

TNC Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2024

Hearing Innovation

Deborah Swineford

Deborah arrived with the June/July VIM team to Nyadire with a focus on the Resource Unit for the Deaf at the Nyadire Primary School.

- There are currently 25 Deaf learners enrolled at Nyadire Primary, 5 are new this term, with 2 more expected in Term 3.
- We have 3 learners enrolled at Emerald Hill School for the Deaf secondary program in Harare and 6 enrolled at Danhiko vocational school program
- Boarding kits containing basic hygiene and school supplies were distributed to each of the learners.
- Simbarashe and Deborah visited the Emerald Hill and Danhiko learners to give their boarding kits and to meet with school Heads and teachers.
- Deborah taught a Science/Health lesson on the five senses and a World Geography lesson as well as Bible lessons.
- As part of the Bible lessons the Deaf learners memorized a Bible verse which they signed during the Sunday morning worship
- Deborah delivered two suitcases filled with school supplies and materials: dry erase markers, calendars, teaching clock, math games, etc.
- Field trip to Mutoko Ruins: Deborah distributed t-shirts for each learner and adult chaperone. 25 learners, 2 teachers, the Headmistress, school chaplain, Deborah. Two TNC members Hanna Rosqvist and Jen Retsch also joined the group. Lunch was enjoyed at Chicken Colay afterwards.
- After 4 attempts to pick up a shipment of Bibles for the Deaf from the Roadport, they finally arrived and were given to the secondary level learners. Going forward the plan is for each grade 7 learner to receive a Bible. A second trip to Harare to deliver the Bibles to the learners at Danhiko and Emerald Hill was made.
- On the afternoon of the final day of class there was a “field day” with relay games.
- Plans for installation of bookshelves in both classrooms were made with Tinashe Chimba
- Both teachers will take the next level sign language refresher course and Deputy Head Charity Horiro will take a beginner class during the August holiday. Plans for the Head Tracy Maguze, the school chaplain Rev. Nyakusendwa, and one other teacher are scheduled to take sign language classes during the next holiday.

Engineers Without Borders and Critical Vehicles

Kevin Riley, Christopher Kuwana, EWB CMU students, Dr. Larry and Gashi Chikonyora

Critical Vehicles-No updates this month.

EWB at CMU

- Biogas project completion and acceptance signing not yet completed by Rev Mukundu.
- Rev. Austern Chepiri representing the Western Annual Conference in Zimbabwe as the NGO and Gashi Chikonyora, the Superintendent of the Nyadire Hospital, have completed the Community Based Organization project request. That must be submitted by the CMU students to EWB National along with Nyadire Pre-Assessment for their review and approval in anticipation of an early January trip to Nyadire.

Other infrastructure

- The \$20,500 quote from Lincoln Nyamusara to replace the expended hospital solar batteries with lithium ion and new inverters has been submitted to the hospital administration to pursue funding options from the Conference and others while Mark LaRosa is exploring possible funding sources here.
- TNC leadership approved the \$7,820 request to install a solar array and inverter for the only two bore hole pumps without that capability. At Paul's Vacation Bible School raised \$507 toward this project. Rev Mukundu has agreed to have the Mission fund replacing one of these failed pumps as a requirement of TNC funding.
- Bill Retsch worked with Washington from the hospital to develop two potential projects with one that looks like it could be paid for with future savings. He will discuss this during Monday's call.

Agriculture

Scott Sanford

Ag Committee met on July 17 to discuss numerous projects

- Hanwa Greenhouse project - We feel that this might be a good income alternative to irrigated agriculture. Concentrate on high value crops that are difficult to grow in the field or susceptible to frost damage.
- HOH Poultry project - The committee agreed that TNC should fund the startup funds for the poultry enterprise but we should first get updated costs to ensure there are enough funds to do what has been proposed.
- Butchery/Slaughter house – should not be funded until the mission has local access to a dip tank for cattle. Without enough cattle the market and economics of a slaughterhouse maybe limited.

