



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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Help TNC “Meet the Match” To Fund Final Clinics Project



With a couple weeks to go before the Nov. 30 deadline, TNC is approaching its goal to “meet the match,” but we still need your help!

Several years ago, TNC began a program to renovate the six **rural health clinics** affiliated with the Nyadire Hospital. To date, five clinics have been rebuilt, largely on-time and on-budget. We’re now working on the final clinic, **Chindenga**, and we’re making great progress. Phase 1 construction began at Chindenga in September and is now more than 30% complete. This includes the new Outpatients Department and

staff housing. The Mutoko Rural District Council provided the use of a front-end loader and tipper to transport bricks, pit sand and gravel.

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New Initiatives Designed To Sustain Girl Empowerment Pad Program

TNC’s **Girl Empowerment Pad (GEP)** Program has some exciting news to share, including two initiatives designed to help sustain it.

“We’re grateful to all who have supported this program, and invite everyone to help with the new initiatives as the holiday season approaches,” says **Bonnie Lawson**, TNC’s GEP program leader.

GEP goals have been to keep girls in school during their menstrual cycle to avoid learning loss; to give them tools to make their own sanitary supplies; and to provide culturally- and age-appropriate health education.

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Help TNC “Meet the Match” ...

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To continue the Chindenga project, we need to raise significant additional funds. Recently, a generous couple in the Pittsburgh District made a challenge grant to TNC: They will match every dollar we raise up to \$25,000, which means we can receive \$50,000 if we “meet the match.” The total cost of rebuilding Chindenga is \$350,000, so if we can “meet the match,” we will have made a great start in rebuilding the clinic. So far, we have raised more than \$16,000, and we’re making a final push to reach our goal.

If you haven’t done so already, we ask you to prayerfully consider making a tax-

deductible donation to TNC, perhaps for one of these specific clinic purposes:

- \$10 - a brick for one of the buildings
- \$100 - a window frame for the Waiting Mothers' Shelter
- \$500 - 2 stainless steel sinks for the delivery room
- \$1,000 - control panel for solar-powered borehole (water well) pump
- \$5,000 - roofing materials for the OutPatient Building

There are several options available for making a contribution:

- Our website at www.nyadire.org has a “donate” button on the right side of the home page, which enables you to donate by PayPal or with a credit card. Please specify that your contribution is for “Clinics.”

- You can mail a check payable to The Nyadire Connection to **Christ United Methodist Church**; attention: **Karen Cahall**; 44 Highland Road; Bethel Park, PA 15102. Write “Clinics” in the memo line.

- You can deliver a check payable to The Nyadire Connection to the office at **Dutilh United Methodist Church**; 1270 Dutilh Road; Cranberry Township, PA 16066. The office is open Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 3 pm. Write “Clinics” in the memo line.

Help TNC to “meet the match” by Nov. 30!



New Initiatives Designed To Sustain...

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Since beginning in 2011, the program has evolved from providing complete pads to furnishing materials for pad-making kits to purchasing kit materials in Zimbabwe. In addition, TNC volunteers have trained teachers and have paired health literature and education with sewing activities. And they have sent refurbished manual and electric sewing machines to seven primary schools.

To date, more than 10,000 pads or kits have been distributed; 80 sewing machines were refurbished and sent to schools; 20 teachers were trained and 500 copies of a book on puberty have been distributed. More than 3,000 girls have participated in this life-changing, confidence-building program. Sewing classes now offer culturally and developmentally appropriate hygiene education, and teach girls to sew not only pads but also clothing as well as facemasks for COVID-19 prevention.

To keep the program sustainable, our partners in Zimbabwe cannot be dependent on U.S. supplies, and new leadership must be cultivated as teachers move on. For these reasons we are launching two new initiatives:

- **The Giving Tree:** Please consider setting up a Giving Tree in a specific location at your church, at work or at special events where you may have access, such as craft fairs and holiday bazaars. Proceeds from cards returned via the Giving Tree effort will allow partners to buy supplies in Zimbabwe, thereby avoiding shipping container delays and storage fees.
- **The Sewing Scholarship:** This scholarship will fund tuition for a professional tailoring and sewing program at the **Tabudira Vocational School**. Recipients will be able to earn income by sewing to meet market demand, and will be required to train students on how to sew.

