

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

PEACE OF CHRIST -

HAND IN HAND COMMUNITY

NKORANZA, GHANA



P.O. Box 120
Nkoranza B/A
Ghana

Email: handinhandcommunity@gmail.com
Website (English): www.handinhandcommunity.com
Website (Dutch): www.operationahandinhand.nl



Contents:

1. Summary
2. General review and developments 2015
3. Background information + History Hand in Hand
4. Report on the Sheltered Workshop
5. Organization, staff and management
6. Financial information
7. Conclusion and acknowledgment

Annex 1: Financial statement 2015



1. Summary

The year 2015 was a very good year in the wonderful history of the Peace of Christ Foundation and the PCC – Hand in Hand Community. We could welcome a lot of new and good developments.

We were able to make a fine start with the new PCC Outreach Program, aimed to inform, advise and support parents of children with intellectual disabilities in the many villages of Nkoranza District and to improve the social conditions of these children. It's the first time that PCC starts a new activity outside the PCC compound comes for children and young adults with intellectual disabilities. We are expanding our wings of support!

We also saw a major boost for the physiotherapy in PCC in 2015 thanks to the great efforts and wonderful input of a Dutch expert physiotherapist, Mrs. Inge Maters.

In 2015 7 new children joined the Community as residents and 1 young adult came to PCC as a new worker in the Sheltered Workshop.

At the end of the year 2015 as much as 93 children are living in the Community, 72 of these are now living permanently in our Community, while 21 young adults, coming from outside PCC, are attached to the Sheltered Workshop, spending here most of the year.

The Peace of Christ Foundation is able to run the still growing Community already for more than 23 years mainly through contributions of sponsors and donors from overseas, this amounts up to about 80-85% of our annual budget.

We are proud to generate also about 15-20 % of the funds locally to help us to become financially more independent. Our guesthouses are attractive for many visitors and recommended by various travel guides and agencies. Running the guesthouses and the restaurant helps us to make some profit, while additional funds are generated through the sales of products from the Sheltered Workshop and sold in our shop and in Europe.

Nowadays about 45 persons are members of our Ghanaian team of caregivers and other workers. We also provide an interesting working place for 3-5 foreign volunteers at a time, mainly from Europe, who are all coming to Ghana for at least 3 months to assist PCC in caring for the children, mostly by participating in the Special Attention programme.

By the end of 2015 the Governing Board of PCC has 4 members: Dr Albert van Galen, general director, Mr Samuel Kwame Baffo, project director, Mr Emmanuel Amponsah Daasebre, care director and Mrs Jeannette van Galen - Wattel, education director and supervisor of guesthouses and sheltered workshop.

What started as a small seed in 1992 has grown over the years into a wonderful place full of peace, love and care for many intellectually and multiple disabled children. We are happy that also in 2015 our children could really benefit from living in the Community, which is very much their own peaceful place on earth.

We are grateful to God for all blessings showered upon our Community as well as to all sponsors, donors, workers and volunteers who supported us in a great way throughout 2015, helping us to maintain and even improve PCC as an unique and loving Community.

On behalf of the Board of PCC Ghana,

Albert van Galen, M.D.
General Director PCC – Hand in Hand Community

2. General review and developments 2015

General

The year 2015 was a wonderful and great year for the PCC – Hand in Hand Community. In general we are very happy with and positive about the situation and developments in PCC. We were able to continue offering a safe home, a loving environment and good care to all PCC residents and workshop children. The atmosphere in PCC is very good and the children are happy and almost all are also healthy, of course this also depends on their character, disability and nature.

Residents

Thinking about 2015 we remember many, many moments of happiness and lots of joy. Most important is the fact that almost all children did very well over the year.



Lizzy

We were very happy to accept 7 children, Rebecca, Baagyei, Sadat, Nyamekye, Deborah, Esther and Elizabeth (Lizzy) as new permanent residents of PCC. We also welcomed 1 young adult boy, Adyei Kingsley, as a new worker to the sheltered workshop.

By the end of 2015 we are caring for a total number of 93 children: 72 are permanent residents, while 21 young adults are participating in the sheltered workshop, most of them are living 9 months or more per year in the boys- or girls dormitories.

It remains so wonderful to see how children, given up and abandoned elsewhere, are able to grow and flourish very well here. They are really at home in our Community, where they can live together with many comparable children. In fact, this is really their own home, their Community and with that philosophy in mind everyone tries to care for them in the best possible way.

