

TNC Meeting Minutes

Feb. 26, 2024

Communications

Tim Wesley

- March newsletter in process
 - Deadline to send items: March 1
- Promoting 2024 Mission Trips
 - Info provided to conference and network churches
- TNC Social
 - Watch for info about spring gathering
- Monthly meeting minutes
 - Send to Tim Wesley by noon on Friday before the meeting
 - Timwesley61@zoominternet.net

Engineers Without Borders and Critical Vehicles

Kevin Riley

- The CMU EWB team is focused on ways to keep Nyadire Hospital blood and medicines at required temperatures during extended power outages. A WhatsApp call between the team, Gashi Chikonyora and Dr. Larry provided a lot of information and support for this project. Refrigeration using special phase change materials looks to be the most promising solution at this point but options are still being explored. There are many formal steps in the EWB process required by National that hopefully can be completed in time to allow a team trip in May to Nyadire.
- A successful WhatsApp call with Christopher Kuwana allowed for a quick discussion on many Nyadire infrastructure items including the water system, hospital solar electricity and sadza biogas stove fabrication. With parts still not available, there was no further progress on the few remaining repairs to two of the three hospital Land Cruisers deemed hospital critical by TNC. The third (the ambulance) should receive an extensive preventative maintenance and inspection in March with an estimate to maintain its reliability.

Eyeglasses

Natalie Geer

Zimbabwe Side

- Working on a long term storage and container solutions for the eyeglasses at the hospital
 - These were based off of the recommendations from the November team
 - Containers were priced out through a hospital vendor
 - Bonnie Lawson asked Knowledge to purchase a container that was cheaper; waiting on feedback from the Matron about quality of container

- and other ideas about best organizational options to ensure the eyeglasses are stored, used, and updated in a practical way
 - Once this is completed, we will have some anticipated financial decisions and approvals to make for this to be operational
 - The Matron has been appointed as the new lead of the program!
 - Transition conversations have taken place with Nurse Primrose, Christine, and the team
 - Communicating with Pittsburgh and need of glasses-- Thoughts and feedback? How do we know what's needed? Sending glasses in the future? Wondering about after clinics, could we be strategic about what we send?

U.S. Side

- Timeline for Natalie as leader
- Kathy's team is dealing with balancing the program, Mission Vision's wants and needs
 - Sorting party with over 2,000 glasses
 - Relabeling of glasses needed completed, thanks Sandy!!
 - Continuing conversations with Marie's team & the Elfinwild Lyons Club
- Marie's team is still processing glasses; hope to sort them soon

Girl Empowerment

Bonnie Lawson, Charity Horiro

Ongoing Program

- Domestic materials have been delivered to Nyadire. Distribution in progress. Knowledge established a new form for improved inventory and receipt management.
- Sent communication to Charity to be shared with the GEP School Team. Covers accomplishments, moving forward and thanks.
- Reviewing reports from teams and developing short- and long-term funding proposals.
- Storage Containers/Vendor Review in progress.

Girl Empowerment Garden Pilot

- Soil samples results obtained and discussed with team. With the help of Knowledge and Dorothy, 24x 50 lb. bags of Dolomite Lime were purchased and delivered to Nyamhara Primary.
- Scott provided safety instructions and guidance on distributing lime in the soil to the team.
- Sugar Bean seeds were also purchased and delivered.
- Scott provided a pamphlet on Sugar Bean production, and this was shared with the team.
- No update on Ag booklet

Communication and Fundraising

- Program update published in MLUMC Windows.
- Phase two of funding approval at MLUMC Missions and Outreach successful. GEP, Scholarships and General funds received funds from the Rummage Sale
- Waiting for publication in UWF Western PA newsletter and Brother's Brothers.

- Provide Tim material for TNC newsletter.
- Posted sections of the 2023 GEP Update on Facebook. Well received.
- Sent updates to all former supporters via email. Received positive feedback and identified potential donors to Karen.