If you'd like to make cash donations to either initiative, you can consider giving at these levels:

- \$5 per kit (in multiples of \$5, please)
- \$50 to support sewing machine repair or a set of sewing lessons
- \$250 for 50 copies of Growing Up in School, the hygiene book appropriate for young African girls
- \$100 for sewing scholarship equipment
- \$1,000 for full sewing scholarship tuition, or \$500 for one-half tuition, or \$250 for one-quarter tuition.

Make checks payable to TNC, with "GEP Program" in the memo line; mail to Christ United Methodist Church, 44 Highland Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102.

For more information, please contact Bonnie at bonnielawson58@comcast.net.



TNC Leadership Profile: Mary Beth Zollars

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: I consider Pittsburgh to be my hometown, since I have lived here more than any other one place throughout my life.

TNC Role: I lead the **Home of Hope** and **Scholarship** programs and help with the **Home of Hope Outreach School Sponsorship** Program. I have been involved since 2006 when the ZIM VIM 2006 Team visited Nyadire.

What is your profession and how has that helped in your TNC role: I was a teacher,

certified K-12 for German and Music. My profession helped me initially to play a role in the first 2-week Bible School held for the children of Nyadire. In addition, it helped me identify some of the needs of the children, both academically and developmentally.



How and why did you get involved with TNC: It was evident during our first visit in 2006 that the **Home of Hope** was in a desperate situation. When we returned, **Drew Harvey** encouraged me to lead the HOH Committee. The Committee set up sponsorships to keep the Home of Hope afloat. Sponsors quickly signed up and that was the beginning of this long-term relationship. In 2007, I returned to Nyadire with the question, "Where are all the other orphans that are documented in the statistics (25% of all Zimbabwean children are orphaned)?" I was then introduced to the headmen, village caregivers, and 100 orphans at the Nyamutsahuni Gathering Hall. **Rev. Marange** and **Matron Joyce Tsiga** accompanied me. At that meeting, TNC committed to paying the school fees for these first 100 orphans. These children were all double-orphans, meaning that they had lost both parents and that they were under the care of a guardian (grandparent, aunt, uncle, or older sibling), but that they had no means to attend school. This was the beginning of the **Home of Hope Outreach School Sponsorship** program. In January 2008, I returned to Nyadire and we added 200 more children from the other side of Nyadire. Since then, the program helps 350 orphans annually with school fees, exam fees, and backpacks of school supplies.

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When our first “little” orphan friends grew up into young men and women, the need for further education and vocational training became more evident. We named the **Sister Rut Scholarship** program after the missionary nurse who was also an orphan. This program has produced teachers, accountants, medical laboratory scientists, an actuarial scientist, specialists in hospitality and tourism, and a seamstress. Soon to graduate are urban designers, social workers, business managers, human resource officers, a prison officer, agricultural specialists, a medical doctor, a physiotherapist, a pharmacist, and a few more accountants. It is proof that these young people are achieving their dreams and will be productive members of society.

Why do you think TNC has been so successful?

We help the people directly, through education, water, and medical needs. We are 100% volunteer and are an impassioned, diligent, hard-working group. We listen to our brothers and sisters in Nyadire and respond. **Drew Harvey** and **Richard Dickey** are two key figures that showed the perseverance and integrity to lead us through the first 15 years.

How many times have you been to Nyadire?

Seriously, I have lost count. Maybe 17?

What do you like best about TNC: The amazing people that I have met. I continue to forge new relationships both in Nyadire and through TNC, am challenged by the ideas, programs, and projects brought forth by all participants, and continue to grow personally. It’s now a part of my life.

How has your involvement with TNC helped you to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ: I have learned to listen and learn, and love more deeply.

What Bible verse(s) inspired you to become involved in TNC:

I can’t say that a Bible verse inspired me to become involved, rather that TNC and Nyadire have shown me the inspiration of the Bible.

What’s your message to anyone who’s considering getting involved in TNC or making a trip to Nyadire: Try it! I joined the team in 2006 a month before departure. I was not well-prepared. However, the fellowship and focus of a Volunteer-in-Mission Team, combined with identified tasks, and simple adventure changed the course of my life!

CMU Engineers Without Borders Project Progressing At Nyadire

Engineers Without Borders is an international organization where professional engineers volunteer to resolve challenging technical problems. Carnegie Mellon University has a student chapter of EWB that began working with TNC in 2013.

