



# 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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[www.nyadire.org](http://www.nyadire.org)

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## Chindenga Clinic Moon Shot: Mission Accomplished!

Earlier this year, TNC announced a “moon shot” – a goal to raise \$250,000 to enable the completion of the **Chindenga rural health clinic**. Thanks to the passion and support of many individual donors and our Pittsburgh-area network churches, mission accomplished!

For TNC and our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe, the completion of Chindenga will mark the end of a 10-year, brick-by-brick journey to rebuild six rural medical clinics associated with the hospital at the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe. When the journey began, we had no idea how – or if – we could raise the necessary funding, about \$1.8 million. But we were driven by the faith that these clinics would improve the standard of health care for tens of thousands of residents, especially mothers-to-be who would walk miles to have babies there.



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## Mission Trip Planned For November

**Ralph Duckworth**, TNC Chairman, will be part of a TNC team visiting Zimbabwe in November. In addition to Ralph, others planning to go are: **Margie Dold, Jim Gourley, Sue McCann, Robb Montgomery, Scott Sanford, Deborah Swineford, and Mary Beth Zollars.**

“We look forward to spending time with our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe,” Ralph says. “Our planned activities include discussions with conference officers, a visit to District Superintendent **Rev. Heather**, a strategy session with the Nyadire Station Executive, and a visit to the **Chindenga rural health clinic**. We will also spend time with the children at the **Home of Hope Orphanage**, begin to develop a plan to refurbish portions of the guest house, and have discussions about TNC’s **Agriculture** program and how it fits into Nyadire’s plans.”

Please pray for a safe and successful trip, and watch for updates on our Facebook page and in our next newsletter.

**Note: See page 8 for mail call instructions.**

# Chindenga Clinic Moon Shot...

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Church officials in Zimbabwe – including **Bishop Nhiwatiwa**, **Rev. Alan Gurupira**, **Rev. Austern Chepiri** and **Hannah Mafunda** – have been involved in the clinics project from the start. Hannah, health coordinator of the Zimbabwe Episcopal Area Health Board, has documented many

improvements in health care:

- With adequate staff housing, medical personnel at the clinics has more than doubled;
- With more space for waiting mothers and delivery rooms, at-home births have been reduced by about half;
- Clinics have adequate space to test and treat patients with malaria, and to ensure privacy and confidentiality for each patient;
- More shelters for expectant mothers has led to improved birth outcomes and post-natal monitoring;
- Additional housing for staff has enabled the clinics to accept more student nurses, expanding opportunities for education and jobs.



**Thanks for your generous support to make this a reality for our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe!**



# TNC Leadership Profile: Scott Sanford

**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.

**TNC Role:** Leader of **Agriculture** program. (Photo, left to right: Emmanuel Chiimba, Director of the Home of Hope; Scott Sanford; and Rev. Jim Gascoine, retired pastor at Dutilh UMC.)

**What is your profession and how has that helped in your TNC role:**

I am a retired agricultural engineer with a broad background in agricultural production. I worked in the dairy equipment industry designing equipment to milk dairy cows for 15 years and then spent 18 years at the University of Wisconsin-Madison working as a state specialist helping farmers and rural businesses become more energy-efficient.

Energy is used in all aspects of farming so I got involved with greenhouses, grain drying, crop storage, irrigation, refrigeration, and renewable energy. To get farmers (or any business) to save energy, the initiative must provide an economic savings. Sometimes it is just a matter of switching to more energy-efficient equipment but sometimes it requires a change in management practices. Convincing a farmer or a business owner to make a change requires education, persuasion and sometimes demonstrations. This experience is useful for determining how to convince TNC and Nyadire leadership to try new ideas. I also have grant-writing experience which will be useful as we move ahead to larger projects. And I have spent



plenty of practical experience cleaning the barn, feeding animals, milking cows, baling hay and harvesting corn on my dad's farm.