Looking Forward

- Planned International Day Women’s Day fundraiser (March 8th) via Facebook.
- Follow up/Review of finances. Detailed report from Karen required.
- Follow up on garden project. Data from this pilot is needed for grant development.
- Revisit Rotary Contacts after BBF newsletter is published.

Hearing Innovation

Deborah Swineford

- The Resource Unit for the Deaf at Nyadire Primary has 20 learners currently enrolled; 17 boarders and 3 day students. The program also supports 3 learners in the secondary program at Emerald Hill in Harare and 5 in the vocational program at Danhiko, also in Harare.
- On 15 February the Deaf learners at Nyadire Primary had a day trip to Dudley Hall program for the Deaf. Last term Dudley Hall students visited Nyadire. The day ended with a trip to a Lion Park and Snake World. “It was a good day indeed,” says Simbarashe, the upper level teacher.
- Anticipating that Simbarashe and Evajoyce (lower level teacher) will take sign language refresher courses during break between terms. Funding will come from the UM Foundation Grant. Still waiting for quote for estimated cost.
- Second term fees will still include Emerald Hill as we have not been able to acquire the complete wiring information. Hopefully in the next trip the information can be obtained during an onsite visit.
- Other anticipated expenses from the Grant money include: bookshelves, cubbies, overhead projectors, Deaf career day, and a possible educational tour. A concern that none of the requested projects will be completed and the money will be forfeited.
- Hope to recruit a team of individuals with a background in Deaf education to join the next trip.
- An email with attached Lenten calendar was sent to sponsors and other supporters of the Hearing Innovation Program.

Agriculture

Scott Sanford

- Crops at Nyadire are progressing well but a 3-week dry spell threatens yields
 - Home of Hope
 - Harvesting Tomatoes – Dry weather has helped. People without irrigation do not have tomatoes so better market than normal.



- Nyadire Ag Department
 - Concern about the dry weather
 - Starting transplants for garden – Tomatoes, onions, vegetables
- Home of Hope grain storage / poultry barn
 - This project will use the unfinished poultry barn, completing half with 2 runs for poultry (broilers & laying hens) and half with 3 grain storage rooms and a room with the milling equipment which is now in a building behind the main HOH building
 - We have quotes for building construction, electrical work and a concrete pad for drying and threshing. We are waiting for cost of poultry equipment before submitting proposal for funding. Current cost is \$23,430.
- GEP Garden project – giving advice as required – Soil test has been done – low pH requires Liming – Lime purchased and is to be applied
- Nyadire Poultry enterprise – on-hold – Edwin who is a ZimUMC conference Ag board member and Rep for Irvines indicated he would take the lead to steer the project.
- Cattle Dip tank – no activity
- Alternate / drought resistant crops – Researching



HOH/HOHO/Scholarship

Mary Beth Zollars

HOHO – 22 schools in all

- Funds for term 1 have been sent.
- Initial request for O-level exam fees has been received, but will be revised.
- O-level exam results from 2023 are being collected. One student is attending Tabudirira. Another achieved very good results and hopes to attend Harare Polytechnic.
- Winnet's sewing business did not take off. Communications between TNC and Cardwell Magutsa have been clarified. TNC has fulfilled its contract.

Outreach Committee:

Chairperson: Noreen Chitengu (Manhamba Primary)

Vice Chair: Tawanda Muswe (Rudawiro Primary)

Secretary: Esnath Zimbira (Nyadire Primary)

Treasurer: Nicodemus Bandira (Nyadire High School)

Finance Secretary: Fiona Chiroroma (Nyakabau Primary)

S.Y.STEM

STEM COMMITTEE:

Chair: Mr. Musariri – Head of Science Department at Nyadire HS

Secretary: Mrs. Portia Mambwere – Math teacher at Nyadire Primary

Plus: Bruce (mathematics teacher HS), Mabel (computer teacher HS)

- Nyadire Primary School Coding Club has turned in data sheets to Angela. They are making great strides, already close to Unit 5.
- Nyadire High School has turned in January and February reports.
- Manhamba Secondary's computer teacher is gathering materials for students to start a Club there. He is anxious to be part of the next training.

