



**THE  
NYADIRE  
CONNECTION**  
SERVING SINCE 2006



# The Nyadire Connection (TNC)

- Founded in 2006, The Nyadire Connection (TNC) is a **faith-based**, non-profit organization that has built a mutually beneficial relationship with the Nyadire United Methodist Mission in northeastern Zimbabwe, Africa
- TNC was formed after a group of Pittsburgh-area residents visited Nyadire on a mission trip and returned with a passion to support the Mission and **build lasting relationships** with the people living there and in the surrounding areas
- **Working closely with local leaders** at the Mission and United Methodist Church leadership in Harare, Zimbabwe, TNC currently provides administrative and financial support for 11 programs focused on three areas: Health, Orphans, Education/Relationships
- TNC's network of churches, individual donors and partner organizations have **provided more than \$5 million of financial support** to the Mission
- TNC provides program oversight through frequent mission trips; regular communications with our **partners in Nyadire**; and monthly TNC leadership meetings/minutes, which are available on our website at [www.Nyadire.org](http://www.Nyadire.org)



Zimbabwe

8,400  
Miles

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# Zimbabwe

- Gained independence from England as “Rhodesia” in 1982; one of the last African countries to separate from its colonizer; initial prosperity declined in the late 1990s
- Once called the “Breadbasket of Africa,” the country has a strong history of excellence in education, health care and agriculture, with a very high literacy rate
- Zimbabwe government: Robert Mugabe served as an authoritarian President from 1982-2017 when he was replaced by Emmerson Mnangagwa; ruling party is Zanu-PF
- Struggles continue with 90% unemployment, failing social services, unstable currency and extreme cash shortages; 70% of people live in chronic poverty, and shortages of food, water, and electricity are common
- Amid these struggles, TNC continues to build relationships and provide life-saving, critical aid and services, thanks to our many supporters and partnerships



# Pennsylvania and Zimbabwe

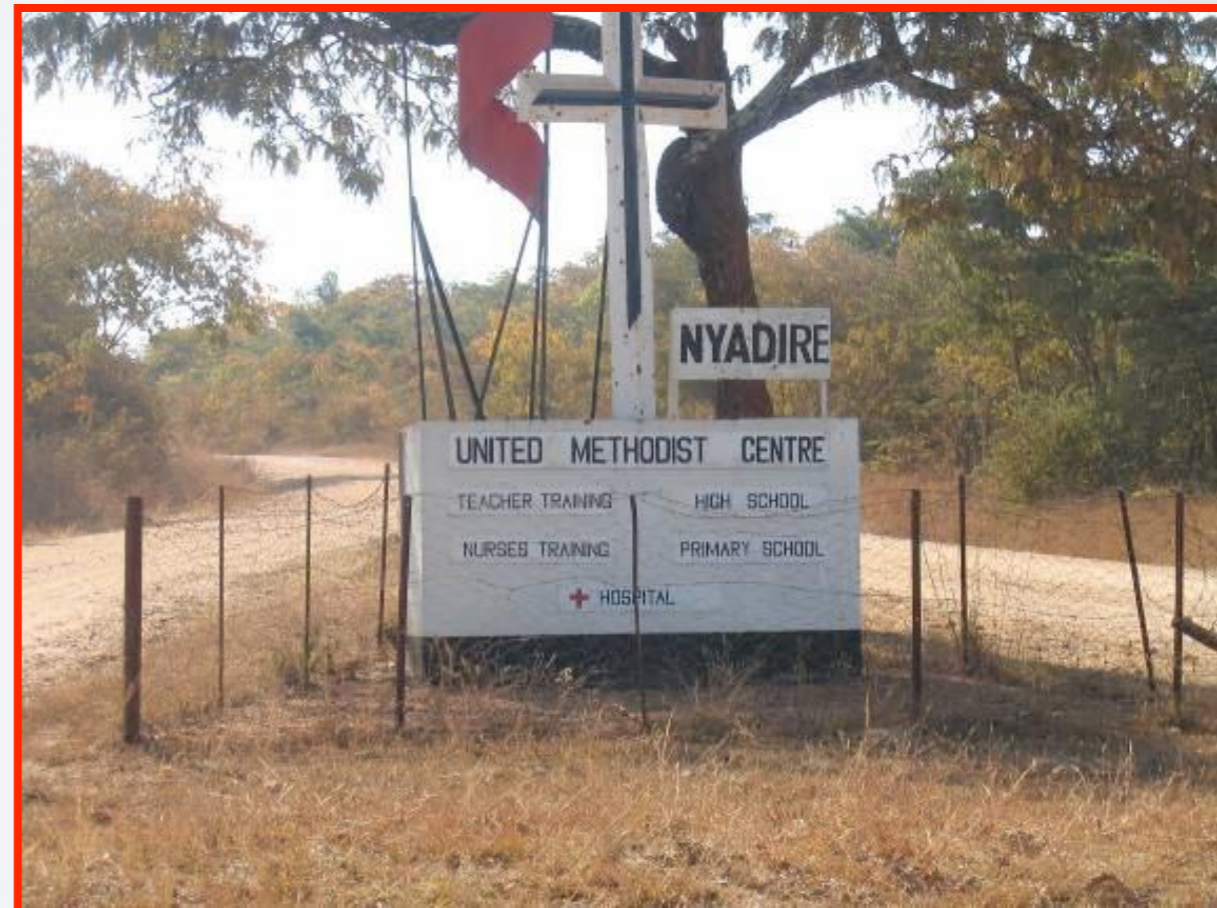
- Zimbabwe is 3x the physical size
- Zimbabwe population about 10% larger (14.7M vs. 13.1M)
- Metropolitan Harare: 2.8M
- Metropolitan Pittsburgh: 2.4M