Current conditions

- The Nyadire area experienced a frost July 7 which has killed tomato crop and other susceptible crops

Farm Department: (Esnath)

- Tomato plants were just starting to produce when the frost hit
- Selling large cabbage for \$1 each
- Work has restarted on the Poultry barn (see below for details)



Home of Hope:

- 1st Harvest of Tilapia
- Frost killed tomato plants
- (Did not receive an update on conditions from Emmanuel)

Nyadire River Irrigation Project

- I contacted Alan Gurupira and Morgan Jeranyama on June 24, 2024 as a follow up to the article in the UMC News about the drought and how the mission farm operations are coping with the drought. In the article, it indicates that they have plans to clear 100 hectares to irrigate. I ask who is leading this project. Alan responded that he would let us know but I have not received a follow up. I pointed out that we would rather be investing in an irrigation system than providing food aid so we were hoping this project would be fast tracked.
- Project seems to be lacking a project leader.
- Esnath indicated that the government is not giving any additional water rights due to the drought so development of farmland by the river is on hold.



Farm Department Poultry Barn (reported by Esnath)

- Edwin is leading the project. He is a on the UMC ZW Ag board and works for Irvines, a major broiler producer in Zimbabwe and South Africa.
- Electrical wiring is complete.
- New borehole is drilled and water reservoir plumbed
- Chicken wire siding on building is installed
- Edwin has been working on market
- Shopping for waterers and feeders
- No word on when production is expected to start.



Home of Hope - Poultry / Grain Storage building

- The building is nearly finished.
- This week the building was being painted.

- The building's electrical system is installed but is not hard wired to the electrical grid. Emmanuel is sizing a future feed mixer so they know what size of motor to wire the building for.



Figure 2 - Grain storage / Milling Room entrance



Figure 1 - Poultry Runs end of barn

Girl Empowerment

Bonnie Lawson, Charity Horiro, Crescencia Dangarembga

Ongoing Program:

- Locally purchased supplies and teacher gifts were distributed during the VIM team visit.
- Inventory reports received from schools and clinics. Developing import purchasing plan. Teacher report sufficient levels of locally purchased materials.
- Posted Facebook article on GEP program.

Girl Empowerment Garden Pilot:

- Deb Little pitched the pilot program at North Hills Inspired Women.
- Draft Memorandum of Understanding returned. Following up on open items.
- PPE delivered.
- Handouts prepared for upcoming Inspired Women's fundraising campaign.

Communication and Fundraising:

- Inventory from discontinued machine shipments sold out on eBay.
- Inspired Women: July 11, 16th, 24th and 31st. Developed a pitch and strategy for the next Inspired Women's meeting.

Looking Forward:

- Begin the draft for Conway Munden fund.
- Follow up with Rotary Contact

Eyeglasses

- Boxes (sturdy, small cardboard boxes that hold 100 pair of eyeglasses each): Team took over several sets. Recommended that they be used for Eyeglass Camps when a wide variety of eyeglasses must be transported via hospital vehicle.
- Shelving and Containers: These were in place by the time the Team arrived. Pam Harden and Ken Simmons spent several days helping to relocate the eyeglasses from the Hospital Storage Area to the new Eyeglass Distribution Area (old pharmacy). The Containers and Shelving look great and are well-labeled. Bonnie Lawson donated labeling sleeves that might be used for labeling or tracking inventory.
- Tracking/Inventory System: Currently, Jonathan uses a handwritten logbook. A digital spreadsheet would be ideal, but is not yet set up.
- Primrose and Christine from the original team were not involved in the setup. They are only involved in Eye Camps.
- Jonathan is an ophthalmic nurse. He is now in charge of all things related to eyeglasses. He also was one of two Zimbabweans selected from Zimbabwe to attend a special conference in Durbin, where he was presented with an award.
- If anyone else is to become an eyeglass technician, it involves an 18-month training, according to Jonathan.
- Eyeglass Camps are held at the remote clinics and also at All Souls Louisa Hospital.
- Eye examinations are always available at Nyadire Hospital. The last Eyeglass Camp was at Mashambanaka.
- There are often posters for Mobile Eye Clinics posted in the Outpatient Area at the Hospital. Jonathan screens patients for them, too. He reported that it is an NGO that mostly does cataract surgeries.
- Eyeglasses most needed: polychromatic and -2,5 - -3,0
- Pam's thoughts after helping with the eyeglasses: many more boxes of eyeglasses in storage with boxes piled up on top of each other. There's under counter storage space in the front room of old pharmacy. Maybe the eyeglasses in the hospital storage could be moved up to the old pharmacy for storage. We did come across many broken eyeglasses. I think it would be a good idea to utilize the shelving in front room also for the many, (62 bags last count), of bifocals/progressive eyeglasses. Smaller bins could be labeled and shelved.

