

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

**PEACE OF CHRIST -  
HAND IN HAND COMMUNITY**

NKORANZA, GHANA



P.O. Box 120  
Nkoranza B/A  
Ghana

Email:

Website (English):

Website (Dutch):

[handinhandcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:handinhandcommunity@gmail.com)

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

[www.operationhandinhand.nl](http://www.operationhandinhand.nl)



# Hand in Hand

Community Ghana

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## **1. Summary**

The unique history of the Peace of Christ Foundation and the PCC – Hand in Hand Community continued also during 2018, the year after the wonderful Silver Jubilee!

This means that the Peace of Christ Foundation is able to run the Community in Nkoranza already for 26+ years now, mainly through contributions from sponsors and donors overseas. The input from overseas amounts up to about 80% of our annual budget.

We are proud to generate about 20% of the needed funds locally. It helps to become financially more independent. Our guesthouses are attractive for visitors and are recommended by various travel guides and agencies.

We also received a substantial amount of local donations in Ghana in 2018!

In 2018 we accepted 5 new residents came to PCC and 1 young adult came as a new worker to the Sheltered Workshop. Unfortunately 3 residents and 1 caregiver passed away during the year, while 2 youngsters stopped coming to the Sheltered Workshop.

By the end of 2018 96 children and young adults were living in the Community, 78 living permanently in our Community, while 18 young adults, coming from outside PCC, are attached to the Sheltered Workshop, spending about 10 months per year in PCC.

During the year we were able to further improve on the quality of our Physiotherapy and Day Care due to the support of experts from Holland.

We continued the PCC Outreach Program, aimed to inform, advise and support parents of children with intellectual disabilities in the many villages of Nkoranza North and South District and to improve the social conditions of many disabled children.

Nowadays about 50 persons are members of our Ghanaian staff with caregivers and other workers.

We also provide an interesting working place for average 2-3 volunteers at a time, mainly from Europe, who come to Ghana for at least 3 months to assist PCC in caring for our children, mostly by participating in the Special Attention programme.

Since 2010 the Governing Board of PCC has the same 4 members: Dr Albert van Galen, general director, Mr Samuel Kwame Baffo, project director, Mr Emmanuel Daasebre Amponsah, care director and Mrs Jeannette van Galen - Wattel, education director and supervisor of the sheltered workshop.

What started in 1992 as a small seed has grown over the years into a wonderful place full of peace, love and care for many intellectually and multiple disabled and abandoned children. We are happy that during the whole of 2018 our children could 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 wonderful way in 2018, 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 2018**

### General

The year 2018 was a year with many wonderful ups, but also some serious downs for PCC, as we lost 3 residents and 1 caregiver during the year.

In general though we were happy with the good development of PCC. We were able to offer a safe home, a loving environment as well as good care to the almost 100 PCC residents and workshop children.

The atmosphere in PCC is good and almost all children are smiling most of the time and healthy, of course depending on their character, disability and nature.

### Residents

In general 2018 was a good and pleasant year for most of our residents, but all of us were very sad when 3 of our residents passed away during the year. We lost Lisa, Abass and Amma Ghana, while we were also saddened by the unexpected death of one of our young and good female caregivers, Hagar Kwasi. May they all rest in eternal and perfect peace.

In 2018 one child, David, needed orthopaedic surgery for his club foot, with the aim to enable him to walk better in the future. His walking has already much improved!



*William of Orange*

In total 5 new children came to PCC. One came in June, *William of Orange* and 4 others came in October from Kumasi Children's Home: Blessing, Jonathan, Rachel and Tobias (*see their picture on page 7*).

We also welcomed Portia, a young adult girl from Sunyani, as new worker in the sheltered workshop.

And PCC provided Day Care to a malnourished and disabled girl called Maame Serwaa for a major part of 2018.

By the end of 2018 PCC cares for a total number of **96** children: 78 are permanent residents, while 18 young adults are participating in the sheltered workshop, most of them living for 9 to 10 months per year in the boys- or girls dormitory.

Three young adults from the workshop, Abigail, Kofi Baidu and Yaw Johnson, will be reunited with their families in January 2019 and reintegrated in their own village with support of our Livelihood Outreach Programme.

It remains 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 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 2018 we continued giving special attention to the quality of the food given to the children three times daily. We still try 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 2018

Quite a lot of important developments in 2018 are worth mentioning:

- The last activity of our Silver Jubilee took place in January 2018. A festive afternoon with music and dance was organized in cooperation with a group of socially engaged youth from Accra called Sronko Diaries. They support a truly inclusive society in Ghana. We much approve of and hope for many more signs of change in Ghanaian society concerning the ideas about and attitude towards people with special needs!
- The quality of the physiotherapy for our physically disabled children improved greatly since 2015 after the first visit of senior physiotherapy expert, Inge Maters. It is most fortunate that PCC was able to welcome Inge for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in October 2018 again as she is our outstanding expert on physiotherapy, orthopaedic shoes and wheelchairs.
- Together with Inge PCC was also very happy to welcome Marian Schenk for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in PCC. Marian is our very capable expert on Day care and helped us to improve upon the quality of all Day Care activities once again!

