

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

**PEACE OF CHRIST -**

**HAND IN HAND COMMUNITY**

NKORANZA, GHANA

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## 1. Summary

The unique history of the Peace of Christ Foundation and the PCC – Hand in Hand Community went on very well during the year 2019.

This means that the Peace of Christ Foundation is able to run the Community in Nkoranza already for 27 years, mainly through contributions from sponsors and donors overseas. The input from donations from Overseas contributes to 80% of our annual budget. But we are very proud to generate about 20% of the needed funds locally. It helps to be financially less dependent. Our guesthouses are apparently very attractive for visitors and recommended by various travel guides and agencies, while many guests are also interested in buying some nice products from our Sheltered Workshop.

At the end of the year 97 children and young adults are living in the Community, 80 of them permanently, while 16 young adults - still having family - are active in the Sheltered Workshop and 1 child is receiving daycare in PCC.

In 2019 we accepted 3 new resident in PCC, while 5 young adults came as new workers to the Sheltered Workshop.

During the year we sadly lost 2 of our residents, while Mr. Bob Maram, former Board member and husband of Mrs. Ineke Bosman, passed away in Holland.

A custom-made PCC Training Programme for new caregivers was introduced during 2019, an important step forward considering the quality of care.

In 2019 we continued the PCC Outreach Programme, aimed to inform, advise and support children with intellectual disabilities and their parents in the many villages of Nkoranza North and South District and to improve the social conditions of many disabled children.

Nowadays about 50 workers are members of our Ghanaian staff with 33 caregivers and 17 others and they are all contributing to the functioning properly of the Community and the creation of a safe, loving and caring environment for our residents. We also provided an interesting working place for some volunteers from Europe in 2019. They mainly concentrated on the 1-to-1 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 also during the year 2019 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 in 2019 as well as to all sponsors, donors, workers and volunteers who supported us in a wonderful way, 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 2019**

### General

The year 2019 was overall a good year for our Community, though we were also confronted with the sad loss of 2 of our residents, Peace and Lazarus. Both stayed in PCC for as much as 19 years!

In general though we have been very happy with the good atmosphere and the nice developments in PCC. During the whole year we were able to offer good care, a safe home and a loving environment to the nearly 100 PCC residents and workshop children. Almost all children seem to appreciate living in PCC, looking to their smiles. Most of them are happy and healthy, of course depending on their character, disability and nature.

### Residents

The year 2019 was a good and pleasant year for most of our residents, but we regret the loss of two of our long-term residents, Peace and Lazarus. Both of them passed away in the early part of the year.

May the Almighty God give them eternal rest in perfect peace.



*Sue*

In October 2 new residents from Kumasi Children's Home came to PCC.

They are Marc Hope (his picture is on page 11) and Sue.

And we also welcomed Dora as a new resident, she is a young adult girl from Nkoranza, now working in the sewing hall.

We happily accepted 5 young adults as new workers for the Sheltered Workshop. They are Jonathan, Peter, Vera, Lizzy and Diana.

By the end of 2019 PCC was caring for a total number of **97** children: 80 are permanent residents, 1 child is receiving daycare and 16 young adults are active in the sheltered workshop, most of them are living here in the boys- or girls dormitory for 9 - 10 months annually.

In January 2019 3 young adults from the workshop, Abigail, Kofi Baidu and Yaw Johnson, were reunited with their families and reintegrated in their own village with support of our Outreach Livelihood Programme. Two others stopped coming to the Sheltered Workshop.

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, PCC is 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 2019 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 2019

Quite a lot of important developments in 2019 are worth mentioning:

- A very important new development in 2019 was the introduction of the PCC Training Programme for caregivers. Sue Hatton, our autism expert from the UK who is also the editor-in-chief of the Training Programme, came to PCC in July for the official introduction of Step 1 and 2 of the Programme and to give valuable instructions to the 2 mentors (= 2 experienced caregivers). After completing each Step + passing an interview with Joe Emma new caregivers will receive a special Certificate!
- The quality of the physiotherapeutic care for our physically disabled children improved a lot since the 1<sup>st</sup> visit of our physio expert Inge Maters in 2015. We were able to welcome Inge in July 2019 again and were very happy as she is our outstanding senior expert for physiotherapy, orthopaedic shoes and wheelchairs.

It is a privilege to have such good experts and friends like Sue and Inge in our PCC family.