Coding Club

Mary Beth Zollars had multiple conversations with:

- Primary School: Mrs. Tracy Maguze (head), Charity Horirio (deputy head), Portia Mambwere (math teacher and leader of Primary School Coding Club), and Derrick Mazengeza (Primary School ICT teacher)
- Nyadire High School: Webster Nyakudanga (head) and Samuel Musariri (HOD Science Department)
- Nyadire High School has such a full schedule that holding regular club sessions seems near impossible. They have agreed to merge the Primary School Coding Club and High School Coding Club during the school holidays (August, December, April) to keep the learners active in the field. In addition, the High School has agreed to bring their computers to the primary school during these Coding Club Camps (to be returned to the

high school for the school terms). The Primary School is set up well with security and space.

Have contacts for other Outreach schools that had received POP-UP classrooms:

- Manhamba Secondary: Milondi (ICT teacher)
- Musanhi Secondary: Tsitsi Tizirai (ICT teacher)
- Nyamhara Secondary: no ICT teacher yet; new school block being built to house growing population and need for computer room
- Katsukunya Secondary: Taurai Mukobvu (ICT teacher) – is not currently on WhatsApp
- Portia Mambwere has agreed to lead a 2-week Coding Club Camp (in August) for the primary and high school learners. The teachers from the Outreach schools are invited, as well, to gain insight and hands-on experience.
- Two young Nyadire-related men want to volunteer their time to learn about and assist the Coding Club. Prosper graduated from the University of Zimbabwe in June 2023 with a B.S. in computer Science and has also completed 2 certificates, Network Security and Bits & Bytes of Computer Networking. Praise Josi, Ashley's younger brother, is currently being partially sponsored by the Sister Rut Scholarship Program, and is interested in completing his community service with the Coding Club.
- MBZ tested about 50 finches (robots) and was able to deliver about 20 of them to Nyadire with 10 extra flash drives. Angela Ng is excited about all these initiatives and hopes that remote training and an in-person training in 2025 will be possible.

HOH/HOHO/Scholarship

Mary Beth Zollars

HOHO – 22 schools in all

- Marie Hunt held a meeting at the beginning of the trip for all ZIM-leaders and all HOHO representatives from the various schools. Goals, concerns, challenges, and solutions were shared by all. Lunch was served afterwards.
- Funds were sent (ahead of team) to supply all HOHO learners with a backpack of school supplies and 10kg of mealie meal (maize).
- VIM Team, university students doing community service, Lindarose, Emmanuel, and Tinashe Chiimba combined forces to get the job of procuring, sorting, packing, transporting, and distributing all. PHENOMENAL JOB!
- The concern of getting mealie meal home safely with the children was solved by inviting guardians to come to the school. This allowed for some special conversations between the ZIM-leaders of the program to emphasize the importance of attendance and schoolwork.
- All but one school was visited!

S.Y.STEM

Coding Club Star: Mrs. Portia Mambwere – Math teacher at Nyadire Primary (Coding Club report sent separately.)

HOH

- **July/August funds** have been sent.
- **Library:** Marjorie led the effort to arrange the books (beautifully) on the shelves and to get the card/sign-out system in place. Others followed her lead.



- **Bicycles:** Ken led the repairs on the Buffalo bicycles. Bill assisted the kids in replacing tires on the little kids' bikes. Fun was had by all!!!