The visit of both Inge and Marian gave a great impulse and a lot of new energy to our Community and its caregivers. It is a privilege to have such good friends and experts in our PCC family.

- The year's best event in PCC was undoubtedly the visit of Circus School Hannes and Co of Anne Kuipers in May (*see pictures of the Circus of David, on the front pages and on page 10 of this Annual Report*).

The Circus came to PCC for a weekend to teach the children many wonderful acts,



*David with a spinning Chinese plate*

e.g. waving brightly coloured and swirling cloths, turning rings, continuously spinning Chinese plates on sticks, balancing on the cord, throwing colourful balls, turning twinned wheels, juggling and spinning the balance stick and last but not least interactive acrobatics.

The whole Community was thrilled to bits. The Circus weekend was a great success and put a wide smile on many residents' faces, who were of course very proud of their own performances in the circus!

- The second visit of our Care Director Joe Emma to Europe (Holland and Germany) in June and July 2018 was a great success. Except for meetings with our Support foundations Hand in Hand (in Holland) and Ananse (in Germany) he also received a weeklong special training by our two experts Inge and Marian.
- In September 2018 the chairman of the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation, Mr Wim van Minnen came to PCC. He has been chairman of HIH for 4 years already but had never visited Ghana and PCC before. It was great to receive him in PCC, enabling him to meet our Community as well as observe the Outreach Program (*see picture under Chapter 5 – Outreach*)

During his visit relations between PCC and HIH have been consolidated more by the signing of a new agreement in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding.

- During the year 2018 we started to renew some of the old mattresses in the rooms and we also got 24 new cupboards for all rooms. And a program to paint all PCC buildings inside and outside started in 2018 and will be continued in 2019.
- During the year we constructed some new extra toilets for our residents, while we were also able to continue to do some minor repairs and a few renovations in various houses at the compound. One renovation was needed after we faced a fire in one of the houses due to a short circuit. The general condition of most houses in PCC is quite OK.
- Various minor projects were also completed with the help of many donors and supporters from all over the world. It enabled us among others to buy a new sound system for PCC, to get new chairs and construct another swing in the playground. Great and wonderful, the continuous support of so many people to PCC over the years!

### Caregivers

During the year 2018 7 new Ghanaian caregivers came to join our team, to replace some old caregivers who left PCC during the year.

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 we have 32 caregivers (2017: 32), caring for our 78 young permanent residents as well as for 18 semi-permanent young adults in the sheltered workshop and 1 child in Day Care.



In October 2018 we organised for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time a special Caregivers Day in PCC, as a sign of our appreciation for the good work done by our caregivers in caring for all PCC children during the year. It was a wonderful day and a great success!

*Happy caregivers, an important key factor for success in PCC*

### Agreement with the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation

In 2017 + 2018 the Board of PCC renewed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation. The MoU was first signed in 2012.

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 also during 2018 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 received support from the English charitable support organisation Hand in Hand UK as well as from the German support organisation Ananse.

### Volunteers and Helping Guests

In 2018 we had the very appreciated support of various volunteers, mainly coming from Holland and Germany, but one also came from far away Canada, while some Special Needs students from Winneba University came to PCC and Outreach for an internship.

Most volunteers from abroad come to PCC for a period of about 3 – 6 months.

### Visitors

We were happy to welcome quite some visitors to our Community during 2018. They stayed in our Guesthouses, some for one day, others much longer. Almost without exception 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!

### **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, 26 years later, our caregivers form a loving and stable team and in general we have no problems in finding new caregivers anymore!

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 for

abandoned children like these that PCC offers a warm and loving home and started the Outreach Program some years ago.



Most of the children in PCC came on a transfer from 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 sometimes also accept children on request of the local or regional Social Welfare, other orphanages and hospitals from all over Ghana.

*New to PCC: Rachel, Blessing, Tobias, Jonathan*

## 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.

Our special Summer School started in 2010 and is active the whole year for some groups of our children, guided by two caregivers who received a special in-service training.

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.



*Gabriel and his diabolo, a Circus activity*

The caregivers also have general assignments in the group, such as running daycare, cooking, autism room, 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.

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 2018

There are several divisions in the sheltered workshop and are all functioning very well under Mr. Emmanuel Boyan, the workshop coordinator who combines two functions in PCC as he is also 1 of the 2 workers of the Outreach Program.

### 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.

### Weaving Department

In the Weaving Hall young adults 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 do 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 2018, there were 10 children gathering every day around 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. PCC Outreach Project**

In 2015 PCC started with a 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 Ghana as residents in PCC, so we feel it's very important that we are able to advise, support and direct the parents well when they are trying to cope with the difficult situation at home.

The aim of the Outreach Program is to support children living with intellectual disabilities by using a community based approach. We also try to create public awareness about the rights of the children and change negative perceptions that people might have. Some important activities are: advocacy via FM radio and during visits to the villages, formation of Parent Support Groups, starting Day Care Centers in the villages, giving anti-epileptic drugs or support children via the livelihood program to become economically more independent.