HOH

- **March/April funds** are being prepared.
- The Home of Hope has implemented Family Units as mandated by the Social Services Department. The children are now mixed. One mother lives in each unit.
- **Dutilh Preschool** will donate its proceeds this year from the annual **Hop-A-Thon** to the HOH for a variety of items: outfitting of the kitchen of the second family unit, bookshelves for the library, and new backpacks for the kids. March 27-28.
- A new **Buffalo Bicycle** was purchased per donation. FreeJohn, the night guardsman, who walks a considerable distance to work, was the recipient.
- Tinashe Chiimba provided a quote for **bookshelves**.
- Fencing around the fishponds remains a priority for children's safety.
- Elina Nyabote, HOH administrative assistant, is leading the **GEP program** for the HOH. She will divide GEP efforts between the few girls who are old enough for the program and the 13 children who are **bedwetters**. She will be making absorbent pads for those children in need. No update.

Sister Rut Scholarships

The grant for the **Bethel Park-USC Breakfast Rotary Club** has been submitted. \$5,000 has been requested.

Finishing in June 2024:

- **Tinashe Mapfumbidze**, (MSU) 4.2 student; Midland States University; Business Management; needs to retake 3 modules next semester.
- **Lorraine Kapembeza**: Africa University, Accounting, 4.1, has found attachment.
- **Ruth Makoni**: HOHO/O-Levels/A-Levels: Catholic University, Business Management and Information Technology; 4.1.
- **Takunda Pedzayi**: Midland States University, Human Resources Management; 4.1 student.
- **Raymond Chimbwanda**: HOHO/O-levels/A-levels: University of Zimbabwe; Financial Economics and Trade; Real Estate; 4.1 student.
- **Nyasha Given Katema**: (HOH) O-levels/A-levels: Zimbabwe Institute for Legal Studies. The school offers a variety of certificates and degrees, leading to careers from paralegal

to lawyer. Nyasha will proceed from year to year, based on his interest, needs, and success. 2nd year student.

Third Year students:

- **Rutendo Mupfawa**, accepted at the University of Zimbabwe, Honours Program for Accounting and Finance; 3.1 student; found an attachment at a small accounting firm.
- **Blessing Mabii**, accepted at Midland States University, Business Studies, 3.1, has found an attachment.
- **Stephen Chadamoyo**: O-levels/A-Levels: University of Zimbabwe, (tuition only); Physiotherapy; 3.1 student, received certificate of excellence for group presentation on community health.
- **Panashe Mafemera**: O-levels/A-levels: Bindura University, Peace and Governance (tuition only) – 3.1 student.

Second Year:

- **Praise Mushamba**, accepted for 2022 September intake, Midland States University, Human Resources Management, tuition only; 2.1 student.

First Year:

- **Praise Josi** (HOHO), tuition only, Midland States University, Data Science, 1.2
- **Morejoy Madzika**, University of Zimbabwe, Medicine, 1.2

Medical Student (5-year program):

- **Campion Mujuru** University of Zimbabwe; medicine; 5.1 student

Graduate Students:

- **Tsungirai Makoni**, University of Zimbabwe, Actuarial Science, Masters 1.1
- **Fungai Chigumbura**, Institute of People Management of Zimbabwe, Diploma in Payroll Management – 6 months, partial scholarship, delayed enrollment.

On hold:

- **Josphat Nyatoro** (HOHO): O-levels: changed intention to pursuing 3 more O-level subjects in order to attend Harare Polytechnic. His scholarship will be re-visited at a later date.

TABUDIRIRA VOCATIONAL CENTRE:

- **Leeroy Nyamukapa** (O-levels Nyadire High School); Building Studies, doing attachment; perhaps in Harare; no communication
- **Onias Chengai** (HOHO), Tabudirira Vocational Centre, electrician training, 1.1

Finishing in 2024:

- **Yeukai Gwati** (HOHO) has applied to various lodges for her attachment for Hotel and Catering; found attachment at The Pumpkin Hotel.
- **Last Chindoto**, sponsored by Pittsburgh District, carpentry, attachment in January in Tamutsa business centre.