Quality of food

During the year 2015 we continued to give a lot of attention to the quality of the food given to the children three times daily. We were happy to improve on certain aspects, like more different types of food, less starch and more protein rich food, more fruits, beans cake, eggs etc.

Our children are very much in favour of it, they respond quite well to all changes.

Important developments in PCC during 2015

Quite a lot of important developments in 2015 are worth mentioning:

- Last year we started with a complete new activity, the Outreach Program in the Nkoranza District to uplift the social conditions for many children with intellectual or multiple disabilities and epilepsy, living in the numerous villages of the District. PCC is not able to accept all intellectually disabled children from the whole country as residents in PCC, so we feel it's very important that we are able to advise, support and direct the parents very well, either in the villages or when coming to PCC to the PCC Resource Centre, when parents and children are trying



to cope with the often difficult situation at home.

The aim of the Outreach Program is to identify, register and support children living with intellectual disabilities using community based approaches. We also try to create public awareness about the rights of the children and change negative perceptions people might have about persons with intellectual disabilities, using multi-faceted and multi-disciplinary approaches. Some of the important activities are advocacy via FM radio and during visits to the villages, formation of Parent Support Groups, support of children with assistive devices or with the distribution of anti-epileptic drugs

- The quality of the physiotherapy for our many physically disabled children was



brought to a much higher level as a result of a major improvement achieved through the wonderful input of a Dutch senior physiotherapy expert, Inge Maters in July and August. She introduced many new and successful physio exercises, brought a lot of new physio materials and special devices from Holland, improved the quality of the way most wheelchairs are used in PCC and last but not least she trained many of our caregivers very well by teaching them how to exercise more often and much better with the children. Many of the

exercises were also filmed and are still available for review on a I-pad, donated by Inge to PCC!

Inge Maters really created a lot of impact in PCC and we are very grateful for that.

- The energy production of the 24 Solar Panels (installed by the end of 2014) proves to be about 6.100 kWh per year! This really contributes to a reduction of the annual running costs and makes PCC more durable.
- Frank, the husband of physiotherapist Inge Maters, introduced quite some improvements in the restaurant for guests in PCC, including a special new menu with more variations in meals as well as a very helpful digital reservation system.
- We all were very happy when on 31st July as much as 9 of our children were baptised by Rev. Father Benneh. It all happened during an inspiring and joyful celebration in our own rock church!
- We were happy to receive many groups visiting PCC in 2015. Apart from the 5th SKIP group we could welcome delegations from our English support foundation Hand in Hand UK, from our German support foundation Ananse, from the church De Ark in Reeuwijk, Holland and last but not least from the G8 group from Groningen, Holland. This group came also for the 5th time to PCC, always under the leadership of Mr. Bernard Meier.
- With the great assistance of a Helping Guest, Mr. Jocé Schippers from Holland, a very accurate plan of the whole PCC compound was designed. Such a map is a great help when deciding about the further infrastructural development of PCC!
- Our Projects Director Mr. Samuel Baffo was invited by the Dutch Hand in Hand support foundation to come for a visit and meeting to Holland. He discussed the future of PCC with the Board of Hand in Hand Holland, visited many institutions for care for intellectually disabled persons and saw many PCC friends from Holland and Germany. It was a very valuable trip for him and for PCC.



- During 2015 we were able to do quite some minor repairs and major renovations in various houses at the compound and at the surface of the rock area. The house of Mable and some others was almost completely renewed. The general condition of most houses in PCC is now quite OK, remaining only some minor renovations to be done in 2016.
- With the great financial and building support of the G8 group we were able to build another wonderful new house on our compound, to enable us to accommodate more new children and their caregivers in the Community. The house was officially opened on 1st January 2016.
- Our renewed and modernised website is visited as much as 8.000–10.000 times per month by many visitors. This helps us to communicate very well with our many supporters, donors, sponsors, friends and sympathisers all over the world.



The 2015 G8 house

Agreement with the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation

In December 2012 the Board of PCC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation, to confirm the good and close cooperation of both foundations for the long term upkeep of PCC.

The purpose of the cooperation between PCC and HIH is to guarantee the best possible care for all disabled children and young adults living in PCC, to get the necessary financial support for PCC, to create a continuous and stimulating exchange of expertise and ideas to support the PCC Board with Management and Administration and to develop an adequate long term policy in order to ensure good quality care in PCC for many years. This agreement guarantees the very important long term support for PCC!

Like in the previous years during the year 2015 PCC received the majority of its foreign contributions for the running of PCC from the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation. Through the Dutch foundation PCC also got a lot of support from the English and German charitable support organisations Hand in Hand UK resp. Ananse Germany.