In 2018 we were happy to open another Day Care Centre in the District, in Donkro Nkwanta, supported by the elders of the village, the District Assemblée representative and the parents.

Other important aspects are the firm grow in the Livelihood project as well as helping in establishing more and more active Parent Support Groups in various villages.



*Gabriel and Wim van Minnen on the new Motorbike*

We are very fortunate to have been able to purchase a *powerful motorbike* for Outreach made possible by a generous donation from Ananse, our friends in Germany. So now we can even reach the most distant villages in the Nkoranza North and South Districts.

The Outreach Project publishes its own Annual Report 2018.

Interested persons can receive a digital copy on request by sending just an email to: [handinhandcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:handinhandcommunity@gmail.com).

## 6. About organization, staff and management

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



*PCC Board*

*Dr. Albert Van Galen, chairman and General Director,  
Mr. Samuel Baffo, Project Director,  
Mr. Emma Daasebre Amponsah, Care Director  
and  
Mrs. Jeannette van Galen, Education Director + supervisor of the workshop.*

Nowadays the PCC Board is supported by 2 Ghanaian Advisory Persons, Mrs. Gifty Ama Asante (working at MOH, Accra) and Mr. Daniel Opoku (auditor in Accra).

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 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.

Outreach has two well trained workers, Mr. Gabriel Nkpawise as well as Mr. Emma Boyan (also responsible for the Sheltered Workshop).

The guesthouses + restaurant are 2 special parts of PCC. Our hostesses plus three cleaners are supporting this part of PCC.

The "Araba memorial Internet café" is a small, separate PCC department.



*Joe Emma is trained to become a Circus director*

## 7. Financial information

(Ref. Annex 1 for the 2018 financial statement)

### Income Sheltered Workshop 2018

The net result of sales <u>in Ghana</u> for the Sheltered Workshop:	Cedi 13.729
The amount of <u>sales in Ghana, but paid Overseas</u> :	Cedi 12.501
= sales to <i>HIH foundation in Holland (9.655) + other sales (2.846)</i>	-----
So the total result of the Sheltered Workshop in 2018 is:	Cedi <b>26.230</b>

### Income Guesthouses and Restaurant 2018

Profit of the GH and Restaurant <u>in Ghana</u> in 2018:	Cedi 66.837
The amount <u>paid Overseas</u> and included in the profit:	Cedi 24.111
So the total result of GH plus Restaurant in 2018 is:	----- <b>Cedi 90.948</b>

## TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURES 2018

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 538.578 |
| - Extra Income received for constructions, projects etc. | Cedi 73.105  |
|  | ----- +      |

This makes a **Total Income** of Cedi: Cedi **611.683**

### **EXPENDITURES**

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| - The recurrent Expenditures in 2018 amounted up to:   | Cedi 632.366 |
| - Other Expenditures, mainly for Building activities<br>and other extra-budgetary projects were up to: | Cedi 78.609  |
|  | ----- +      |

So the **Total Expenditures** were Cedi: Cedi **710.975**

The year 2018 ended with a Total Balance ( <u>ADB + GCB</u> ) of	Cedi 230.813
and started with an Opening Balance ( <u>ADB + GCB</u> ) of	Cedi 200.566
	----- -/-

that means that PCC was able to create a small **surplus** in 2018: Cedi **30.247**  
(See Annex 1 for more details)

## **8 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 already doing for 26+ years!

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 2018 we can't say anything else but:

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

Annex 1: Financial statement PCC after 12 months 2018

Start: ADB 1/1/2018: **182.751**  
 (+ GCB 1/1/2018: **17.815)**

Income

HIH: budget	317.273	
Extra donations via HIH	2.893	
Extra donation for Outreach	19.754	
Extra input from GCB account	11.621	
Guesthouses + restaurant	90.948	
Internet café	15.000	
Lilian Fund	15.000	
Sheltered workshop	26.230	
Local donations	27.730	(NB: + 1.598 on GCB account)
Income farm	9.565	
Other income	2.564	

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**538.578**

HIH for constructions	41.524	
HIH for projects	23.978	
Overseas payment	6.203	
Refund special loan	1.400	

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**TOTAL INCOME 611.683**

Expenditures

Allowances	224.705	
Feeding	168.684	
Gas	10.432	
Party costs	14.836	
Repairs General + Houses	39.485	
Repairs + Insur. Cars	9.902	
Electricity	31.049	
Personal needs	29.538	
Omo & Soap	10.514	
T & T	16.497	
Medical	33.890	
Accountant / legal	1.560	
Bank Charges +	825	
Others	26.410	
Outreach	14.039	

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**632.366**

Constructions	41.498	
Projects	26.641	
Overseas payment	6.170	
Special loan etc.	4.300	

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**TOTAL EXPENDITURES 710.975**

Balance at ADB Bank 31/12/18: **83.459**  
 ( + Balance at GCB Bank 31/12/18: **147.354)**