



Newsletter

The Nyadire Connection (TNC), based in Pittsburgh, PA, is a faith-based non-profit volunteer organization that seeks to support and sustain the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe.

“FRIEND RAISER EVENT”

The Nyadire Connection (TNC) will host a “Friend-Raiser” event on Thursday, Sept. 21, from 4-8 pm at **Calvary United Methodist Church** and **Brother’s Brother Foundation (BBF)** on Pittsburgh’s North Side. Guests will be visiting both locations during the evening, which will also include appetizers and desserts. Tickets are \$25 each and can be obtained on-line at www.nyadire.org or by calling (412) 835-1408.



Drew Harvey, director of TNC, said:

“This unique event features an opportunity to learn more about TNC’s efforts to support the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe. In addition, our guests will be viewing three of the world’s largest Tiffany windows at Calvary – installed in 1895 – and getting a glimpse of the

warehouse where BBF partners with TNC to send ocean container shipments of medical, educational, and Home of Hope backpacks to Nyadire. TNC is an all-volunteer, non-profit, faith-based organization which last year celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Brother’s Brother (www.brothersbrother.org) has been recognized by Forbes as one of the Top 100 U.S. Charities, one of ten charities with 100% fundraising efficiency and one of eleven charities with 99% or higher for charitable commitment. BBF operates warehouses on the North Side where they collect, sort, and ship scavenged medical and educational supplies to impoverished countries throughout the world.



“It was a great trip with great people,” reported team leader **Molly Michael**. “We packed so much into our time.” Leaving Pittsburgh on July 19 were **Molly** (Baldwin UMC), **Jillian Schmidt** (St. Paul’s UMC), **Marjorie Dold** (Walpole, MA), and CUMC members **Sara Dickey**, **Marie Hunt**, **Mary Beth Zollars**, **Pastor Seth McPherson**, wife, **Heather**; daughters, **Laylah**, **Naavah**, and **Elijah**, and father, **Steve McPherson**. **Sue McCann** and **Jim Gourley**, Individuals in Volunteer Mission, met the team in Nyadire. All gathered at the Guest House to catch up on recent developments/changes to facilitate the team’s visit.



HIGHLIGHTS

- **UMSSA** - Nyadire High School hosted eleven schools in competition of handball, netball, darts, volleyball, lawn tennis, soccer, basketball, rugby, and chess. An estimated 1,000 students participated and were housed in the Nyadire school classrooms. **Precious** received the Most Valuable Player Award in Girls’ Basketball. **Tinashe** won the overall darts competition and received personalized awards made by the McPherson girls.
- **Visit to Rev. Forbes Matonga’s Farm** – **Rev. Matonga** hopes the farm can be a prototype for sustainable farming.



- Marie enjoyed reading with **Tatenda** and **Tanaka**.
- **Visits with the Home of Hope (HOH) staff and children** – always a “must.” The children have not yet moved into the new buildings as an administrative block needs to be finished first. **Steve McPherson** spent much of his time working on a farm proposal for the land surrounding the new buildings envisioning a project to train the HOH children with the skills for eventual food sustainability. A HOH Dance Party took place complete with glow-sticks and music by **Godknows**.

- **A Two-Day Vacation Bible School, “This Little Light of Mine,”**

headed by Jillian and aided by the Vim Team. Some of the older HOH children helped with translation, read stories, and the crafts. “The Biggest Rotten Egg Game (Duck, Duck, Goose) had **Pastor Seth** flying around the circle with his long legs!



- **All Rural Schools were visited by Mary Beth and the team** to update the Home of Hope Outreach (HOHO) records, to register new orphans, and distribute and pick up letters to and from children and their sponsors.



- **The team distributed items from the last container** – books on nursing, religion, and many science books suitable for the secondary schools.

Representatives from each school eagerly received Girl Empowerment Kits.



- The team visited Nyadire Hospital with gifts of knitted baby caps made by **Asbury (Heights) Angels** and other hand crafted items made by **Creative Hands of St. Paul’s UMC.**
- **Dendera Rural Clinic** whose renovations and construction projects are complete was visited. Two boreholes are operational and 45-50 outpatients are seen daily during the wet season. The clinic is awaiting evaluation.
- **Participated in Worship** – **Pastor Seth** preached at the High School, Steve at the Hospital Chapel, and Mary Beth at the Primary School services, and the whole team worshipped in the four-hour Harvest Sunday Service.

THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN

Three McPherson sisters – Laylah (7th grade), Naavah (5th grade), and Elijah's (3rd grade) share their observations and memories of Nyadire:

- Loved the worship services where they led and sang songs.



- **Vacation Bible School** - helped with craft and led songs and games.

- **Laylah** played basketball with the Nyadire High School team.



- **All** enjoyed making friends with and learning from

the children. For example, (Home of Hope) Kelvin, wearing girls' flats, sliding back and forth on the Guest House porch.

