

# 2019

PEACE OF CHRIST  
FOUNDATION  
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BOYAN



## [ANNUAL REPORT (OUTREACH)]

**The outreach project is a subsidiary project under the Peace of Christ Foundation/ community (PCC). It was started in May, 2015 as a sequel to the PCC resource center for advice and support. The aim of the project is to identify, register and support children living with intellectual disabilities in communities within the Nkoranza South and North districts using community based approaches. It is also to create public awareness about the rights of the children and change negative perceptions people have about persons with intellectual disabilities using multi-faceted and multi-disciplinary approaches. The overall objective is to improve the social conditions of children with intellectual disabilities through advocacy, awareness creation and collaboration building. The specific objectives are: a. To activate community members to accept and respect the rights of children with intellectual disabilities b. To erase the negative perceptions people have about intellectual disability c. To encourage community members and parents to take responsibility for their children with intellectual disabilities d. To form parents supports groups and empower them to take good care of their children with intellectual disabilities e. To undertake small scale livelihood projects for young adults with intellectual disabilities. f. To advocate for the inclusion of issues concerning children with intellectual disabilities in policy decisions**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report gives account of all the activities undertaken by the outreach team throughout the year 2019. It is a summary of all the monthly reports for the year. Included in the report are comparative graphs indicating progress or otherwise of some critical interventions by comparing 2018 and 2019. The report however, does not include the annual financial statement as standard practice requires. This is because outreach is a subsidiary of the Peace of Christ Hand in Hand Foundation and all financial reporting are done by the management of the mother organization.

The thematic areas discussed in this report include the following:

- Home visits
- Antiepileptic drugs support
- Livelihood support
- Advocacy and awareness
- Daycare centers
- Parents support groups activities
- Referral for physiotherapy and surgery
- Inclusive education workshop
- New identification
- A monitoring visit by Donors
- Activities of interns
- Challenges
- Forecast for 2020

The following salient points are contained in this report.

- An average of 28 families per month was visited as part of our home visits.
- Two parents support groups were assisted to undertake some basic economic activities.
- “We ring the bell” was celebrated as part of our resolve to promote inclusive education
- A workshop on inclusive education was organized for teachers and other stakeholders in education.
- 7800 tablets of antiepileptic drugs were distributed to beneficiaries from poor household
- A two member team of our donors from the Ananse Foundation- Germany visit us to monitor the progress of work.
- Five (5) children were referred to see Inge for expert advice and prescription of appropriate exercises and assistive devices.
- Thirteen (13) wheelchairs were procured from Joni & Friends of which four were donated to some persons living with physical disabilities.

The major challenge the team faced in the year under review was the lack of cooperation of some parents in working together as a group for the collective interest of their children with disabilities. Some parents are very individualistic and turn to make personal demands on the outreach team. Another equally troubling challenge was the astronomical increases of fuel prices at the pump in the course of the year. This affected our budgeted funds for fuel.

In 2020, the outreach team will place more emphasis on public education in and around Dromankese. This is to ensure attitudinal change from their deep-rooted negative perceptions towards persons born with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We will follow through with our annual plan and budget for the year 2020.

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## HOME VISITS

Figure 0 Greetje at Nkwanta daycare center



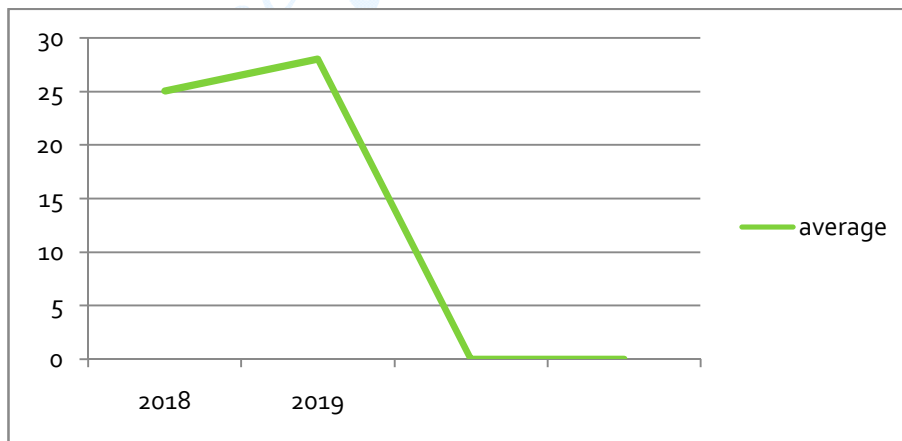
Home visits form a central part of our work as the outreach team. We visit clients in their homes as a follow-up strategy to find out the state of affairs. This enables us to appreciate the effectiveness of our interventions or otherwise. We come into direct contact with clients and their families during such moments.