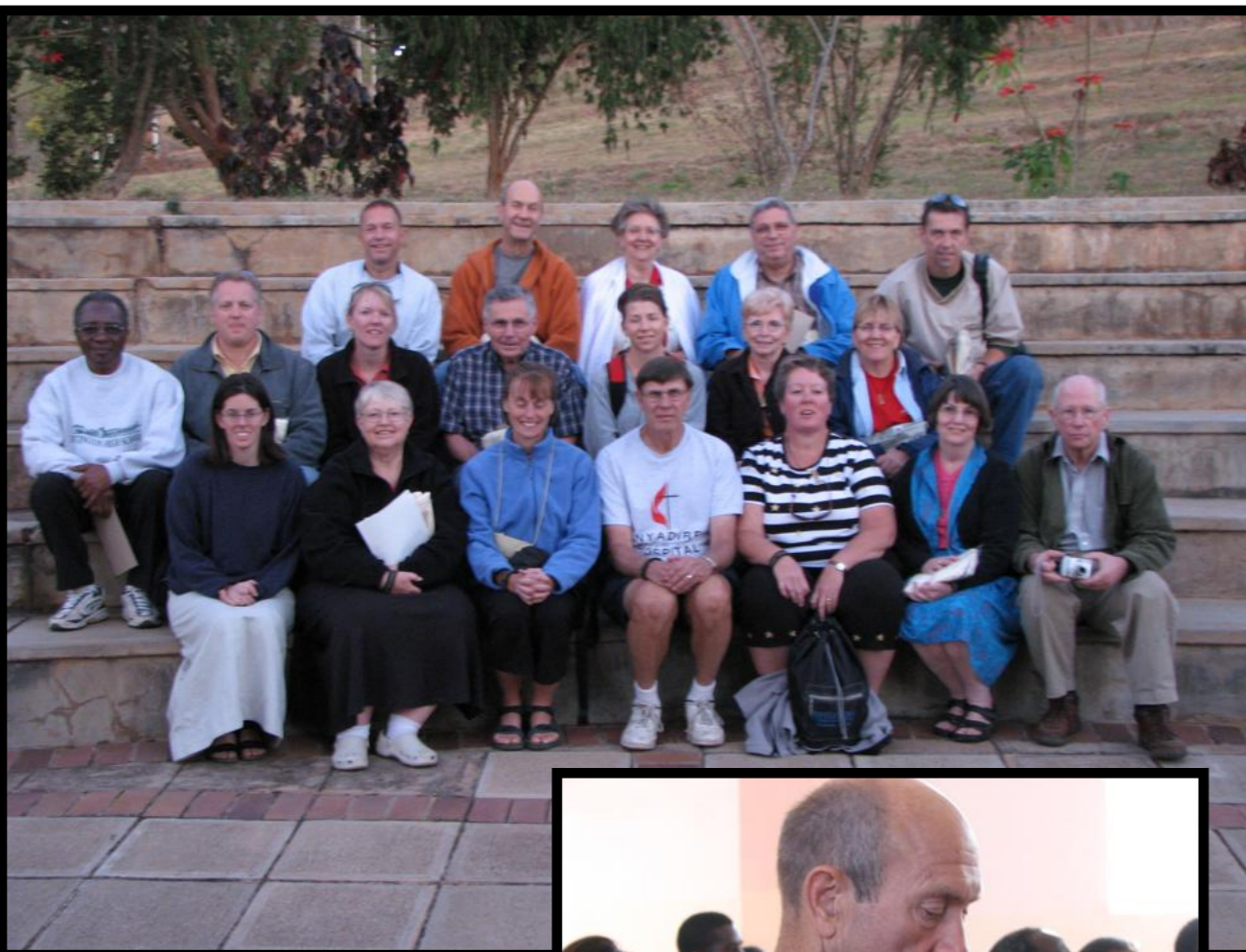


# Nyadire United Methodist Mission

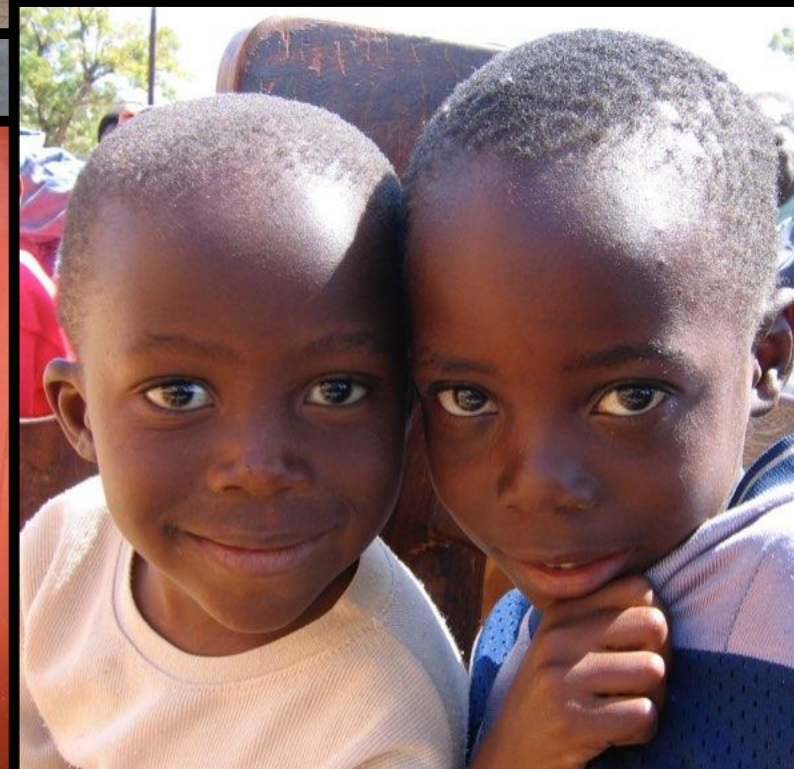
**College Campus-Like ~ Resident Houses ~ 4,500 acres ~  
Remote Rural Area ~ Frequently no running water or  
electricity ~ Depended upon by thousands ~ Owned &  
Operated by the United Methodist Church**

- **150 Bed Hospital with 6 Remote Clinics**
- **1,200 Student School with boarders**
- **School of Nursing**
- **Teachers College**
- **Home of Hope Orphanage**
- **Farm**
- **Church**