The first project completed at Nyadire was the installation of solar street lights that were installed along the pathways leading to the schools (see photo, below right). Each light has its own solar panel and battery and provides light without any connection to the country's electrical grid. Twenty-four streets lights were installed for about \$45,000.

Currently, the students are working on a project that will provide an alternative to firewood for cooking high-volume meals at the mission. The centerpiece of the project is a Biogas Digester (see diagram above and photo, below left) that will use waste from cows as the fuel for cooking.

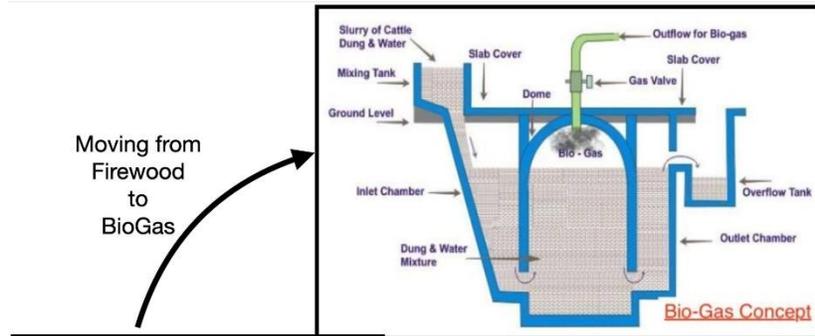
"The project has been progressing well," says TNC's Drew Harvey, program leader. "Excavation of the large circular pit has been a slow and difficult process as the soil is very hard and all digging is by hand."



project, and they are now considering various options for the next one.

As part of their process, the students use a very specific methodology as prescribed by the national EWB organization that requires an assessment and problem selection phase, a phase of alternative analysis, a phase for design and fundraising, an implementation phase, and a final monitoring phase to ensure the solution is sustainable.

Contact Drew at drewharvey@verizon.net if you're interested in hearing more about the projects or supporting the program financially.



Moving from
Firewood
to
BioGas



Nyadire Primary School will soon begin using Bio-Gas for cooking of many meals rather than Firewood

An EWB student team plans to travel to Nyadire during the first two weeks of January, along with Drew and other TNC representatives. This trip is considered part of the implementation phase for the project, with a future trip planned to assess operation and sustainability.

About 12 students meet each Wednesday on the CMU campus to work on the



TNC's New Agriculture Program To Focus On Nyadire Farm

TNC has added a new **Agriculture** program, led by **Scott Sanford**, who has extensive experience in agricultural production. Since 2002, Scott has been a Distinguished Outreach Specialist in the Biological Systems Engineering department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to that, he worked in the dairy equipment business for 17 years and held positions in engineering, marketing and manufacturing.

Scott and his team evaluate funding requests from the Nyadire Mission for agricultural-based projects and work with people there to develop the requests into a business plan that includes a cash flow analysis. If a project is funded, the business plan becomes the implementation guide.

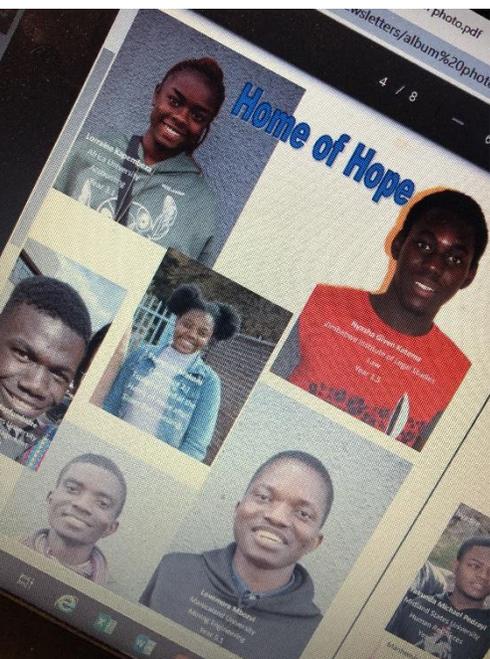
The Nyadire Mission had a working farm prior to 2000, with about 150 acres cultivated. The mission grew maize (corn), cotton, and a variety of produce (cabbage, peppers, onions, greens, squash, carrots, beans, tomatoes, cucumbers). The farm included a small dairy cattle herd, which enabled the mission to sell fresh milk and make yogurt; a beef cattle herd of 175 head; and a butchery that harvested more than 350 head per year. Because of government land reforms in 2001, the mission lost its farm manager and activities dwindled. Today, the farm grows garden produce year-round and maize during the wet season but only produces a fraction of what was once grown, and there are no dairy cows left.