- Funds available for stove & refrigerator for 2nd duplex kitchen, concrete picnic tables
- Activities included reading with the children, coloring, educational games, building with blocks, fixing bicycles, riding bicycles, playing pickle ball, hiking, evening songs & prayers,

SISTER RUT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

- Conaway-Munden Grant from St. Paul's UMC: \$2000. Thank you!
- Invited Scholarship students to casual lunch in Avondale (Nando's). Great conversations and sharing.



- Emphasis for university students was Community Service. Several came to Nyadire to help with HOHO. Others completed it on their own.

Finished in June 2024: CONGRATULATIONS! (graduation ceremonies will be later!)

- **Ruth Makoni:** HOHO/O-Levels/A-Levels: Catholic University, Business Management and Information Technology.
- **Takunda Pedzayi:** Midland States University, Human Resources Management.
- **Raymond Chimwanda:** HOHO/O-levels/A-levels: University of Zimbabwe; Financial Economics and Trade; Real Estate.

Finishing in August 2024:

- **Lorraine Kapembeza:** Africa University, Accounting, 4.2, has finished attachment, dissertation complete. Graduation is the next step!

Fourth Year students:

- **Tinashe Mapfumbidze,** (MSU) 4.2 student; Midland States University; Business Management; retaking 3 modules this semester. His department supervisor will not allow him to finish this semester. He will take a full load next semester (Sept. – Dec. 2024) and finish his dissertation.
- **Rutendo Mupfawa,** accepted at the University of Zimbabwe, Honours Program for Accounting and Finance; 4.1 student; doing attachment at a small accounting firm.
- **Blessing Mabii,** accepted at Midland States University, Business Studies, 4.1, doing attachment.
- **Stephen Chadamoyo:** O-levels/A-Levels: University of Zimbabwe, (tuition only); Physiotherapy; 4.1 student.
- **Panashe Mafemera:** O-levels/A-levels: Bindura University, Peace and Governance (tuition only) – 4.1 student.

Third Year students:

- **Nyasha Given Katema:** (HOH) O-levels/A-levels: Zimbabwe Institute for Legal Studies. Doing his attachment as a prosecutor!!!

- **Praise Mashumba**, Midland States University, Human Resources Management, tuition only; 3.1 student.

Second Year:

- **Praise Josi** (HOHO), tuition only, Midland States University, Data Science, 2.1
- **Morejoy Madzika**, University of Zimbabwe, Medicine, 2.1

First Year:

- **Josphat Nyatoro** (HOHO): Nyadire College of Education, 1.1
- **Precious Muripo** (HOH): Kushinga Philekela College, electrical engineering, 1.1

Medical Student (5-year program):

- **Campion Mujuru** University of Zimbabwe; medicine; 5.2 student

Graduate Students:

- **Tsungirai Makoni**, University of Zimbabwe, Actuarial Science, Masters 1.2

TABUDIRIRA VOCATIONAL CENTRE:

- **Onias Chengai** (HOHO), Tabudirira Vocational Centre, electrician training, 1.1

Finishing in 2024:

- **Last Chindoto**, sponsored by Pittsburgh District, carpentry, attachment in January in Tamutsa business centre.
- **Bright Mumanyi** (HOH); building; attachment with Nyakudanga builders at Chindenga Clinic, finishing in August.
- **Leeroy Nyamukapa** (O-levels Nyadire High School); Building Studies, doing attachment; perhaps in Harare; no communication

NAKHIWA VOCATIONAL CENTRE:

- **Theresa Nyadempera**, 2.1, doing excellent work. Doing community service with GEP, will do last term starting in September, then exams, then attachment in 2025.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP:

- **Tinashe Katsuro**: agriculture at Africa University, 3.1.
- **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, 3.1 student.
- **Praise Tsaurai**, agricultural engineering CUT (Chinoyi University of Technology); 2.1 student.
- **Shelton Chitewe** (HOH); Tabudirira Vocational Centre, agriculture; doing attachment at the Home of Hope, finishing in August 2024.
- **Yvette Mutize**, Agriculture; Kashinga Phikelela Agricultural College; already completed horticulture at Kashinga Phikelela Polytechnic School; 3.1 student, doing attachment. (3-year program)

Possible new candidates:

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

Next Zoom call meeting: Monday, August 26, 6:30 pm