In the year under review, the team visited an average of 28 families in a month. This represents a six percentage increase (6%) over the 2018 average of

25 families visited.

We also had the privilege of visiting some of our clients with Mrs. Nieske Van der Meer and Mrs. Greetje Knetsh from the Netherlands during the year under review. We went with them to our daycare center at Donkro Nkwanta as well as some of our clients in mainstream schools in the Nkoranza South district. The villages visited aside Donkro Nkwanta, were Banofour, Koforidua and Asunkwa Beposo. They had the chance to interact with parents, community opinion leaders as well as school authorities.

Figure 1 Average number of homes visited per month





## PSHGS ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT

Figure 2 PSHG soap making



Figure 3 PSHG group picture



Parents play a very central role in the care and general wellbeing of the child with intellectual or developmental disability. As such, the outreach team plans every intervention with the consent and active involvement of parents especially mothers. To sustain the interest of parents and to enable them share ideas about best practices in caring

for children with IDD, we have over the years promoted and supported the formation of Parents Support Help Groups (PSHGs) in our operational area.

In the year under review, several meetings were held with the groups in Nkoranza, Nkwanta and Asunkwa Beposo. We supported the groups at Nkoranza and Nkwanta to go into basic economic activities. The group in Nkoranza chose soap making whilst the one at Nkwanta went into goats rearing.

These economic activities are primarily aimed at sustaining group cohesion and interest. The idea is not for profit making though they is always the need

to break even.

Even though most parents exhibit commitment towards the group activities, some are nevertheless individualistic and turn to make personal demands on the outreach team.

It is however worth stating that notwithstanding the challenge stated above, the activities of the Parents Support Help Groups have served as a catalyst of getting other parents to boldly show up their children with disabilities. It also impacted parent's acceptability and responsibility towards the children

## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Public education and awareness is very crucial in shaping public opinion and perception towards persons living with disabilities. The outreach team has therefore used various mediums during the year under review to educate the public on issues concerning children with IDD and their families.

Figure 4 Student intern on radio



Figure 5 ring the bell 2019



On the 13<sup>th</sup> march, 2019 the outreach Peace of Christ Community together with other nongovernmental organizations worldwide observed "Ring the bell" program to create awareness about children living with disabilities and other minority orientations who have been denied access to education across the globe. It is noticed that nine out of ten children globally are not in school due to their disabilities.

The outreach PCC celebrated this day with 4 basic and Junior High schools within the Nkoranza south municipality at Donkro Nkwarta. We engaged one local radio station (Fabia FM) to create the awareness to the general public. The theme for the celebration was "all children are welcome to school". This is because every child has the right to be in school irrespective of the child's conditions. The team provided some toffee for the students and pens for the teachers. Children from our daycare center were also part of the celebrations. This 2019 celebration recorded large numbers of pupils and teachers as compared to previous years.

Besides the ring the bell, the outreach team together with students on internship did public education in hospitals and on local radio stations.

## NEW IDENTIFICATIONS

*Figure 6 Gabriel holding Christabel*



In the year under review, the outreach team made a total of four (4) new identifications. They are Linda, Jones, Christabel and Collins. These children were identified with the support of our students on internship. Varied interventions were put in place by the team to support the children.

The most outstanding case was that of

Linda.

