qualified students can enroll in teacher colleges, nursing colleges, universities, and vocational schools, and they must maintain passing grades and perform community service. Sponsors donate \$500 annually and will be paired with specific candidates. Contact: **Mary Beth Zollars**, 412-498-2281, mbzollars@aol.com



New Moms Visiting Rural Clinics Receive TNC Baby Gifts



New moms visiting rural clinics in Mashambanhaka and Dendera have received gifts for their newborns, along with other TNC support.

At Dendera, the new moms received lovely little dresses and blankets for their babies. The little dresses were provided by TNC donors. Thanks to all the talented donors who made these with love. Moms also received kits to make washable sanitary pads.

And, Greetings from the Waiting Mothers Program at Mashambanhaka! The Girl Empowerment Program from the Nyadire hospital recently introduced the program to the moms. They also distributed the lovely handmade baby blankets. Thank you to all who made this happen!



Program Highlights From TNC's April Meeting

Each month, TNC leaders gather – due to Covid, we're using Zoom calls – to review programs and discuss future plans. Below are highlights from our recent meeting:

Health Area

- Eye-glasses: Many thanks to program leader **Don Ziegler** for his years of service to TNC. As we continue our search for Don's successor, we're pleased that **Natalie Geer** has agreed to serve as a temporary leader. The program is named for her late mother, **Faith Geer**, who was instrumental in its founding and success.
- Ocean Container Shipments: In coordination with **Brother's Brother Foundation**, we plan to ship many items later this year, including: Boxes of GEP kits, a sewing machine, baby blankets, Hearing Innovation supplies and educational materials, eyeglasses and cases.
- Girl Empowerment: Donations from **Paradise UMW** were collected by **Molly Michael** and have been sorted, including several boxes of GEP kits. These will join the **Trinity UMW** kits that were also produced and are available for shipment.
- Rural Health Clinic Rebuilds: **Ralph Duckworth** will be visiting the Chindenga, Chikwizo, Dendera and Nyahuku clinics during his trip in June/July ... We are reviewing cost estimates and specifications for Chindenga from the conference engineer in Harare. This is the final of six clinics to be renovated.
- Hospital and Pharmacy: We are working with Nyadire Hospital to identify and prioritize projects, including repairs for the chemical analyzer, the mortuary, the School of Nursing ceiling, and solar power batteries.

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Program Highlights From TNC's April Meeting...

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Education and Relationships Area

- Engineers Without Borders/CMU: For the **biogas digester** project, the students submitted a 36-page report to the national EWB and are waiting for approval. Students are unable to travel to Nyadire this summer, but hope to travel late this year or early next year. Based on the amount of waste available, the digester is expected to produce enough gas to cook about one-third of the required daily meals at the primary school.
- Hearing Innovation: Actively seeking more sponsors (see page 5) ... Received computer cart from **ComputerReach** and students are exploring their new technology skills.
- Volunteer-in-Mission trips: See page 4.
- Sister Rut Scholarships: **Mary Beth Zollars** and **Karen Cahall** attended the Night of Giving by the Bethel Park-Upper St. Clair Rotary Club in April to accept the \$5,000 awarded to TNC's Scholarship Program ... See complete updates on the students in our April meeting minutes.

Orphans Area (See page 5 for sponsorship information.)

- Home of Hope: The **Christ Church UMW** will be hosting a golf outing on Sept. 10 at Ponderosa Golf Course and will donate half of its proceeds to the HOH.
- Home of Hope Outreach: **Tinashe Chiimba** and **Lindarose Chibinge** have been given responsibility for pricing, purchasing, and distributing backpacks and school supplies in Zimbabwe ... The **Nyadire Outreach Committee** consists of the following individuals:
 - Chairperson, **Noreen Chitengu** (Manhemba Primary)
 - Vice Chair, **Tawanda Muswe** (Rudawiro Primary)
 - Secretary, **Esnath Zimbira** (Nyadire Primary)
 - Treasurer, **Nicodemus Bandira** (Nyadire High School)
 - Finance Secretary, **Fiona Chiroroma** (Nyakabau Primary)

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