



Newsletter 9, September 2014

Dear friends,

Time really flies! It's already more than 6 months since our last Newsletter was published, so it's about time for the 9th PCC Newsletter. We like to inform you how our residents are doing and things are going in the Community and of course inform you about all kind major and minor developments during the past 6 months. We hope you will enjoy reading all information

General

At the moment the Community is going on very well, even despite the sad and recent passing away of Quinten (see below). The general mood and the atmosphere in Hand in Hand are very positive. Together the caregivers form a good team, regularly coming up with good ideas and new input for the care and the PCC day programmes. Overall our children and young adults are healthy and happy. Many reasons for being grateful, not in the least for all support we receive from persons and organisations. It seems to be normal but we know it isn't and don't take it for granted, not at all, it's a real miracle!

New child in PCC



Since July we have a new resident. It's a small girl of about 3 years, a foundling who was abandoned at night near our gate. When she arrived, she was moderately malnourished and had various wounds on her skull and in her face. She had a low muscle tonus and couldn't speak, sit or stand. She is now called Miriam and since her arrival she is developing very well!

Constructions

The major plan of 2014 for new constructions and renovation was the renewal of 3 connected buildings in the centre of the Community, being the TV room, the House of Games and the place for physiotherapy.

Royal Community Hall



First of all we started during the rainy season with the construction of a new and much bigger TV room, which was completed by the end of June. This splendid new Hall has since officially been opened and was given a very special name: the Royal Community Hall! It's a real pleasure being there together. The building is multifunctional, not only for watching TV and movies, but also lectures are given there and even small shows, e.g. a visiting clown. The new Hall is really a great asset for PCC and it has made all of us very happy and proud!

Noah's Ark

After completion of the Royal Community Hall the House of Games was pulled down and after that a beautiful new, open but well roofed place for various

games and learning activities has been constructed at the same spot. The building has somehow the shape of a ship and as our children can move in safely there, it is from now on called – after a proposal of the caregivers – Noah’s Ark.

Though some colourful elements have already been applied we are still looking for someone able to paint a nice mural with all animals from Noah’s Ark on its walls. Who is coming forward?



Physiotherapy

After completing Noah’s Ark the original idea was to change the old TV room into a nice new place for physiotherapy. Unfortunately parts of the old walls tumbled down soon after starting the building activities, so at the end we had no choice but to go for a complete new building.

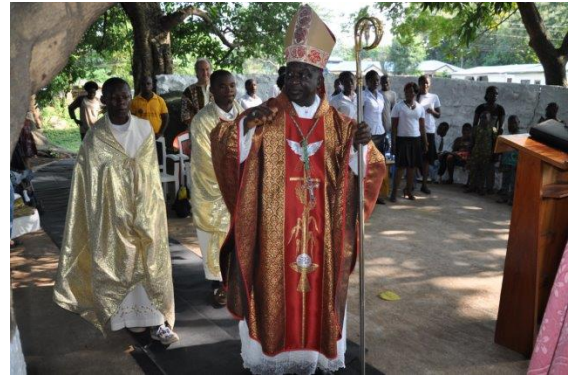
We cherish good hopes that the construction will be completed by the end of October. By then an important part of the centre of PCC will have a fully new and more open appearance.

We like to thank all those who contributed during this year to support the construction of the Royal Community Hall, Noah’s Ark and the accommodation for Physiotherapy.

We are very grateful for and proud of these wonderful new buildings.

An important visitor

There is never a dull moment in our Community, always there are new activities to admire or nice and interesting people coming for a visit.



The Bishop’s visit.

In July we were highly pleased with the visit – on his own initiative – of the RC Bishop of Techiman. He was very impressed by all done in PCC in caring for and supporting all children. During an festive and impressive service in our rock church he also gave Confirmation to 13 of our youngsters and 4 caregivers. It was a great happening and a honourable visit!

SKIP



For 4 years now every summer about 12 medical students from SKIP in England are coming for almost 5 weeks to do some voluntary work in PCC. Mainly Special Attention, but also mural painting (see the picture). As special activity they gave daily lectures to our caregivers about some simple medical subjects.

New website

May be you have noticed it already: since June PCC has a wonderful new website and it looks very modern and up-to-date, bright and accessible, thanks to a great job done by Elianne.

We are almost ready with converting all relevant information from the old website to the new one, at least for the Dutch part....

We are still working on the English part of the website, but have good hopes that our English speaking friends will be able to enjoy the new website very soon as well.

In Memoriam Quinten

Recently we experienced once again and severe that some of our children, due to the nature of their diseases and disabilities, are very vulnerable.

On the 16th September our Quinten passed away, after years in which his poor health often created many worries.

In 2000 Quinten came to Hand in Hand as a small child and for 14 years he enjoyed all good care, attention and love given here by so many.

Despite this life for Quinten was not always very easy or enviable, but also Quinten was a child of God.



Now we had to say a final farewell to him, but we have done so in the belief that our Quinten is for ever resting and at peace in the arms of his Lord and Creator.

May he rest in peace.

Just a nice picture of James



PCC goes Solar!

In October PCC will make a new step in its development concerning sustainability and the preferred reduction of our annual running costs.

Next month 24 solar panels will be installed on top of one of the roofs at our compound. As Solar Energy is still rather unknown in the Nkoranza area we are very curious how the whole process of installation and usage will develop. We will keep you informed.

Ebola

At the moment we receive many questions about Ebola in Ghana and in Hand in Hand. Of course we do understand the great concern about this disease and are thankful for all sympathy, but – we are happy to say – up till now there has not been a single case of Ebola in Ghana nor in one of the 3 surrounding countries.

The pictures and stories from Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone are saddening and horrifying, but there is no reason for worries about the well-being of the PCC residents of any reason for fear for people visiting our Community. We hope and pray that the horrible disease can be controlled and stopped in other parts of West-Africa very soon, too many have died already.

Just a nice picture of Adwoa.



Adwoa enthusiastically dancing in her own way during a PCC party!

Sponsoring

There are still children for whom we are looking for full or part sponsoring, for instance Kwaku Chairman.

Please check our website, at the Homepage or Support Us in the Menu.




Kwaku Chairman

You can also get more information from our sponsor administrator Nieske: sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl or via handinhandpcc@gmail.com

Finally

So far for this 9th Newsletter. We hope you are now fully updated again and enjoyed reading.

Frequently you can find a new update about the weal and woe of PCC in the column "Alberts Corner" on our website: www.handinhandcommunity.com

NB: temporary it's best to go first to www.operationhandinhand.nl (= the Dutch PCC website) and then click on the English flag  on top.

Cordial greetings on behalf of the PCC Board, that means from Baffo, Joe Emma, Jeannette and me and of course from everyone else at PCC!

Albert van Galen, M.D.

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