Nyamekye

Caregivers

During the year 2015 10 new Ghanaian caregivers came to join our team, to replace some old caregivers who left PCC during the year.

At 31st December 2015 we have 31 caregivers (2013: 28), caring for our 72 young permanent residents as well as for 21 semi-permanent young adults in the sheltered workshop.

Volunteers and Helping Guests

In 2015 we had the very appreciated support of 5 volunteers, mainly coming from Holland and Germany. Unfortunately this year the total number of volunteers was less than in previous years due to the fear for Ebola in West-Africa.

Most volunteers from abroad come to stay with us for 3 – 6 months.

In July 2015 a group medical students from SKIP, England came for the 5th successive year to work as volunteers in PCC. An important part of their activities was giving lectures on selected topics to our Caregivers. This was well appreciated and all caregivers who attended these lectures received a special Certificate.

As said the number of volunteers was a bit lower than usual, but the number of Helping Guest, often coming for 4 – 8 weeks to support our Community in various kind of ways, increased considerably. We are grateful to have so many good friends and supporters.

Christmas 2015

For many years highlight of the in Hand is the of Christmas and Eve. This is done week full of PCC parties, music by choirs groups and of some small good food. All special during the X- were a great We saw an



already the year in Hand celebration New Year's during a activities, special and dancing course with presents and

activities mas season success. experienced

Father Christmas (Ayuba) with assistance of James and Ahmed, we heard the Frafra singing and dancing group and there was once more a wonderful Christmas play, performed by all children of PCC, with James playing the little Jesus and proudly carried around by the people!

Visitors

Unfortunately the total number of guests and visitors dropped a bit in 2015 as the fear for Ebola in West-Africa kept many people away from travelling to Ghana, though there hasn't been a single case of Ebola in Ghana.

Despite this problem we were still happy to welcome quite some visitors to our Community in 2015. They stayed in our Guesthouses, some for one day, others much longer. Almost without exception all visitors are very positive and impressed by the atmosphere and the good care provided at Hand in Hand. It has been like that over the years and obviously the Spirit of PCC is also touching many visitors!



9 children baptized in 2015

3. Background information about the “Hand in Hand Community”

In the rural areas of Ghana intellectually disabled children are sometimes still referred to as “water-children”. Local tradition claims that these children are born as a result of a woman being raped by a water-spirit. Water spirits, real or not, are thus causing havoc in people’s lives and the water-children, being half spirits and half human, are much feared. In the traditional way the disabled child is put back along the riverside where these spirits are staying. At night the spirits then submerge and take the children “back home” to the depth of the river. Luckily these traditional concepts are gradually changing.

In Nkoranza the presence of our many special children has already caused a sustained positive change. In the beginning we had a real problem finding caregivers who could rise above the fears and family pressures of the local community and have enough courage to live with our kids. Now, more than 23 years later, our caregivers form a loving and stable team and in general we have no problems in finding new caregivers anymore!



Rebecca and her caregiver Matilda

Apart from the dangerous traditional belief-systems, the parents have to cope with the universally experienced feelings of agony when faced with having a disabled child.

It is not surprising therefore, that some of these children are abandoned somewhere, starved or hidden away in small rooms and sheds, while others are laid abandoned in public places in the hope that someone may find them and keep them alive. It is to abandoned children like these that PCC offers a warm and loving home.

Most of our children in PCC came on a transfer from the Governmental Children’s Homes in Accra or Kumasi. This is where most abandoned foundlings are brought if they are lucky enough to survive. Apart from this, we also accept children on request of the local or regional Social Welfare, other orphanages and hospitals from all over Ghana.

History

Our community started in 1992 through an initiative of four health-professionals, 3 Ghanaians and one Ghanaian-Dutch, Dr. Ineke Bosman. She was the driving force behind the foundation and without her the Community would not have emerged and developed to what it is nowadays, a Community with an unique and appealing atmosphere.

Our premises are large, 24 acres of hilly land with a lovely natural setting. The land is beautiful with natural sources and awesome rock-formations. The buildings where the children and their caregivers are living do form a half circle of small cottages. At the other side of the semi-circle of children-cottages lay the guesthouses for our visitors.

The Sheltered workshop was realized in 2003 and expanded between 2005 and 2009. In 2012 a small, but nice sensory room was created and in 2014 we started with the House of Silence for some children, who prefer working very quietly.