First VIM Trip  
2006





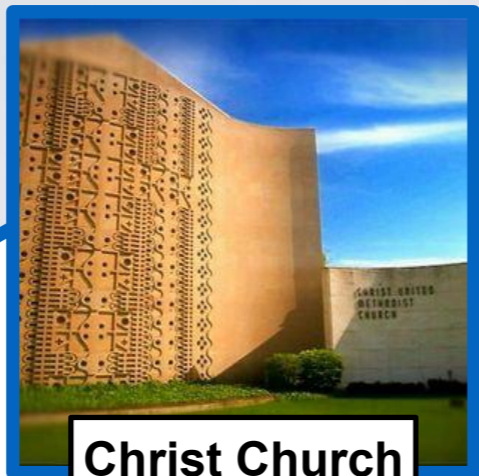
# TNC Operating Principles

## 20 Years of Success

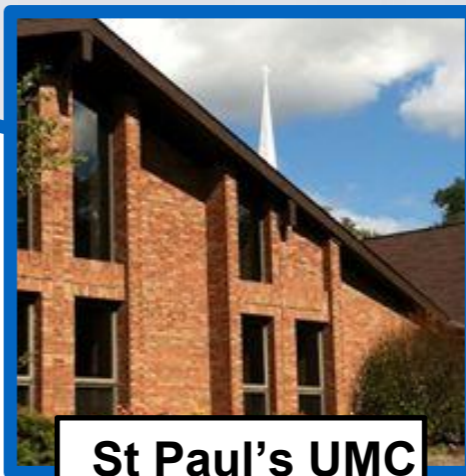
- Remain faith-based
- Build Long-Term, Committed Relationships; Educate each other and learn how to truly help
- Enable Connections: Person to Person, Church to Church, School to School, Hospital to Hospital, Partnerships
- Focus on Nyadire and support Nyadire's priorities, not our ideas; Nyadire & Zimbabwe UM Church lead, TNC enables
- Strive for Self Sustainability; avoid "Toxic Charity"
- Provide Feedback to Supporters



***TNC's 7 Network Churches ... and we're always looking for more!***



**Christ Church  
Bethel Park**



**St Paul's UMC  
Allison Park**



**Dutilh Church  
Cranberry Twp**



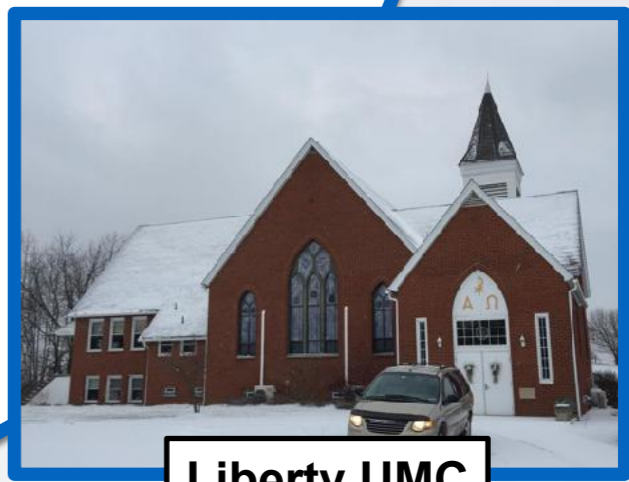
**Mt Lebanon UMC  
Mt Lebanon**



**First Bethel UMC  
Bethel Park**



**Baldwin Community UMC  
Castle Shannon**



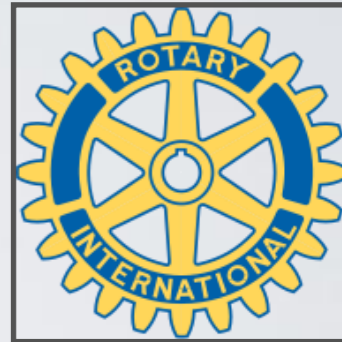
**Liberty UMC  
Washington**

# TNC's Strong Partner/Support Network



In addition to our 7 Network Churches, we have many important relationships with other partners and supporters, such as:

- The United Methodist Church of Finland
- UMCOR and GBGM
- Schools: Bethel Park, Chartiers Valley, Mt. Lebanon, Upper St. Clair, Seneca Valley, University of Pittsburgh
- Carnegie Mellon University Engineers Without Borders
- Brother's Brother Foundation
- Global Links Foundation
- Hospitals: Jefferson and Allegheny General
- Businesses/Non-Profits: Tri-States Medical Supply, Half Price Books, Free Ride Bicycles, Rotary, Gardner Moving, Computer Reach, Mission Vision
- Craft Groups: Stitching Together, Linus Group, Hands & Hearts for Mission



# Leadership Team

TNC has an **all-volunteer leadership team and program leaders**. Program leaders manage specific programs and projects, while the leadership team sets strategic direction, manages financial matters, and handles other administrative duties. Feel free to contact any of our leadership team members below:

- Ralph Duckworth, Chairman
  - [taxplan1951@gmail.com](mailto:taxplan1951@gmail.com)
- Debbie Little, Director-Strategic Inreach
  - [deborahlittle0@gmail.com](mailto:deborahlittle0@gmail.com)
- Tim Wesley, Director-Communications
  - [timwesley61@zoominternet.net](mailto:timwesley61@zoominternet.net)
- Drew Harvey, Chairman Emeritus (TNC Founder and Chairman, 2006-2021)
  - [drewharvey@Verizon.net](mailto:drewharvey@Verizon.net)

# Programs

- TNC maintains 11 ongoing programs, focused on Health, Orphans, and Education and Relationships
- Each program has a leader in the U.S. and a leader in Zimbabwe
  - Hospital support
  - Rural clinic renovations
  - Agriculture
  - Girl Empowerment Pad
  - Eyeglasses
  - Home of Hope
  - Home of Hope Outreach/School Sponsorship
  - CMU Engineers without Borders
  - Hearing Innovation
  - Volunteer-in-Mission Teams
  - Scholarships

# Hospital Support

- We collaborate with the clinical team at Nyadire Hospital, including physicians, nurses, and pharmacists, to assess and prioritize the hospital's essential needs
- Initiatives can include equipping the operating rooms, supporting the Nursing School, repairing laboratory equipment, supplying the obstetrics unit, repairing the hospital facility and vehicles, funding medicines for patients, delivering supplies through mission trips
- Program Leader: Mark LaRosa, [marklarosa@comcast.net](mailto:marklarosa@comcast.net)



# Rural Clinic Renovations

- TNC has joined with the Nyadire mission and the Zimbabwe Ministry of Health to fund and coordinate the renovation of six rural health clinics, at a cost of about \$320,000 each. By providing funding and administrative support, TNC has enabled Nyadire to contract with a local builder who, in turn, hires a local work force to rebuild each clinic. TNC and UMC representatives regularly communicate and monitor the construction process to ensure quality control and on-time, on-budget projects
- Program Leader: Ralph Duckworth, [taxplan1951@gmail.com](mailto:taxplan1951@gmail.com)



# Agriculture

- The program evaluates funding requests from the mission for agricultural-based projects and works with people there to develop the requests into a business plan that includes a cash flow analysis
- The Nyadire Mission had a working farm prior to 2000, with about 150 acres cultivated. Because of government land reforms in 2001, 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
- Program Leader: Scott Sanford, [sasanford56@gmail.com](mailto:sasanford56@gmail.com)