**How and why did you get involved with TNC:** I was invited by my friend, **Carol Butler** (left, with Scott and **Esnath**, manager of the Nyadire farm), to join a trip in 2019 because she thought my skills would be useful. During my first trip we installed a quarter-acre demonstration drip irrigation system (see photo on page 4) and they harvested a bumper crop of potatoes. Since then

they have expanded drip irrigation to over three acres. My university job was all about providing knowledge to help others; working with TNC and the folks at Nyadire is similar.



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# TNC Leadership Profile...

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**Why do you think TNC has been so successful:** I think TNC is successful because of the personal connections with the people at the Nyadire Mission and Zimbabwe conference office and the attitude of not giving up. If it does not work as planned, we regroup and try again.

**How many times have you been to Nyadire:** My first trip was June 2019. In January this year I visited as the new Agriculture program leader and I'm planning to go again in November.



**What do you like best about TNC:** The people involved with TNC and at the Nyadire Mission are very dedicated to make things better for the people in and around the Nyadire region. Although it is hard work at times, there are successes to cheer about such as the purchase of a new corn planter and fertilizer spreader that we hope will improve yields during the next growing season.

**How has your involvement with TNC helped you to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ:** It has given me an avenue to continue what I was doing at the university. So I'm still helping people but with new challenges and new things to learn.



**What's your message to anyone who's considering getting involved in TNC or making a trip to Nyadire:** If you have agricultural or business development experience, TNC could use your help. Zimbabwe is a challenging place to operate a business and requires some creativity. If you'd like to travel to Zimbabwe, the people are kind, the food is good and the scenery is magnificent. As for accommodations, be prepared for sponge baths and using solar lights to read. The cell phone service is spotty and you might see some mosquitos, but nothing worse than in Western Pennsylvania. And your trip leader might take you on a safari, or shopping in Harare for some great gifts.

# Girl Empowerment Program Teaching Life Skills

*“Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day.*

*Teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”*



This proverb suggests that long-term capabilities yield greater benefits than short-term fixes, a philosophy that TNC’s **Girl Empowerment Pad (GEP)** program takes to heart.

GEP, which teaches girls to sew their own reusable cotton pads, helps keep students in school and women at work during their menstrual cycles. The program has evolved to provide co-equal leadership from its Zimbabwean and U.S. partners, to help it become self-sufficient. Initially, U.S. volunteers provided fully sewn pads to TNC schools and clinics in Nyadire. Next, volunteers assembled kits with materials and instructions, in English and Shona, which allowed girls to sew their own pads by hand. **Bonnie Lawson**, TNC’s program

leader, also identified and purchased booklets on menstrual hygiene management to integrate health education with hand- and machine-sewing skills.

The program is now pushing forward with a two-part strategy: (1) Source materials in Zimbabwe to avoid dependence on U.S. supply chains, and (2) Train local professionals to provide sewing instruction for pad production, along with tailoring skills so girls and women have the opportunity to generate income.

“We want the Zimbabwean communities of women we serve to have no obstacles to living their lives and pursuing their work and studies,” Bonnie says. “Moving toward local supply chains and ‘training the trainers’ is a logical next step in the program, which from the start has embraced local concerns and culturally appropriate education.”

Leading the first strategy is local procurement agent **Knowledge Lindgren Janasi** (photo). Based in Harare, she has found domestic suppliers and overcome logistical issues to import materials when necessary. Supplies include cotton fabric, a waterproof material, needles and thread. TNC members met Knowledge in 2006, when she was being raised by **Sister Rut Lindgren**, a missionary nurse from Finland who lived in Nyadire. Knowledge flourished under Rut’s care, excelled in school, and was often selected to be the head girl or prefect of her classes. After Rut’s passing, she attended **Chinoyi University** and received a bachelor’s degree in accounting. She settled in Harare and has worked hard to establish her own import business.



The second strategy is the establishment of a GEP scholarship fund to the **Tabudirira Vocational Training Centre** in Harare to train girls and women in tailoring skills. GEP scholarship recipients are required to teach pad sewing and other techniques to the students in Nyadire as a condition of their award. This ensures a pipeline of teaching talent as current teachers retire, and that sewing skills are an established offering within the GEP program.