Caregivers are living like parents with their children. They sleep together, play together, bath their children, eat with them and bring them to school or workshop. The caregivers also have general assignments in the group, such as running daycare, cooking, computer classes, supervising the swimming-hour, etc. Emphasis is laid on warmth, fun and love.

We loyally adhere to a precise daily routine so that the children may feel safe. A good and predictable structure is a very important cornerstone for our Community.



Sadat in the pool

Highlight of the daily schedule is the 4 PM swimming-time where the children bath, exercise and have fun with the water. This "pool-happening" is also the beginning of the end of the day. Afterwards kids and caregivers eat together and then retreat to watch TV or movies or move to their cottages. At 8 PM all are quiet and go asleep.

4. PCC Sheltered Workshop Annual Report 2015

In 2015 we had to say to goodbye to our workshop coordinator Diana Sawine. She married our former caregiver Andrews and left PCC. We are very grateful for all the good work Diana has done for PCC and our children, both as loving caregiver and as dedicated workshop coordinator and wish her all the best.

The Board of PCC was very happy to appoint Mr. Emmanuel Boyan as the successor of Diana for the coordination of all activities in the workshop.

Mr. Emmanuel Boyan now combines two functions in PCC, as he is 1 of the 2 workers of the Outreach Programme as well as the workshop coordinator.

There are several divisions in the sheltered workshop and are all functioning very well.

Beads hall

In this hall most of our young adults are working. In general these children are very happy and communicate well with the supervising caregivers. The production of necklaces, key holders, bracelets, hip strings and ankle bracelets has become their hobby. At the end of the year, the total number of kids in the Beads Hall is: 21.



Diana outgoing and Emmanuel incoming SW coordinator

Weaving Department

In the Weaving Hall 7 youngsters are having a good time every day with Kente weaving, producing beautiful materials to produce nice bags, purses and scarfs.

Sewing Department

This sector helps the workshop to generate extra income for PCC by producing a wide variety of products, including various types of bags, aprons, placemats, purses, picnic

cloths, all very appreciated by many visitors of our PCC shop as well as by clients overseas.

Autism Table

The Autistic kids are still enjoying their light and airy place. Caregivers have been trained and nowadays they understand more of the situation of autistic kids. We try as much as possible to do things that interest them, including colouring and drawing, playing with water, painting on papers and walls, playing with sand, dancing and drumming. At the end of 2015, there were 10 children gathering every day at the Autism Table.

House of Silence

In the House of Silence about 7 of our young adults from the workshop are now spending a good time there every day again in a very quiet, relaxing atmosphere.

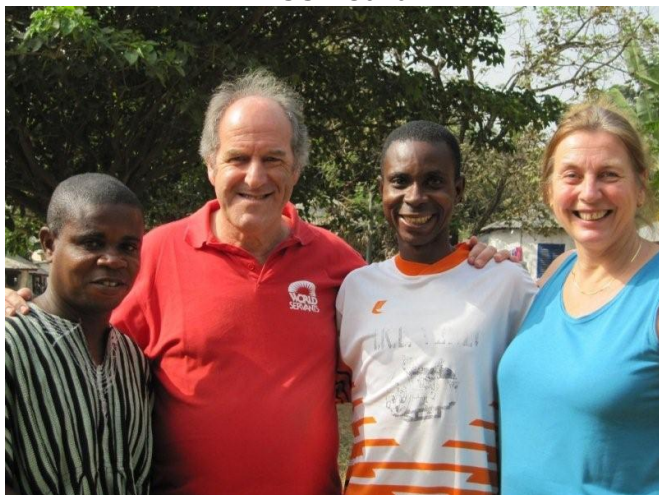
5. About organization, staff and management

The aim of PCC / Hand in Hand is to give integral care to abandoned and intellectually disabled children from all over Ghana. The style is open and family like. Children live in small groups of two or three with a caregiver, who is acting as an alternative mother or father figure for their kids. Attendance to school, rehabilitation, medical care, therapy, joint meals, joint siestas in the siesta room and of course music and play are all part of the daily program.

The caregivers who live and work with the children consider their service as voluntary. They receive a monthly allowance as well as free boarding and lodging with the children they are caring for.

The workshop has its own coordinator, Mr. Emmanuel Boyan, who is responsible for all activities in the workshop.

PCC Board



Since 2010 the **Board of PCC / Hand in Hand** has 4 members:

Dr. Albert Van Galen, chairman and General Director,

Mr. Samuel Baffo, Project Director for income generating activities and constructions,

Mr. Emma Daasebre, Care Director and

Mrs. Jeannette van Galen, Education Director + supervisor of the workshop.