*Everyone enjoying the trip to Kintampo Falls*

- In 2019 all 4 PCC Board members celebrated a special Jubilee. Samuel Baffo celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of working in PCC, Joe Emma his 20<sup>th</sup> and Jeannette and Albert their 10<sup>th</sup>! All together 65 years of contributions to the smooth running of our Community,
- The Board Jubilees were celebrated in various ways. One of the highlights was a visit of the whole Community to Kintampo Falls in August.

- In July 2019 the chairman of the German Ananse foundation, Mr Rüdiger Gailing, and one of the other Ananse Board members, Mrs Carola Meyer – Bel Hadj Fredj, came to PCC. Ananse is very supportive for PCC in general and for the PCC Outreach Programme in particular (*see picture under Chapter 5 – Outreach*).
- In the initial stage of 2019 we made serious efforts to repair most pathways on the PCC compound and a programme to paint all PCC buildings both inside and outside started in 2018 and was continued in 2019.
- In March 2019 we regretted the death of Mr. Bob Maram, a former PCC Board member between 1997 and 2009. He was the husband of Dr. Ineke Bosman, the founder of PCC. Bob Maram died in The Hague, Holland at the age of 87.
- Various minor projects could be completed with the financial help of many donors and supporters from all over the world. It enabled us among others to pay for some expensive but necessary repairs for four laundry machines, a stove and the lawn mower. It also helped us to buy other essential materials and equipment like a new borehole pump, a new TV set, various home-used PC's and last but not least a very appreciated fufu machine. After all we are in Ghana where everyone loves fufu!

### Caregivers

During 2019 8 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 2019 there are 33 caregivers (2018: 32) who are caring for our 80 young permanent residents as well as for 16 semi-permanent young adults in the sheltered workshop and 1 child in daycare.



In October 2019 we organised a special Caregivers Day in PCC for the 4<sup>th</sup> time, 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 once again a great success, including the introduction of a new activity: the lucky dip! Everybody enjoyed.

*Happy caregivers, a key factor for success in PCC*

### Agreement with the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation

In 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!

Already for many years PCC receives the major part of its foreign donations for running PCC through the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation. The Dutch foundation also gets financial support from the English charitable support organisation Hand in Hand UK as well as from the German support organisation Ananse.

### Visitors

We were happy to welcome quite some visitors to our Community during 2019. 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, obviously the Spirit of PCC is touching the heart of many visitors too!

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

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.



*Two PCC sisters: Blessing and Miriam*

Most of the children came once on transfer to PCC from a Governmental Children's Home, either in Accra or Kumasi.

That is where most abandoned foundlings are brought to if they are lucky enough to survive. Apart from that we sometimes accept new children on request of the local or regional Department of Social Welfare, or private orphanages and even hospitals from all over Ghana.

## **History**

Our community started in 1992 through an initiative of four health-professionals, three 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. 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 go to their house. At 8 PM all are quiet and go asleep.

#### **4. PCC Sheltered Workshop Annual Report 2019**

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 one of the two PCC experts for 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.

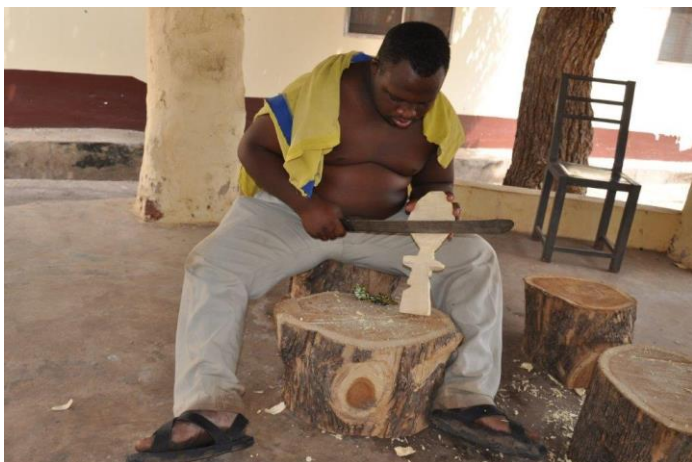
##### Autism Table

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 2019, 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.



*Ayuba*

Woodcarving is a new PCC activity in 2019, it is done by our young adults, like *Ayuba*, who were temporary instructed by a senior master-woodcarver from Kumasi.