- Signed the words to "Jesus Loves Me" (learned at Christ Church Vacation Bible School) with the **Hearing Impaired children during Vacation Bible School.**
- **To view the video** - https://photos.google.com/photo/AF1QipM-UQ8DREr13gOr_KHM9AZdrPopmMog9Hv7j1z
- Shared photos of winter weather in Pittsburgh.
- Enjoyed watching traditional dancing.
- Climbed Manhamba Mountain to see ancient rock paintings on the cave wall



- "Hid" the fake snake in the Guest House hoping to scare Savie and other folks.
- Saw a baboon on the way to Dendera Clinic, and elephants, crocodiles, zebras, wildebeest, and giraffes at the Safari.
- Noted that children's books are needed.



HEARING IMPAIRED PROGRAM

by Molly Michael

"First of all, I was blessed to have spent 2 weeks with some of the most intelligent, loving, and beautiful students! The 24 students in the Hearing Impaired Unit at Nyadire joined us at church and bible school as well as welcomed my team into their classrooms. Together we signed "This Little Light of Mine", practiced our Zimbabwean Sign Language, and learned from each other (they have about 50 extra rules for the game "Crazy 8's"!). The older students have already made scarves with the donated yarn my team took over! They are practicing their skills and showing the younger students how to properly knit and stitch. There are currently 5 school-wide shared sewing machines for them to practice on and they have been working on curtains, scarfs, and



*ponchos. They hope to start making school uniforms. I was also blessed to have worked alongside the Hearing Impaired teachers, **Everjoyce** and **Simbarashe** for the 2nd year in a row. These two teachers are full of passion and hope for their students and it shows! Together, we came up with a list of short term and long-term goals, all focusing on a sustainable means for the Hearing Impaired Students to support the school program and themselves.*

Together, our biggest accomplishment was having a specialized Ear, Nose, and Throat Audiologist send a team to the mission to examine each student, give them a hearing test, and make impressions for those who would benefit from a hearing aid. This particular Dr. had fond memories of staying at Nyadire himself when he was a child and felt very called to assist our program. Only 23 students were given a hearing test, because Blessed (sponsored by BCUMC) had a hearing infection with a hole in his eardrum. He will need further treatment. The funds that made this possible were from the Lenten Calendars, so thank you for your donations! These kids were not treated properly in years.



Next - we look towards Solar Powered Hearing Aids manufactured by Solar Ear. At this time, only 9 students will most benefit from a Hearing Aid, including one student who will have to graduate in December. Hopefully - we can get the process moving before then. Each student will be trained on how to care for and use his/her Hearing Aid.

*Last summer there were 27 students in the Hearing Impaired program at Nyadire, now there are only 24. This is due to the embarrassment or pressure of not having school fees as well as a stigma of those having a disability. We need to increase our educational sponsorships. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please direct them to me. **Molly Michael** (412) 805-6481 or email Mollyalice.michael@gmail.com. To view a video and hear "Jesus Loves Me" in sign language*

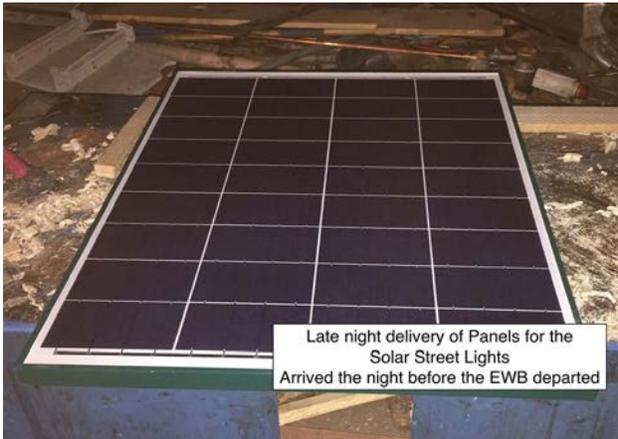
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ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS TRIP

Drew Harvey, TNC chair, and the Carnegie-Mellon group of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Caroline, Tanvi, and Evan visited the Nyadire Mission in July with two goals in mind:

- 1) Get everything in order for the installation of the solar lights to illuminate priority paths in the mission
- 2) Identify the EWB future project at Nyadire.

Despite a delay in delivery, 24 solar streetlights will be installed along the pathways between the student hostels and the primary and secondary schools and the Teachers' College by the end of September. The Mission is putting aside \$85 monthly for the eventual replacement cost of the



Late night delivery of Panels for the Solar Street Lights
Arrived the night before the EWB departed

batteries that have a 5 to 7 year lifespan. Charged batteries allow for four nights of light even without sunshine during the day.

EWB raised \$52,000 to cover the cost of the lights, installation, and travel funds for the students' trips to Nyadire. A group will return in January for the final inspection. Nyadire had to

contribute 5% of the cost.