Linda was born with spinal bifida in a small farming community in the Nkoranza North District. She developed gapping pressure sores. Linda lost her mother in the course of the year and therefore the father sought to find a home for her to be properly cared for. Though the management could not grant that wish, we have nevertheless been supporting her in terms of dressing materials, diapers, clothes and other necessities. We also tried to facilitate her into the mainstream schools in her village. But that met a stiff resistance from members of the community who threatened to withdraw their children from the school.

Linda lives a very solitary life because of the negative perception the community holds about her. It was therefore a great joy to her and the father when management of PCC invited them over to celebrate Christmas and New Year in our Community.

*Figure 7 Linda in wheelchair*





## MONITORING VISIT WITH DONORS

*Figure 9 Rudiger on motor with Gabriel*

In the year under review, the Peace of Christ Foundation hosted a two member team of our donors from the Ananse Foundation- Germany. The team aside having official assignment with our mother organization, also made monitoring visits to some selected villages to find out the real impact of the interventions of the outreach project on persons with intellectual disabilities and their families. The leader of the team, Mr.



*Figure 8 post monitoring conference with Albert*



Rudiger and Gabriel first visited some villages that are inaccessible by car with a motor cycle. The other team member together with the project Director of PCC joined the rest of the team in a car on our next visit to the daycare center at Donkro Nkwanta.

The donors were taken to see some of the beneficiaries of our livelihood support interventions as well as free antiepileptic drugs. We showed them both success stories of our project as well as isolated cases of failures and challenges.

The team after the two separate visits, held a post monitoring discussion with the outreach team together with the General Director and Project Director of PCC. The discussion centered on the need to continue with the project and the sustainability measures that should be put in place going into the future. The donors expressed satisfaction and urged the outreach team to continue our intervention such as the livelihood support, the daycare concept, antiepileptic drugs support and the Parents Support Help Group (PSHG) activities.



Figure 11 wheelchairs from Joni and friends



## **PROVISION OF ASSISTIVE DEVICES**

The need for functional mobility is very important in the life of an individual with a physical disability. Therefore provision of basic assistive devices like wheelchairs and clutches is much more important in meeting the mobility need of the person with mobility challenges. The outreach team has maintained a long standing relationship with Joni & friends: a world renowned nongovernmental organization for the supply of these basic devices. In the year under review, the team took delivery of thirteen wheelchairs comprising of eight (8) regular and five (5) specialized ones.

Subsequently, we four (4) of the wheelchairs were given to clients of the outreach project. Four (4) sets of clutches were also given out to some

Figure 10 beneficiary

persons with physical disabilities.

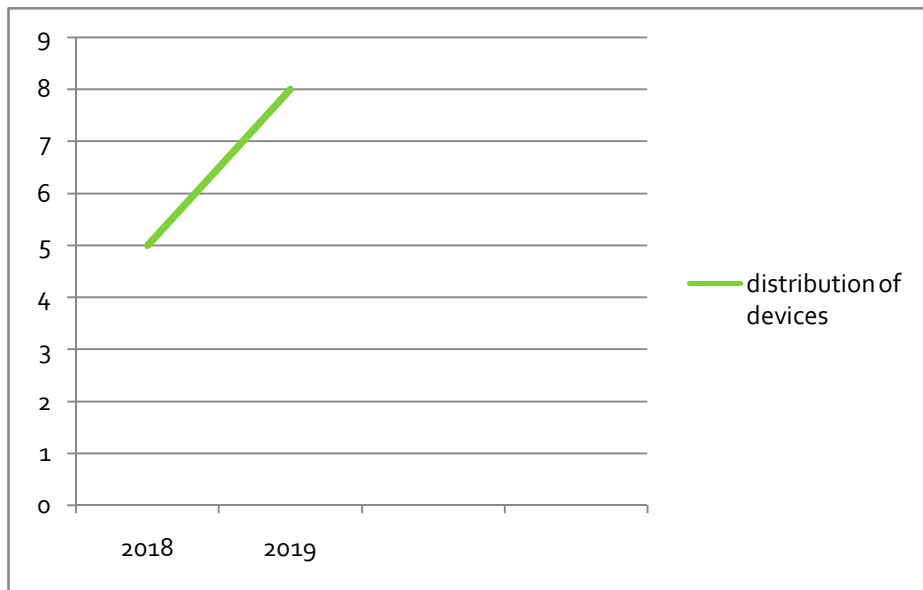
Some of the beneficiaries of the devices include: Patrick, Linda, Korkor and Obert. Aside the beneficiaries outside of our center, some of the children within PCC had their old chairs replaced from the stock.