## 5. PCC Outreach Project

In 2015 PCC started with the Outreach Programme in the Nkoranza Districts to uplift the social conditions for many children with intellectual or multiple disabilities and epilepsy, living in the numerous villages of the Districts. PCC is not able to accept all intellectually disabled children from Ghana as residents, so we feel it's important that we are able to advise and support parents when they try to cope with the difficult situation at home.

The aim of the Outreach Programme 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.



*Gabriel and Rüdiger from Ananse on the Motorbike*

A very important target for Outreach is trying to establish Daycare Centres in the District, e.g. in Donkro Nkwanta and Kyeradeso, well supported by the elders of the villages, the District Assembly and the parents.

The next major goal is the opening of a Day Care Centre in Nkoranza in 2020.

Other important aspects were the evaluation of the Livelihood project and supporting various active Parent Support Groups in some of the villages.

The Outreach Project publishes its own Annual Report 2019.

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:



*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 also supported by 2 Ghanaian Advisory Persons,  
*Mrs. Gifty Ama Asante* (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 2 well trained workers, Mr. Gabriel Nkpawiasse as well as Mr. Emma Boyan (who is 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.



*Dela trying his best*

Every Sunday afternoon the caregivers organise various nice activities and small competitions with all children, like running and filling buckets with water or a tin can alley.

## **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 already doing for 27 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 2019 we can't say anything else but:

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

*As people say in Ghana: Onyame Bekyere = God will provide!*

## 8. Financial information

(Ref. Annex 1 for the 2019 financial statement)

### Income Sheltered Workshop 2019

The net result of sales <u>in Ghana</u> for the Sheltered Workshop:	Cedi	12.108
The amount of <u>sales in Ghana, but paid Overseas</u> :	Cedi	25.121
= sales to HIH foundation in Holland (17.006) + other sales (8.115)		
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So the total result of the Sheltered Workshop in 2019 is:	Cedi	<b>37.229</b>

### Income Guesthouses and Restaurant 2019

Profit of the GH and Restaurant <u>in Ghana</u> in 2019:	Cedi	53.006
The amount <u>paid Overseas</u> :	Cedi	63.626
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So the total result of GH plus Restaurant in 2019 is:	<b>Cedi</b>	<b>126.632</b>

## TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURES 2019

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	686.157
- Extra Income received for constructions, projects etc.	Cedi	32.831
----- +		
This makes a <b><u>Total Income</u></b> of Cedi:	Cedi	<b>718.988</b>

### **EXPENDITURES**

- The recurrent Expenditures in 2019 amounted up to:	Cedi	693.910
- Other Expenditures, mainly for Building activities and other extra-budgetary projects were up to:	Cedi	77.700
----- +		
So the <b><u>Total Expenditures</u></b> were Cedi:	Cedi	<b>771.610</b>

The year 2019 ended with a Total Balance ( <u>ADB + GCB</u> ) of	Cedi	257.689
and started with an Opening Balance ( <u>ADB + GCB</u> ) of	Cedi	230.813
----- -/-		
that means that PCC was able to create a small <b><u>surplus</u></b> in 2019:	Cedi	<b>26.874</b>



Marc Hope



Annex 1: Financial statement PCC after 12 months 2019

Balance at ADB Bank 01/01/19:		<b>83.459</b>
+ Balance at GCB Bank 01/01/19:	<b>147.354</b>	

Income

HIH: budget	473.410
Extra donations via HIH	10.664
Extra donation for Outreach	20.234
Guesthouses + restaurant	116.632
Internet café	5.700
Sheltered workshop	37.229
Local donations	14.013
Income farm	3.740
Other income	4.535

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**686.157**

HIH for constructions	5.508
HIH for projects	12.938
Overseas payment	8.085
Refund special loan	6.300

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**TOTAL INCOME 718.988**

Expenditures

Allowances	270.676
Feeding	145.295
Gas + charcoal	17.650
Party costs	20.288
Repairs General + Houses	54.978
Repairs + Insurance Cars	8.089
Electricity	27.110
Personal needs	37.905
Omo & Soap	11.944
T & T	16.227
Medical	32.560
Accountant / legal	2.259
Bank Charges	1.320
Unforeseen / money lost	4.700
Others	29.587
Outreach	13.322

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**693.910**

Constructions	45.081
Projects	16.232
Overseas payment	6.622
Special loans, donations	9.765

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**TOTAL EXPENDITURES 771.610**

Balance at ADB Bank 31/12/19:		<b>30.837</b>
+ Balance at GCB Bank 31/12/19:	<b>226.852</b>	