Sister Rut Scholarship Photo Album Includes Many Smiles

If you want to see a bunch of smiling, happy and appreciative faces, don't miss the 2022 **Sister Rut Scholarship** Celebration Photo Album (see sample page below) posted on TNC's website at:

https://www.nyadire.org/uploads/4/7/6/4/4764398/sister_rut_scholarship_celebration_album_2022.pdf



The album includes photos and details about the college, university, and vocational students supported by TNC. It also captures the history of the scholarship program.

Our generous sponsors have made the lives of these young people possible – quite literally! These students are now able to pursue dreams beyond their imaginations.

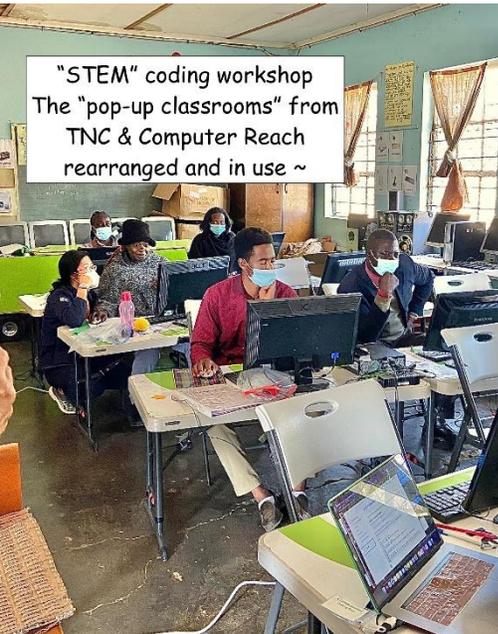
“It was my utmost joy to meet with these young people during our June/July Volunteer-in-Mission Trip,” says **Mary Beth Zollars**, program leader. “We met with the students in Harare at the United Methodist Conference Center, where we enjoyed tea and snacks, student presentations, and then a bountiful meal together.”

At this gathering, each university student prepared a slide presentation and gave testimony about his/her journey.

Coding Workshop Kicks Off Partnership With S.Y.STEM Coalition

During the summer 2022 mission trip, TNC partnered with **S.Y.STEM Coalition** to conduct a coding workshop for students in Nyadire. Below is a message sent to TNC by **Maddie Gioffre**, CEO of the organization, to describe the workshop and future plans:

“Our Zimbabwe Coding Club kick-off this summer was a wild success! Our goal this summer was to train teachers in computer science and conduct robotics workshops for the kids at the Nyadire mission. Our long-term goal is to give high school students the opportunity to develop tangible computer programming skills that can be leveraged for employment upon graduation. We’re so happy to see that this project is on its way. The eagerness and quickness with which the students grasped the material makes us think we will have software engineers in no time.



“Our summer was hectic, gearing up to travel, as we learned there was virtually no Wi-Fi or data. In a matter of weeks, we turned CMU’s CS Academy into an offline version. And we were able to secure a new set of robots that were able to compile offline thanks to BirdBrain Technologies.

“Three of our volunteers were able to travel to Nyadire, Zimbabwe this summer, bringing with them 25 robots and an offline version of CS Academy on thumb drives. The volunteers trained six teachers to conduct the curriculum, and held robotics workshops for 180 students on **Computer Reach’s Pop-Up Computer Classrooms**. While our goal was only to work with high school students, we did hold one workshop for primary school students. They were able to zoom through both the coding and robotics quickly. As a result, we were asked to support both primary and high school classroom curricula and after-school coding clubs. We were surprised to learn that computer science is actually mandated by the government to be taught in the classroom, but unfortunately the teachers weren’t given any information beyond that, so they were grateful to have materials and now the knowledge to pass on to their students.