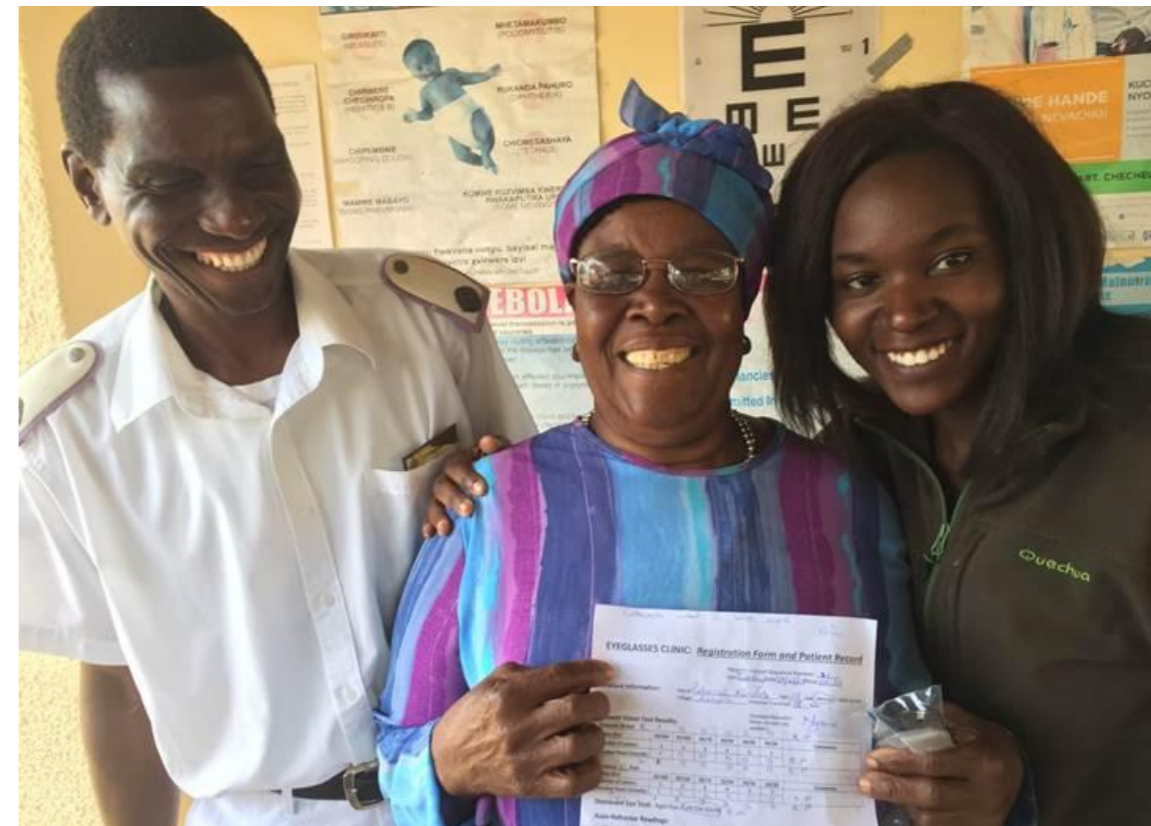
# Girl Empowerment Pad

- In Africa, girls fall behind their male peers academically due to a lack of feminine hygiene items that forces girls to miss school, often for days. In addition to the girls, also affected are African women and those working in and around TNC's orphanage, schools and clinics
- We provide funding for feminine hygiene kits, along with culturally and developmentally appropriate hygiene education, to help girls and women manage these monthly needs
- Program Leader: Bonnie Lawson, [bonnielawson58@Comcast.net](mailto:bonnielawson58@Comcast.net)



# Eyeglasses

- Partnering with Mission Vision, TNC provides eye exams and eyeglasses to improve vision. TNC volunteers have been trained and certified to conduct eyeglass clinics by Mission Vision, which also provides used eyeglasses. The TNC volunteers then train other medical personnel in Zimbabwe to conduct additional clinics



