



Newsletter 19, November 2019

Dear friends,

Here you are: the 19th Newsletter full of interesting, happy, important (sometimes less important...) news about PCC - Hand in Hand Community.

We hope you will enjoy reading it and we are very pleased that we continue to have so many loyal readers who are interested in the ups and downs of our Community.

We are very grateful for this!

PCC educational programme for caregivers

One of the most important developments of the past period is the introduction of a special educational programme for new caregivers in PCC. This unique programme has been developed by our expert on autism, *Sue Hatton* from England, and various other experts who also had an important input on this programme. The programme is available digitally as well as on paper.

The programme consists of different modules ("steps") and is made to measure to fit PCC care program. After each successfully completed step the caregiver will receive a special certificate!



The official start of this programme took place during Sue Hatton's visit to PCC in July. The programme remains under construction for the time being.

In the mean time 8 caregivers have received their first certificates after their final interviews with Joe Emma. We are convinced of the fact that the quality of healthcare in PCC will benefit from this programme. And we are much obliged to Sue Hatton for this.

Kintampo

Sometimes it seems that there is always something to celebrate in PCC...! This year Samuel Baffo is celebrating his 25th anniversary in PCC, Joe Emma his 20th and both Jeannette and I our 10th anniversary, so all four members of the PCC Board! Reason enough for a fabulous party!



That is why we took all residents and caregivers of PCC on a special outing to the *Kintampo waterfalls*.

The flush of excitement caused by just the simple announcement of a day trip to Kintampo is hard to describe. First, of course, there were the children: their hearts were visibly pounding with expectation.

But such an outing is also a very special occasion for many caregivers, which was clearly apparent from the day itself.

For more stories and pictures of a day at Kintampo have a look at Albert's Corner of the 23rd of September on our website:

<https://operationhandinhand.nl/?p=6462>

Physiotherapy

It is difficult to believe the progress we have made during the past 4 years in the field of physiotherapy in PCC thanks to the wonderful help and expertise of *Inge Maters*.

She and her family stayed here for weeks in July and August of this year, for the 4th time in a row!

Amongst the many great improvements there are not only physiotherapeutic exercises but also wheelchairs (including advice on the good position of the children in those wheelchairs), the fitting of the right orthopaedic shoes and braces, the formation of a fitness group, the drawing up of clear instructions for the treatments of various children and so on, it is physiotherapy in its broadest sense.

Besides, this year about 10 children who are living outside our compound were able to benefit from Inge's expertise. They were nearly all children who have come to us via the Outreach programme.



For more information and pictures of Inge's unique work in PCC have a look at Albert's Corner of September 1st on our website:

<https://operationhandinhand.nl/?p=6438>

Caregivers Day

It has become a yearly custom in the mean time: in October we like to express our great esteem for the dedication and commitment of our caregivers by organizing Caregivers Day especially for them.



Also this year the 4th Caregivers Day was a fabulous party, not only for caregivers but also for the children: there were soccer matches, all sorts of games and of course there was good food!

The best part – “Caregivers Only” - was reserved for the evening when there was music, dancing, a real lucky dip and all sorts of performances by caregivers for caregivers.

To our great surprise the PCC Board was presented with a wonderful gift by the caregivers namely a special Citation: a certificate in honour of the four Board members who are celebrating their different jubilees in 2019. We were very pleased and we feel much supported in our work!

Outreach

Our Outreach work is still going strong. At the moment our team is concentrating on the development and maintaining of the Day Care centres in 3 towns in our District namely Donkro Nkwanta, Kyeradeso and Nkoranza town.

It has become apparent from practice that it is not an easy task to motivate parents and village elders to put money and much energy in such small centres for special needs children in their own families and/or towns.

It will require a long time effort, fortunately we are still progressing though step by (little) step.

New residents

Much to our happiness we were able to welcome 3 new residents in PCC last October!

It is always a pleasure to observe how new children enter our Community and how they experience the great change in their lives but also how soon and easy the other residents and our caregivers close them into their hearts.

The first new resident was *Dora*, an about 20-year-old young woman, who is only mildly intellectually disabled but also suffering from epilepsy. She is from Nkoranza and she had started working at the sheltered workshop only a few months before, but because of her difficult social circumstances (her parents passed away and her brothers and sister are addicted to alcohol and cannabis) it was not safe for her to live at home any longer: she was beaten up by her brother several times.

Shortly after Dora's arrival we welcomed 2 new children from Kumasi Children's Home: a *cute little boy of about 5 years* old, who cannot speak but who luckily understands a lot and a girl, aged about 8, who is moderately intellectually disabled and suffering from epilepsy. Both children show signs from the autistic spectrum.



Happy in his new home!

More about their arrival and first period in PCC and about the beautiful names they got as new residents of PCC in the next Albert's Corner, which will be launched on our website at the end of November.

Interested in colourful Kente fabric?

For years our young adult residents have been weaving the most wonderful Ghanaian Kente fabric on the weaving looms in our sheltered workshop. They have done so with great diligence and effort, which has resulted in a surplus of this colourful fabric.

We would like to sell part of it for a reasonable price. Have a look at the pictures below. There are different patterns and meters of this colourful fabric, which is about 15 to 40 cm wide.



Interested?! Send a message to the following address:

handinhandcommunity@gmail.com

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 sponsoring administrator Nieske. Please mail to:

sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl or handinhandpcc@gmail.com

Finally

So far for this Newsletter. We hope you are now fully updated again.

Every month you can find a new update about the weal and woe of PCC in the column "Albert's Corner" on our website: www.handinhandcommunity.com

Cordial greetings from everyone at PCC!

Albert van Galen,
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