The main challenge about the procurement of the devices and the distribution of same to clients is about the transportation and other charges that we incur and having to give them to clients for free.

In the year 2018, a total of five (5) persons benefited from the assistive devices support. This means there has been an increase of three beneficiaries in the year 2019. These figures however do not include the children from our community (PCC) who benefited.



Figure 12 distribution of devices 2018/2019



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## LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

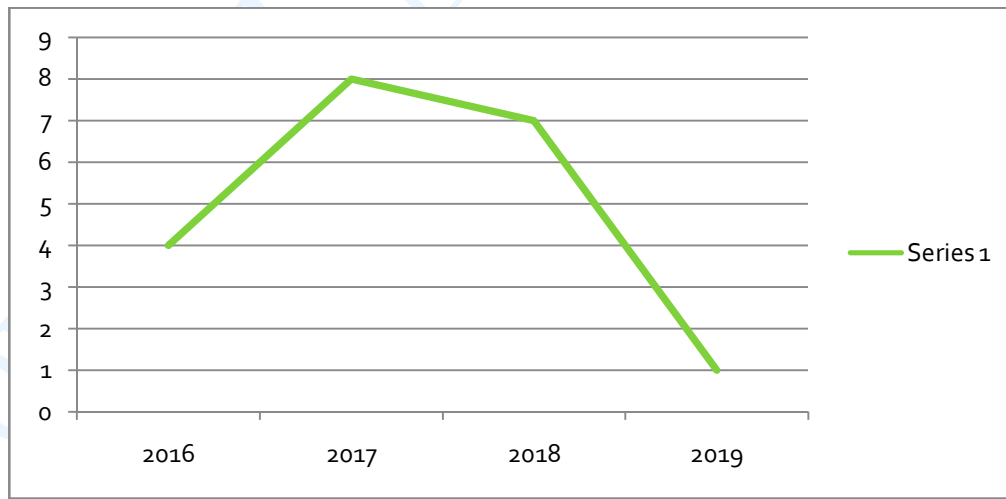
The livelihood support project was introduced to assist young adults with intellectual disabilities to engage in small scale income generating activities to help them find something meaningful to spend their time doing and to also support the family income. The models include animal rearing, snail farming, groundnut or maize farming among others. The model for each child varies depending on the interest of the family.

At the close of 2019, the outreach team supported only one (1) child. This number represents a decrease of 6 from the 2018 annual number of 7 children. The decrease was as a result of using the monthly allocations from livelihood to support daycare center activities. It was also to help us do an impact assessment of the intervention on the children and their immediate families. The outcomes from the assessment revealed that the children are now better engaged instead of staying at home without doing anything. Also, some of the parents use the proceeds from the livelihood activities to support the medical expenses of the children, especially buying antiepileptic drugs to augment the supply by outreach.

It is also important to state that some of the livelihood interventions were not successful. A small number of the animals were lost to theft and disease outbreak. But in 2020, we plan to support ten (10) children/ young adult to go into various livelihood models.

The figure below gives the trend analyses of the livelihood intervention since 2016.