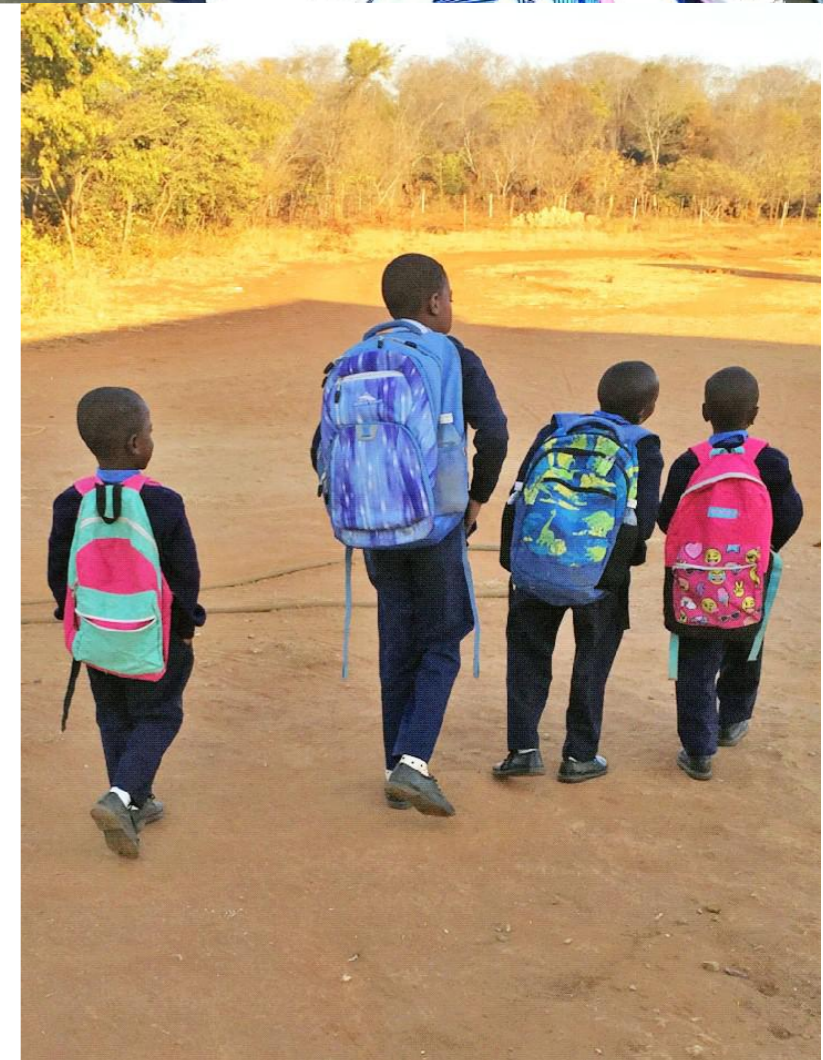
# Home of Hope

- The Home of Hope is home to 17 orphans, living on the Nyadire Mission. For \$40 per month, TNC sponsors can cover expenses for their food, clothing, housing, medical and school fees
- Program Leader: Mary Beth Zollars, [Mbzollars@aol.com](mailto:Mbzollars@aol.com)



# Home of Hope Outreach/ School Sponsorship

- We also sponsor more than 400 orphans attending rural schools who might be living with a relative or by themselves. A \$125 annual donation covers school fees for one child for one year
- Program Leader: Marie Hunt, [emptynest05@Comcast.net](mailto:emptynest05@Comcast.net)



# CMU Engineers Without Borders

- Engineers Without Borders (EWB) is an international organization where professional engineers volunteer to resolve challenging technical problems globally. Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) has a student chapter of EWB that began working with TNC in 2013. Working closely with the Nyadire Mission, TNC helps to identify a specific need or challenge, such as the lack of electricity at the complex. TNC then engages the EWB chapter to develop a solution
- Program Leader: Kevin Riley, [kbrnorth@gmail.com](mailto:kbrnorth@gmail.com)



Initial lighting of  
the Biogas Stove

# Hearing Innovation

- The Hearing Impaired Resource Unit was introduced to the Nyadire Primary School in 1994 with the help of the community, church, and Ministry of Education. It serves as a special education school, with one of the few hearing programs available in the entire province. The opportunity to receive an education gives students an identity and voice, teaches self-reliance, provides meaningful purpose, and most importantly encourages friendship, value, and goals
- There is a fee to attend school and uniforms are mandatory along with boarding fees, because these students travel from a large distance to attend this specialized program
- Program Leader: Deborah Swineford, [dsdla7@gmail.com](mailto:dsdla7@gmail.com)