“Upon our return, we are supporting the teachers from afar on WhatsApp, helping them get access to more tutorials and resources they need to teach, as well as providing remote support for CS Academy and the Finch robots. We plan to monitor the progress of the students remotely over the next year, with plans to add more lessons. We will also continue to build partnerships in an effort to connect students with software development internships and higher educational opportunities.

“Thank you so much to those who were able to support our vision this time around. You helped us raise over \$11,000 to make this first project a success. We could not have done it without your support and we are deeply grateful. A special thanks to **Brothers Brother Foundation**, and **The Nyadire Connection** for their continued support. And to our partners on the Nyadire Mission, we look forward to continuing to grow the Zimbabwe Coding Club together! Stay tuned for our plans for the coming years!”

Program Highlights From TNC's October meeting

Each month, TNC leaders gather by Zoom to review programs and discuss future plans. Below are highlights from our recent meeting:

Health Area

- Eyeglasses: Initiated by the late **Faith Geer**, the program provides eye exams and eyeglasses to improve the vision of people in Zimbabwe. Today, **Natalie Geer**, Faith's daughter, is the leader of the **Faith Geer Memorial Eyeglasses** program. They're shown in the photo at right, along with **Greater** and **Savie**, who provide meals during TNC's mission trips ... We're planning vision clinics in late December at Nyadire, Mashambanhaka and Dindi. **Nurse Primrose** will be the local team leader for the events ... TNC continues to prepare used eyeglasses for our local non-profit partner, **Mission Vision**. **Kathy Belcastro's** team at **St. Paul's** has been up and running for nearly a year, and **Marie Hunt** and the **CUMC** team have also started to process glasses.
- Ocean Container Shipments: For more than 15 years, TNC has shipped, or participated in shipping, at least 20 ocean containers to Nyadire. The list of critically used items included medical supplies and equipment, backpacks, school supplies, furnishings for health clinics, and computers. At this time, we do not plan additional container shipments, so we will no longer continue this program.
- Girl Empowerment Pad: See page 1.
- Rural Health Clinic Rebuilds: See page 1.
- Hospital Support: **Mark LaRosa**, who participated in TNC's first mission trip in 2006, is the new program leader. The program collaborates with the clinical team at Nyadire Hospital, including physicians, nurses, and pharmacists to assess and prioritize the hospital's essential needs and the patient's health needs, and then to respond with focused plans to provide aid. The program coordinates with clinical teams to be sure resources and funds are managed efficiently. Examples of initiatives include: Equipping the operating rooms, repairing the hospital, supporting the Nursing School, and repairing laboratory equipment.



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Program Highlights From TNC's October meeting...

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Education and Relationships Area

- Engineers Without Borders/CMU: See page 6.
- Hearing Innovation: **Deborah Swineford** (photo at right), who was part of TNC's summer visit to Nyadire, has been named our new program leader. During the visit, she taught the older classroom and the HI students really enjoyed the connection and time with her ... There are currently 12 girls and 10 boys enrolled in the program.
- Volunteer-in-Mission trips: Several TNC program leaders are planning a trip in January. Please contact **Molly Michael** at mollyalice.michael@gmail.com if you'd like to join the group.
- Sister Rut Scholarships: See page 7 ... On behalf of TNC, **Marie Hunt** (below, second from right) accepts a donation of \$4,000, raised from a golf outing hosted by the **Christ Church United Women of Faith**. TNC will use the proceeds for the **Sister Rut Scholarship Fund**. We give abundant thanks and much appreciation to all golfers who participated, and to the Christ Church United Woman of Faith for their generosity!



Orphans Area

- Home of Hope: Current priorities include a tractor, flexible irrigation piping, supplies for kids' school projects, maize storage ... **Emmanuel Chiimba**, HOH director, submitted detailed reports for both the HOH and Home of Hope Outreach programs, including these comments: "We are so happy with the produce we currently have in our garden. Our borehole has sustained our needs and we continue to pray that rains will come while our borehole is still providing enough water for our projects. Our potato crop is nearly maturing. Soon we will have mature watermelons, tomatoes and butternuts."
- Home of Hope Outreach: There are currently 22 schools in the catchment area of Nyadire, and school fees have been received and delivered ... **Winnet**, a young woman who was raised at the Home of Hope, is now a seamstress and has made new uniforms for students in the Home of Hope Outreach School Sponsorship program (see photo).