- **Bright Mumanyi** (HOH); building; preparing for attachment in February.

NAKHIWA VOCATIONAL CENTRE:

- Theresa Nyadembera, 1.3, doing excellent work. Doing community service with GEP.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP:

- **Tinashe Katsuro:** agriculture at Africa University, 2.1.
- **Delight Katsata,** graduate of Katsukunya Secondary (O-levels) and Nyadire High School (A-levels) BSC Honours Program in Crop Improvement and Seed Systems at the University of Zimbabwe in August, 2.1 student.
- **Praise Tsaurai,** agricultural engineering CUT (Chinoyi University of Technology); 1.1 student.
- **Shelton Chitewe** (HOH); Tabudirira Vocational Centre, agriculture; doing attachment at the Home of Hope.
- **Yvette Mutize,** Agriculture; Kashinga Phikelela Agricultural College; already completed horticulture at Kashinga Phikelela Polytechnic School; 1.1 student. (3-year program)

New candidates beginning in 2024:

- **Joseph Visent,** Midland States University, Accounting (on hold)
- **Vimbai Kativhu,** AG, Kashinga Phikelela Polytechnic School (on hold)

Rural Health Clinics

Ralph Duckworth and Rev. Austern Chepiri
(January report)

- The total project budget is \$350 680.58.
- No payments were made during the month; however, payments of \$38,666.39 were made during February to Halsted Brothers, J Mann, FFZ fencing, and the Consultant. To date, we have made payments of \$259,752 for the project.
- Work at Chindenga continued during the month and included finalizing Phase 2.3, which is now 100% completed. Work on Phase 3.1 continued during the month: the MCH Building is 98% complete, the Toilet Block is 92% completed, the Borehole is 60% completed and the Two-Family Staff House is 50% completed.
- To date, the local communities have delivered 170,000 farm bricks, 75 cubic meters of river sand, 65 cubic meters of stones, 250 cubic meters of gravel, and 185 cubic meters of pit sand to the project.
- Work planned for next month includes:
 - MCH Waiting Area – general cleaning
 - Toilet Block
 - Electrical 2nd fix
 - Plumbing 2nd fix
 - Painting to internal & external walls
 - Tiling to walls and floors
 - General cleaning
 - Duplex Two-Bedroomed House

- Superstructure brickwork to wall plate/gable level
 - Roofing
 - Plastering of internal & external walls
- Borehole Drilling and Equipping
 - Excavation of trenches for water pipework reticulation
 - Installation of solar panels
- The project is proceeding nicely and should be completed by mid-2024.

Volunteers-in-Mission

Molly Michael

- Flyer distributed announcing 2024 Mission Trips. I have received 2 emails from interested travelers/families. I have also shared the flyer with my ongoing email list of potential volunteers.
- I have been in communication with Kevin as he plans for the EWB Team Trip. We have discussed logistics and I will provide the Cultural Awareness Training to his group.
- Don Ziegler is passing on 5-6 suitcases. I will keep these in storage for future teams.
- I have been communicating with Ralph and Tim to hold a TNC Informational Q&A at Dutilh. This would be an informal opportunity for anyone to learn about TNC VIM Teams, see photos, ask questions, and discuss potential project ideas.
- If we are sending teams this summer/fall, we will want to start considering collecting donations and materials needed for projects.

Other business

- Severe weather conditions in Zimbabwe
 - Nyadire has been affected by severe heat and drought, with crop yields and water levels suffering dramatically
 - TNC will remain in close contact with local leadership to assess conditions and consider any mitigation actions we can take/recommend
- Cholera outbreak
 - We've heard about an outbreak of cholera at one of the rural health clinics and will be in contact with local and government officials to assess the situation and determine if/how we can help

Next Zoom call meeting

- Monday, March 25, 6:30 pm