# Volunteer-in-Mission (VIM) Teams

- TNC regularly organizes mission trips to Nyadire to offer assistance to our friends there, and to provide opportunities for our volunteers to grow spiritually by serving God, helping others and learning from the relationships we have built with the people of Zimbabwe. Prior to each trip, we meet for planning and training sessions, and we coordinate with the leaders in Nyadire. Our volunteers don't need to have special skills, and we always adapt our trips and projects to fit the abilities and interests of our team with the needs of the Nyadire Mission
- Program Leader: Molly Michael, [mollyalice.michael@gmail.com](mailto:mollyalice.michael@gmail.com)



# Scholarships

- Sister Rut Lindgren was a missionary nurse from Finland who lived in Nyadire for more than 35 years. To honor her legacy, TNC created the Sister Rut Scholarship, which provides financial assistance to students who are pursuing additional university or vocational education. Students apply for funds and a TNC committee reviews their comprehensive applications, selects the recipients and monitors their progress. Students must maintain passing marks and are required to conduct community service
- Program Leader: Mary Beth Zollars, [mbzollars@aol.com](mailto:mbzollars@aol.com)



# How Can You Help TNC/Nyadire?

- *Create A Formal Relationship*
  - Select TNC as your church's international mission priority & focus
  - Provide a line item in your church's general budget for TNC
  - Include TNC description on church website and link to TNC's website
  - Publicize TNC "Volunteers in Mission" trips to Nyadire and encourage church members to attend
  - Provide an online giving option on your website for donations to TNC
  - Include a portion of any capital campaign for mission, including TNC
  - Where appropriate, make distributions from Trusts, or church endowments to a TNC program
- *Provide Opportunities To Tell The TNC Story*
  - Appoint an advocate to keep your congregation updated on TNC, and to keep TNC updated on your church's mission activities
  - Schedule programs throughout the year by TNC to a variety of groups: Sunday Schools, Women's Circles, the Congregation, etc.
  - Host multi-week educational programs with TNC speakers, or resources from the Africana Studies Program at Pitt
  - Publish regular articles, supplied by TNC, in the church newsletter
  - Host programs once or twice/year where a member from a "Volunteers in Mission" team returning from Nyadire would provide a summary of the trip