*Figure 13 number of livelihood beneficiaries from 2016 to 2019*





## DAYCARE CENTER

The outreach team believes in the fundamental principle of twin track approach. This means that even though we promote the principle of inclusive education, we are also mindful of the fact that not all children with special needs can be enrolled in the mainstream schools due to environmental specific factors. In view of this reality, the outreach team has been championing the creation of community based daycare centers for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In the year 2018 and 2019, the project has created and sustained the running of such a center at Donkro Nkwanta. We have also taken steps to create one within the Nkoranza town in the year under review. We have had serious discussions with parents, education directorate and the management of PCC about the shape and form of the proposed center. We initially envisaged the use of unit school approach but that idea was not supported by the education directorate. We subsequently decided to get a rented facility or a plot of land to build the center. These decisions delayed the realization of the center before the end of year 2019. We are hopeful to fast track the process in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders and have the center running before the end of the first quarter of 2020.

We have also taken steps to revive the defunct center at Kyeredaso to ensure some relief to parents and the children.

*Figure 14 daycare center session at Nkwanta*



## **DISTRIBUTION OF ANTIPILEPTIC DRUGS**

*Figure 15 Gabriel giving drugs to a client's father*



Distribution of antiepileptic drugs to beneficiaries from needy and poor households is one of the cardinal interventions of the outreach project. The purpose is to prevent crises situations and to make people aware of the efficacy of the drugs in order to discourage the use of herbal concoctions and or resorting to spiritual healings.

In the year under review, the outreach team distributed seven thousand, eight hundred (7,800) tablets of antiepileptic drugs to children and young adults with epilepsy. These in nominal terms represent an increase of thousand eight hundred (1,800) tablets over the 2018 figure.

The graph below gives the annual number of drugs distributed to beneficiaries from 2016 to 2019.

We did an impact assessment of the intervention in the year under review. It was realized that beneficiaries experience fewer occurrences of fit as compared to times they were not taking drugs. The intervention has also reduced the financial burden on the families and lessened the number of times beneficiaries had to relapse because their parents could not afford the drugs.