We have place for 4 – 5 volunteers at the same time, who help on a one to one base with special kids, in the computer lab and at the autistic table. Joe Emma coordinates the volunteer program and Carlijn Willems, living in Holland, selects and coordinates the volunteers coming from Europe.

The guesthouses + restaurant are 2 special parts of PCC. Our hostesses plus three cleaners are supporting this part of PCC. Mr. Baffo is in charge and Mrs. Jeannette van Galen supervises the maintenance of the guesthouses.

The “Araba memorial Internet café” is a small, separate department. There are 3 staffs and a cleaner employed.

6. Financial information

(Ref. Annex 1 for the 2015 financial statement)

Income Sheltered Workshop 2015

The net result of sales <u>in Ghana</u> for the Sheltered Workshop was:	Cedi 11.816
The amount received from <u>sales paid Overseas</u> was:	Cedi 17.208
= general sales (3.093) + sales to HIH foundation in Holland (14.115)	-----
So the total result of the Sheltered Workshop in 2015 was:	Cedi 29.024
<i>The Sheltered Workshop transferred to the PCC Main account:</i>	<i>Cedi 17.000</i>

Income Guesthouses and Restaurant 2015

Profit of the GH and Restaurant in Ghana in 2015 was:	Cedi 35.660
The amount received Overseas and not yet included in the profit:	Cedi 13.590

So the total result of GH and Restaurant in 2015 was:	Cedi 49.250

TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURES 2015

PCC/Hand in Hand works without government aid, so the money for running PCC and for new investments comes mainly from donations and sponsorships from outside Ghana.

INCOME

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| - Total regular Income | Cedi 385.812 |
| - Extra Income received for constructions, projects etc.
(<i>excl. 37.213, being refunds of loans and overseas payments</i>) | Cedi 140.127 |
| | ----- |

This makes a **Total Income** of Cedi: **Cedi 525.939**

EXPENDITURES

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| - The recurrent Expenditures in 2015 amounted to: | Cedi 394.795 |
| - Other Expenditures, made for building activities and other
extra budgetary projects, amounted up to:
(<i>excl. 37.213, being loans and overseas payments, all refunded</i>) | Cedi 141.791 |
| | ----- |

The all-over **Total Expenditures** were Cedi: **Cedi 536.586**

So the year ended with a small deficit of Cedi: **10.647 -/-**
(See Annex 1 for more details)

7 Acknowledgment

We are very grateful to our staff members and caregivers, to our volunteers, our many friends and to all our sponsors and benefactors. Without their great efforts, dedicated work and appreciated support we could not continue functioning as we are able to nowadays.

It is our belief that we are involved in a vision and a commitment that is larger than that of all of us together. We believe that the Spirit of God and the Peace of Christ are at the heart of it. This may also explain the joy and peace that many people, including complete strangers, experience at our premises. Therefore looking back to 2015 we can't say anything else but:

Thanks to the Almighty God, who blessed our Community for another year in a wonderful way. Amen.

Annex 1: Statement of account for the year 2015 – PCC General

Start ADB 1/1/2015: **33.383**

Income

HIH: budget + other contrib.	287.919
Guesthouses + restaurant	35.660*
Internet café	11.000
Sheltered workshop	17.000*
Lilian Fund	21.000
Local donations	9.133
Income farm	4.100

385.812

Transfer HIH for constructions	70.181
Transfer HIH for projects	20.588
Donation WG / Madamfo	21.329
Refund special loan	8.699
Part payment / donation G8	5.560
Sales old car	22.370
Overseas Payment	28.613

Total Income **563.152**Expenditures

Allowances	147.751
Feeding	105.497
Party costs	11.337
Repairs General	12.387
Repairs houses	12.145
Repairs + Insurance Cars	8.003
Electricity	22.903
Personal needs	27.343
Omo & Soap	6.901
T & T	12.471
Medical	16.576
Accountant / legal	1.000
Bank Charges +	1.111
Others	9.370

394.795

Constructions	123.728
Projects+ Outreach	18.063
Special loan	8.600
Overseas payment	28.613

Total expenditures **573.799**Balance at ADB Bank 31/12/15 **22.736**

+

Balance at GCB Bank 31/12/15 (= mainly transfers HIH) **111.464**(NB: * = part of income from payments Overseas is **not** included:

Guesthouses: Cedi 13.590
 Sheltered workshop: " 12.024)