



## Newsletter 13, October 2016

Dear friends of PCC,

It has already been half a year that we gave you an update on the ups and downs of our Community. High time for a fresh edition of our Newsletter filled with accounts of PCC much worth reading. We hope that you will do so with pleasure and interest.

### In general

We are happy and proud to tell you that PCC is still doing fine and so are all children and young adults, though some of them have fallen ill over the last period of time.

Abass has been seriously ill. However, he has eventually recuperated to a satisfactory level - much to our happiness, but he is still in the process of getting back his health.

### Fysio and Day care

Inge Maters, a physiotherapist who spent two months in PCC last year to give physio a boost, visited us again this year's May and June to give another impulse to our physio. This time her colleague Ingrid accompanied her.



*Inge, Ingrid, Marian and... Sofie*

Their visit was a great success: we can see our caregivers, who are enthusiastically putting the exercise plans into practice with the various physically disabled children, doing a great job.

Together with Inge and Ingrid also healthcare manager Marian came to PCC and she has realised an important improvement in the programme of the Day Care groups. These programmes have been rejuvenated, made more attractive and diverse. Besides, we have been given attractive and interactive new material again, which is being used in the programmes.

Obviously, we are more than happy with the help of these experts and specialists.

### Ill children



*Abass getting physiotherapy*

During the last period of time it has become clear that James is suffering from sickle cell disease, a congenital disease of the red blood cells. He has had two blood transfusions last year and is given extra medication now. Fortunately, he is doing fine at the moment.

As mentioned, Abass has been seriously ill after a life-threatening gastrointestinal disorder. Luckily, he has survived, but he was very weak and had lost a lot of weight when he came back from Techiman hospital. He could barely move an arm or leg. However, thanks to an intensive rehabilitation programme he is on the road to recovery: he is sitting upright, is talking like he used to do and he is able to use his legs a little. We hope that he will make a further and speedy recovery.

## Outreach

Last year we started our Outreach work, meant to improve the lives of the many disabled children living in the countless villages of the Nkoranza District. We are continuing this work with determination.



Not long ago a team of the representative of the Liliane Fund in Ghana, SWEB, was here. They were much impressed by the results, which have already been achieved in various villages, for example: the formation of the Parent Support Groups, the promotion of the use of anti-epileptic drugs and the improvement of the self-sufficiency of young adults via the creation of simple jobs like goatherd etc..

It is a completely different way of working than in PCC: by doing this Outreach work we can reach parents and children who would remain deprived of any form of help and support if we did not offer these facilities.

### What about out plans for next year?

In our latest Newsletter we wrote about all our plans for 2016. We would like to inform you of the progress being made.

A – Outreach – see above.

B – New donkey cart – thanks to a recent and generous gift we are able to order a new donkey cart, we have already posted the contract.

C – Renovation – all planned renovations have been completed in the mean time. PCC is looking spic and span again (as always, I should add).

D – Washing machines – thanks to a very generous gift we are able to purchase a couple of robust washing machines suitable for our Community. We are now looking for the right ones.

E – Aids for physio and mobility – in the course of the year we have bought or been given various useful aids and tools (e.g. we got a wonderful donation from Inge and Ingrid). Other aids and tools have been shipped from the Netherlands to Ghana recently.

### New info DVD

Hurray! The new DVD with recent fine and informative images of PCC, including a separate (and special!) visual report of Christmas 2015, has been completed, with many thanks to its maker Martin Klomp and his wife Corinne.

It has become a wonderful documentary with many attractive, informative and appealing images of PCC's daily life. We will make this DVD available to our sponsors and donors, which is made possible by the support of the Dutch foundation of Hand in Hand.

More about this later, so we will have to try your patience for a while longer.....!

### Caregivers Day

There are many special days in a year, but we have added another to the already existing list: Caregivers Day in PCC. It is a way of putting our caregivers into the spotlight and to thank them for their yearlong commitment to all residents of PCC.



*Happy caregivers, a very important factor for success in PCC*

The first Caregivers Day will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October. Soon more about this in one of the next Alberts Corners.

### **Elections**

2016 is an important electoral year, not only for the USA, but also for Ghana. The elections for a new president are being organized on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December. It is exciting to imagine what this will mean for Ghana and its government policy. The latter will of course also have its positive or negative influence on PCC. We will wait and see. To most of our residents its effects will not make a lot of difference. Some of them declare to be adherents of the NPP and some of the NDC, just like they are supporters of a particular football club.



*James for President*

### **Silver Jubilee 2017**

Still only a few months to go and then the year in which we will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Community will commence.

It is unbelievable and very special that in the course of 25 years such a small seed, sown in 1992, could grow into a unique and vital community inhabited by nearly 100 children and young adults, who are supported by more than 40 employees on a daily basis.

All the more reason for a festive celebration of this exceptional year and that is why we will pay special and ample attention to this Silver Jubilee at various moments during 2017.

The pinnacle of this Silver Jubilee will take place between Christmas and New Year's Eve, so more than a year from now. Preparations have already started! You are more than welcome!

### **Sponsoring**

There are still children for whom we are looking for a full or partly sponsoring. Please check our website, for instance at the Homepage.

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

### **Finally**

So far for this 13<sup>th</sup> Newsletter. We hope you are fully updated again.

About every 3 weeks you can find a new update about the weal and woe of PCC in the column "Alberts Corner" on our website:

[www.handinhandcommunity.com](http://www.handinhandcommunity.com)

**NB:** Nowadays there are also links via Facebook: (PCCHandinHandCommunity) en Twitter: (PCCHandinHand).

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

Albert van Galen

General director PCC – Hand in Hand  
[handinhandcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:handinhandcommunity@gmail.com)



*Aaron enjoying his walker*