Figure 16 drugs distribution from 2016 to 2019

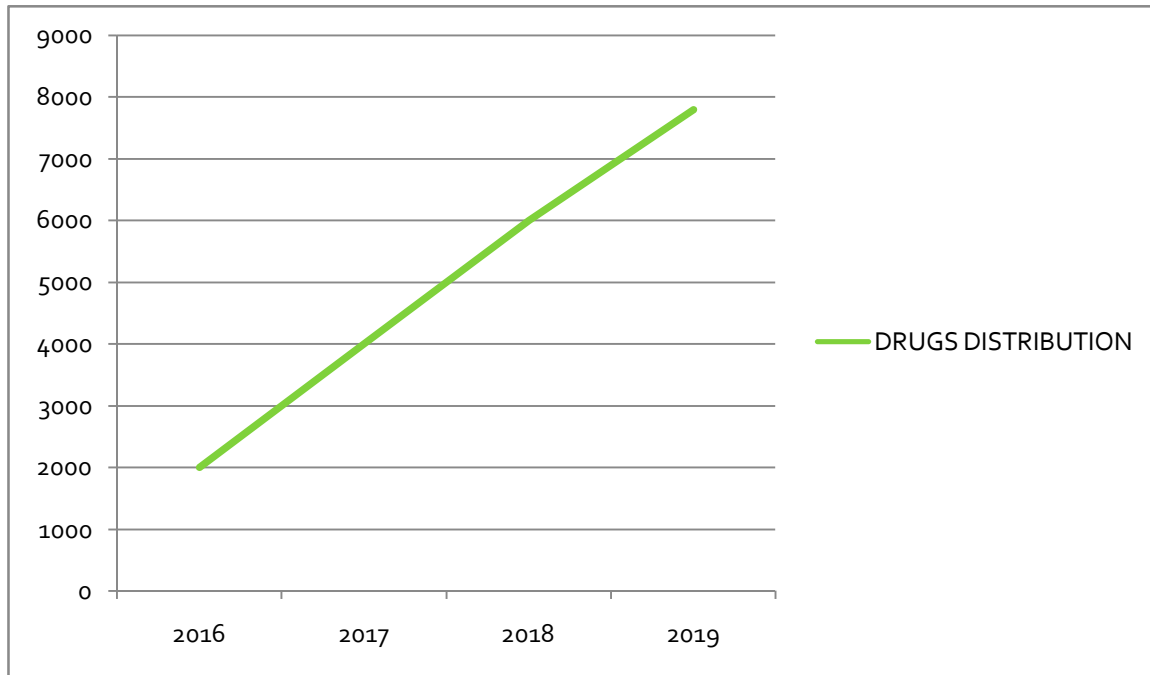




Figure 17 Inge exercising Grace



## **REFERAL FOR PHYSIOTHERAPY**

Many children within the Nkoranza municipality who have need for physiotherapy assessment on many instances do not get access to such services due to the absence of such a service within their reach. Parents have to travel to other adjoining districts for physiotherapy. Many of the parents, who cannot afford the expenses, stay home and dare the consequences.

It was therefore a great relief to parents when Inge an expatriate physiotherapist

with our mother organization (The Peace of Christ Foundation) again in 2019.

During the year under review, the outreach team referred five (5) children to see Inge for expert advice and prescription of appropriate exercises and assistive devices. The five included Linda, Grace, Norbert, Zinabu and Godfred.

Linda was given a new wheelchair and a mattress to help in her mobility and treatment of bed sores respectively. Norbert was also given a new wheelchair. The rest of the children were examined and appropriate exercises given. Zinabu, Grace and Godfred were given new orthopedic shoes as well.

Aside the children who were referred to see Inge, the team also identified and referred Christabel to the Holy Family Hospital at Techiman for physiotherapy assessments.

## ACTIVITIES OF INTERNS

Figure 18 students interns with clients in health center



In the year 2019, the outreach team received two set of students interns. The first batch came in February and ended their internship in April. The second batch also reported in October and ended in December.

The students have contributed immensely in the identification of new cases and designing intervention plans to rehabilitate their clients. They have embarked on public advocacy on radio and in schools and hospitals. Students were also sent to Donkro Nkwanta to support the caretaker in our daycare center.

Aside the field activities, the students also supported in the day to day care and activities within our mother organization. They undertook special attention sessions with the children.

The students were made to write monthly reports on their activities as well. They learned from the experiences of the outreach team.

Figure 19 George presenting certificates of participation



## **INCLUSIVE EDUCATION WORKSHOP**

Promoting inclusive education has become one priority areas for the outreach team. We have therefore been organizing training workshops for teachers and other stakeholders in education to ensure that children with special needs are included in mainstream schools.

In the year under review, the outreach team in collaboration with the District Education Directorate of the Nkoranza North District organized a workshop on Inclusive education for teachers and School Management Committee (SMC) members on

The workshop was organized in the Premises of PCC. The total number of participants was thirty five. These included 15 teachers, 10 senior education staff, 5 SMC members 1 resource person and 4 staff members of Shalom Special School.

The workshop started at around 9:30am with Emmanuel Boyan taking participants round the various departments of PCC for orientation. He immediately after that delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the history of PCC and outreach project in particular.

Three important presentations were done thereafter. The first one was Human rights of children with intellectual disabilities. This was presented by Osie Kwame George (municipal Coordinator, mental health). Gabriel later presented a lecture on Intellectual disability (ID) to introduce participants to the causes and features of intellectual disability. He later presented the main lecture of the day:

**“Inclusive education, history definition and challenges in Ghana”.**

We hope to hold a training workshop on inclusive health for stakeholders in health in 2020. This is in response to the recommendations contained in a research work on health accessibility for persons living with IDD in Nkoranza municipality conducted by our team in 2018.



### **CHALLENGE (S)**

The major challenge the team faced in the year under review was lack of cooperation of some parents in working together as a group for the collective interest of their children with disabilities. Some parents are very individualistic and turn to make personal demands on the outreach team. Another equally troubling challenge was the astronomical increases of fuel prices at the pump in the course of the year. This affected our budgeted funds for fuel.

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### **FORECAST FOR 2020**

In 2020, the outreach team will place more emphasis on public education in and around Dromankese. This is to ensure attitudinal change from their deep-rooted negative perceptions towards persons born with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We will follow through with our annual plan and budget for the year 2020.

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