To donate or learn more about GEP, contact Bonnie at [bonnielawson58@comcast.net](mailto:bonnielawson58@comcast.net)

## Rotary Hosting Annual BBQ Chicken Dinner

The **Upper St. Clair/Bethel Park Rotary Club** is hosting its 34th Annual BBQ Chicken Dinner Oct. 28. TNC has sold more tickets to the dinners than any group for the past several years and, in turn, has received \$5,000 grants from the rotary, which we use to fund **college scholarships for Nyadire-area students**. Tickets cost \$15 and each meal includes half of a barbecued chicken, baked beans, cole slaw and dessert.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact **Phil Himmler** at 412-491-9238 or philhimmler@msn.com and put "BBQ tickets" in the subject line. Send checks made out to Upper St. Clair/Bethel Park Rotary Club to Phil at: 585 Fruitwood Dr., Bethel Park, PA 15102.

If you can't attend, please consider purchasing and donating tickets to the **South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM)**, which uses the meals for its Food Pantry Distribution Days. TNC donors have provided hundreds of tickets to SHIM in prior years and they are greatly appreciated. Tickets donated to SHIM must be received by Oct. 15.

## Zimbabwe Crafts Available At Upcoming Ministry Fairs

Upcoming ministry fairs at two of TNC's network churches will feature crafts locally made in Zimbabwe. During TNC's mission trips, our travelers purchase these crafts to support local businesses and bring the items back for sale in the U.S. All proceeds benefit TNC's programs.

You can see the crafts on display at the following network churches:

- **Christ UMC**, Vendor and Craft Fair, Nov. 4 from 9:30 am to 3 pm
- **St. Paul's UMC**, Mission Mall, Nov. 18 from 9 am to 2 pm



## TNC Agricultural Scholarship Recipient Completes Training

With the help of an agricultural scholarship from TNC, **Elvis Mtandwa** has completed his agricultural training at **Tabudirira Vocational Training Centre**. Elvis grew up at the Nyadire UM Mission.

During his attachment, which is similar to an internship, he worked at his family farm and produced a successful harvest.

Congratulations and great work, Elvis!



## Hearing Innovation Class Receives New Chairs, Desks

**Mt. Zion UMC** in Kentucky provided funds for new chairs and desks for the **Hearing Innovation** class at **Nyadire Primary School**.

“Greetings, people of God,” says **Rev. Lance Mukundu**. “We are so grateful. On behalf of the school I really want to thank [Mt. Zion UMC] for such a gesture. The classroom furniture had become a sore in the eyes and the children are so happy to use the new furniture. Once again thank you so much. May the good Lord abundantly bless you.”



## TNC's 'Go-Go Elsa' Continues To Provide Special Gifts

Chances are, if you've been involved in TNC for any length of time, you know **Elsa Zollars**. And you might even know her as "Go-Go Elsa," the always-energetic and ever-enthusiastic woman who has shared her talents and gifts with our friends at TNC and in Nyadire for many years.



Elsa has been to Nyadire four times, first in 2008 and most recently in 2019, and she has the distinction of being the oldest TNC person to travel there. Elsa has always been a tireless promoter of TNC, whether through her writing, by giving presentations and by representing our organization at various functions.

Recently, she added another gift to her long list, when she completed a fleece quilt for the newest little child at the Home of Hope (photo).

"Made with love," she says.

On behalf of that child, we say thanks, Elsa. And on behalf of everyone associated with TNC, we say thanks for continuing to share your time and talents – with love!

## Mail Call: TNC Mission Team Taking Letters, Gifts To Nyadire

A team of TNC folks will be visiting Nyadire in November and they are happy to take letters and gifts from sponsors to hand-deliver to students and orphans. See below for details and deadlines...