# How Can You Help TNC/Nyadire?

- Leadership/Ownership

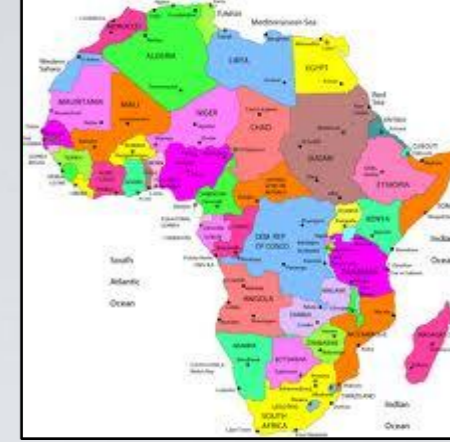
- Take "ownership" of leading a TNC program
- Select a pastor or key staff member and raise funds as a church to send that person to Nyadire with a "Volunteers in Mission" team
- Integrate TNC into the various church ministries (examples: choir sings Shona songs; utilize videos of Nyadire choirs; we developed a coloring book for Children's Ministries showing daily life of a Nyadire child)

- Additional Dedicated Fundraising

- Select TNC as a recipient of Holiday Offerings (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter)
- Include TNC options on the Christmas "Angel Tree"
- Purchase Hippo Water Rollers
- Provide regular "recruiting" opportunities for TNC to solicit sponsorships from the congregation for the Home of Hope and Home of Hope Outreach orphans, Zimbabwe pastors, Hearing Innovation
- Include TNC craft sales at church events
- Include Sarris Candy for sale in all church offices, with proceeds to TNC
- Encourage Sunday School Classes, Choirs, Men's Groups and UMW circles to sponsor a number of orphaned children or another specific TNC cause

# What Have We Learned?

- Our model works: Build relationships in one location, rather than visiting many
- “All Volunteer” organizations have benefits and challenges
- Programs require passionate leadership on BOTH sides; know when a program is ready to expand AND when it should stop
- Understand pitfalls of “Toxic Charity”
- Integrate, leverage skills of others
- Communication, Communication, Communication; meet regularly
- Culture is important; understand differences when it comes to money, time, family, religion, authority
- As American Christians, we benefit greatly from the Partnership



# Contrasting Values Provide Opportunity to Learn from Each Other

## Western Culture Values

- The Individual
- Accomplishments
- Self Reliance
- Pride
- Hard Work
- Control
- Security
- Timeliness; Time is Money
- Dependable
- Planning for the Future
- Financial Discipline
- Personal Wealth is Admired
- Personal funds managed through Banks
- Asking friends for money is awkward
- God is somewhat abstract

## African Culture Values

- Community
- Relationships
- Equality
- Humility
- Patience
- Acceptance
- God will Provide
- Time is secondary
- Flexible
- Life is for Today, tomorrow takes care of itself
- Money is for solving the immediate crisis
- Suspicious of Wealth
- Personal funds managed through friends & family
- Asking friends for money is normal
- God is a constant part of daily life

# To Make A Financial Contribution To TNC...

- All donations to TNC are tax-deductible and will bring needed services and help to Nyadire through our programs
- To donate, send a check payable to The Nyadire Connection to:  
The Nyadire Connection  
c/o Christ United Methodist Church  
44 Highland Road  
Bethel Park, PA 15012
  - Note: If you want to contribute to a specific program, please include the program name in the memo line of your check
- Or, visit our website and click the Donate button (see link below) to make a contribution by PayPal or a credit card: <http://www.nyadire.org/donate.html>

## Tatenda!

# TNC: 15+ Years of Success, and The Journey Continues!

*"Never doubt that a small group of  
thoughtful, committed citizens can change  
the world;  
indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."  
~ Margaret Mead*

*"Do not be daunted by the enormity  
of the world's grief.  
Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk  
humbly, now.  
You are not obligated to complete the  
work, but neither are you free to  
abandon it."  
~ The Talmud*



[www.Nyadire.org](http://www.Nyadire.org)