A great deal of time was spent to select the next EWB project – a different way for 1,000's of meals for the primary and secondary school that are cooked with firewood. Most wood is scavenged or has to hauled into the mission, is expensive and a future de-forestation concern. The group will consider several alternatives, including cooking with biogas. The team visited a rural farmer that uses biogas to cook for his family of 12 using only one bucket of cow dung per day (2 cows) placed into a below ground digester. Cost of this system was \$1200. The team also visited a large boarding school that cooked with biogas generated from food waste. See The **Nyadire Connection** page on **Facebook** for details.

GIRL EMPOWERMENT PADS

70 - 80 women attended **The Girl Empowerment Pad (GEP) Annual Sewing Party** at Mt. Lebanon UMC on September 10, 2017 and assembled **700 kits** make around the Nyadire Mission. Women from Mt. Lebanon UMC,



Christ UMC, Baldwin UMC, First Bethel UMC, Monongahela UMC, Delmont UMC, and St. John Capistran cut fabric, sorted donated underwear, and assembled kits. Also helping were **Girls United Globally** of Upper St.

Clair High School who address multiple issues involving women and girls worldwide – by raising funds to sponsor their education and helping them create reusable sanitary pads. Girls from Mt. Lebanon HS and Bethel Park HS also helped with the project.

Each **GEP kit** contains (1) Pre-cut cotton material that is ready to sew to make a “base pad” with waterproof “leak guard”; (2) Two absorbent inserts that can be layered and changed; (3) Underwear; (4) Soap; (5) Needle and thread; (6) Instructions (in English and Shona) on how to make, use, and wash the pads. (7 a book by **Annie Kanyemba, “Growing Up in School,”** - a guide to menstrual management for girls written in English and Shona. (The books were donated by **Dr. Peter Roger Morgan**, recipient of numerous global health awards.)



Bonnie Lawson, GEP program director reports that a total of 1841 kits were sent to Nyadire. (1422 to schools and 419 to the hospital, and 14 sewing machines were sent to schools and 3 to clinics.

BETHEL/ST. CLAIR ROTARY BARBEQUE

Bethel/St. Clair Rotary Annual Chicken Barbeque Sat., Oct. 7 - Westminster Presbyterian Church – 11-am-7 pm

Many of you have heard of or eaten the delicious chicken barbeque that the USC/BP Rotary prepares every fall to raise funds. But did you know that the funds are allocated to many non-profits and service organizations that serve the South Hills. The Nyadire Connection is one of those organizations that make the allocations possible by selling tickets to the barbeque.



This year an extra \$500.00 will be awarded to the organization selling the most tickets. Our own Phil Himmler, teacher turned entrepreneur and ***Chicken Cheerleader*** is determined to win the prize for the fourth year. Last year TNC was awarded \$4,300 plus the \$500 to help fund the cost of "O-Level Books." Students must pass these expensive exams to continue their education. Each exam costs \$10, and students may take as many as 10 exams.

Dinner consists of baked beans, dinner rolls, dessert, & drink and is served at the church or Drive-Thru. Pre-sale tickets are available at \$10 by calling Phil (412) 491-9238. Tickets at the door are \$12. Tickets for the dinner make good gifts. The more tickets we sell, the more our allocation.

SEEDS OF HOPE

The Seeds of Hope is actively accumulating 2017 vegetable seeds from donors. The seeds are then sorted, listed them for donor uses, and packaged for transport to Nyadire, thanks to our donors, **Rolliers Hardware** (ninth year), **Lowe's** (Carnegie), **Jim Jenkins Lawn & Garden Center**, and **Miller's Hardware**. We also have a couple thousand packets of vegetable seeds and promises of seeds from **Burpee Seeds** (eighth year) and **Agway** (Imperial.) If you are shopping at one of these locations, acknowledge their contributions to this important program. Many thousands of vegetable seed packets went to Nyadire with the July VIM team.

READY TO GO

Thanks to many hands who made this happen, boxes were picked up and loaded on a **Brothers' Brother** truck on Sept. 15. Inside the boxes are backpacks for HOHO children, Empowerment Pad kits, sewing machines, an autoclave for another UM hospital, and medical supplies.



Coming Up

- Sept. 21 - TNC Friend Raiser event held at BBF & Calvary UMC
- October - Workshop for MLUMC - UMW circle



- Oct. 7 - Rotary Chicken Dinner
- Nov 1 - Empowerment Pad program to Westminster Presbyterian Church PEO
- Nov. 4 and Dec. 9 - CUMC Prime Time Craft Sales (TNC has booth)
- Nov. 18 – Mission Mall – St. Paul’s UMC (TNC has booth)
- Dec. 26 - Jan 7, 2018 - Michael Family trip to Nyadire
- Jan. 2-17, 2018; Grove City College team to Nyadire led by Tony LaRosa
- Dec. 2017 or Jan. 2018 - EWB Implementation Inspection trip to Nyadire



For more information, www.nyadire.org.