- **Scholarships:** If you feel led to write to your (or any) student, please send your letter by email to **Mary Beth Zollars** at [mbzollars@aol.com](mailto:mbzollars@aol.com). Mary Beth will print your letters and hand-deliver them to the students. Deadline to send your letter to Mary Beth: Oct. 22.
- **Home of Hope:** The team can carry **one** letter and **one** gift per child. Suggested gifts include reading books, coloring books, crayons, colored pencils, small crafts or models, and soccer balls. Email your letters to **Mary Beth Zollars** at [mbzollars@aol.com](mailto:mbzollars@aol.com) and send your child's gift to her at: 3248 Comanche Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241. Deadline for Mary Beth to receive letters/gifts: Oct. 22.
- **Hearing Innovation:** Sponsors can send letters, cards, or small gifts. Suggested items, which must fit in a 9"x12" manila envelope, include stickers, coloring books or small storybooks. Expressions of love are precious to these children, says **Deborah Swineford**, program leader. Please mail items to Deborah at: 3700 Kinter Hill Road, Edinboro, PA 16412. Deadline for Deborah to receive your items: Oct. 25.

# Program Highlights From TNC's September Meeting

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

- Sister Rut Scholarships: Students who plan to graduate either this year or in 2024 are:
  - **Panashe Bernard Madyuata**: Great Zimbabwe University; Regional and Urban Planning
  - **Lovemore Mbozvi**: Manicaland State University; Mining Engineering
  - **Angeline Mujuru**: Tabudirira Vocational Centre; Hospitality
  - **Elvis Mtandwa**: Tabudirira Vocational Centre; Agriculture
  - **Kurirai Rodney Matonga**: Blackford by Agricultural Institute; Agriculture
  - **Fungai Chigumbura**: Midland States University; Human Resource Management
  - **Tinashe Mapfumbidze**: Midland States University; Business Management
  - **Blessing Mabii**: Midland States University; Business Studies
  - **Nyasha Given Katema**: Zimbabwe Institute for Legal Studies; Law
  - **Yeukai Gwati**: Tabudirira Vocational Centre: Hospitality
  - From **Mary Beth Zollars**, program leader: "It is truly humbling to know that each of these young people started their lives as orphans either in the **Home of Hope** or living with relatives in the surrounding villages of Nyadire. They have come so far, thanks to the generous support of their sponsors."
- Home of Hope: The drip irrigation line is working and has helped to produce a spectacular bean crop (photo). Congratulations to the **Home of Hope** staff and to all those who help to grow food!
- Home of Hope Outreach: We sponsor students at 22 schools. Program leader **Marie Hunt** and her team of coordinators have delivered renewal forms and updates to current sponsors, and we are always looking for more sponsors.
- Hospital Support: We continue to work with **Kathleen Griffith** of the **United Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries** to coordinate our efforts.
- Agriculture: See page 3 for a profile of **Scott Sanford**, our program leader ... Our team purchased agricultural equipment, including a two-row planter and broadcast spreader, to be delivered in November.



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# Program Highlights...

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- Girl Empowerment Pad: See page 5.
- Rural Health Clinic Rebuilds: Mission Accomplished! See page 1.
- Eyeglasses: Thanks to a connection with **Marie and Denny Hunt**, the **Lions Club** in Greensburg, Ind., collected and donated 4,600 pairs of glasses for the program. **Kaywin Lindsay** (photo at right) managed the donation process for the club.
- Engineers Without Borders/CMU: The students returned to school and had a strong turnout for their first meeting of the semester; they continue to consider future projects at Nyadire.
- Hearing Innovation: Program leader **Deborah Swineford** is meeting with a deaf teacher from the **Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf** to develop lessons for the upcoming mission trip in November. Also during the trip, she plans to meet with **Tonderayi Makaya**, the sign language interpreter for the first deaf graduate of **Africa University**.
- Volunteer-in-Mission trips: We are planning a mission trip for November with a long list of planned activities. See pages 1 and 8.



## If You Have Newsletter Story/Photo Ideas...

In our newsletter, we strive to highlight a variety of our programs and the efforts of our network churches and other supporters.

If you have story/photo ideas that you would like us to consider for publication, please submit them to **Tim Wesley**, at [timwesley61@zoominternet.net](mailto:timwesley61@zoominternet.net)