

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

**PEACE OF CHRIST -**

**HAND IN HAND COMMUNITY**

NKORANZA, GHANA

P.O. Box 120  
Nkoranza B/A Ghana



*The PCC Ananse Daycare Centre in Nkoranza*

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## 1. Summary

In the whole world and also in the PCC – Hand in Hand Community the year 2020 will always be remembered as the first year of the Corona pandemic.

What a shock to the world it was, so many people all over the world died.

In Ghana the number of corona infections and deaths were relatively few, but the people in Ghana faced severe measures for most of 2020.

So much was different during 2020. The borders of Ghana were closed for about 6 months and public life changed drastically, like in most other countries because of lockdowns, social distancing, schools closed, no public gatherings and so on. Unlike other years we hardly saw visitors coming to our Guesthouses after March 2020 nor could any volunteer come to support our care programme. Also the sales of our Shop went down.

Still our Peace of Christ Foundation was able to run the Community in Nkoranza also during this corona year. The income is mainly from contributions from sponsors and donors overseas. The input from donations from Overseas, including extra support to face the corona problems, contributed to 88% of our annual budget.

Despite a severe drop in Local Income we were able to generate about 12% of the needed funds locally

At the end of the year 97 children and young adults are living in the Community, 81 of them permanently, while 15 young adults - still having family - are active in the Sheltered Workshop. One child from Shalom Special School stayed the whole year in PCC because of corona.

In 2020 we accepted 2 new residents in PCC, while 1 resident left and 1 young lady, working in the Sheltered Workshop.

In 2020 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 continued though it was hampered by corona measures.

Nowadays about 55 workers are members of our Ghanaian staff with 34 caregivers and 22 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.

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 2020 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 2020 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 2020**

### General

The year 2020 was overall a good year for our Community, despite the corona pandemic.

In general 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



*Linda*

In October 2020 1 resident, Kwame Evans, and 1 young adult from the workshop, Adwoa, left PCC. Soon after their departure they married.

During 2020 we welcomed 2 new residents, *Linda* and the small one, Maame Serwaa.

We are very happy that these 2 young girls joined our Community.

By the end of 2020 PCC was caring for a total number of 97 children: 81 are permanent residents, 1 child from Shalom stayed the whole year in PCC and 15 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.

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.

### Important developments in PCC during 2020

Some important developments in 2020 are worth mentioning:

- Looking back to 2020 maybe the most important point worth mentioning is the fact that despite all corona measures and knowing that for the major part of the year all schools were closed our Community was still able to continue caring for all children, trying to offer all of them a befitting programme during the day and giving them the necessary care every day and night for the whole of 2020. Various hygienic measures were taken to prevent corona entering PCC (and we are very grateful that corona indeed never reached our Community!) and caregivers and others didn't travel to prevent to risk of getting corona. We therefore say a big "Thank You" to our Ghanaian Board members and to all PCC caregivers and workers for a very good job done during 2020 under difficult circumstances.

- Early 2020 we got a great opportunity to create a Daycare Centre close to the centre of Nkoranza town, in good cooperation with the District authorities. With the wonderful support of various donors, including a major contribution of our German partner organisation Ananse. Under the supervision of our Mr. Samuel Baffo a beautiful building for the Daycare was constructed and it got the nice name "PCC Ananse Daycare Centre". See the front page of this Annual Report! Unfortunately it wasn't possible to open the centre in 2020 due to corona, but in January 2021 it has opened and is now in full use!



- During the year 2020 we were able to construct two new houses (one single room house and *one house with three rooms, see picture*) after receiving a nice donation from a German donor, while we also repaired some of the other houses and stores. All buildings in PCC are now looking beautiful and neat!

- The woodcarving, that started by the end of 2019, continued during 2020 and became a appreciated nice new activity for some of our young adults in the Sheltered Workshop. The quality of the wood carved products improved a lot during 2020.
- Thanks to gifts from various organisations in Holland we were able to buy some new mattresses for caregivers and children and also various new musical drums for the famous PCC Kofi Asare Music Group.

### Caregivers

During 2020 10 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 2020 there are 30 caregivers + 4 new ladies, appointed early January 2021 (in 2019 the number was 33).

They are caring for our 81 young permanent residents as well as for 15 semi-permanent young adults in the sheltered workshop plus for 1 child from Shalom Special School.



In October 2020 we organised a special Caregivers Day in PCC for the 5<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, while we tried to stick ourselves to the corona regulations. Everybody enjoyed.

### 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 hardly could welcome visitors to our Community during 2020 because of corona, we only received guests during the first months of the year.

This also resulted in less income for Guesthouses + Restaurant as well as for the Shop with products from our Sheltered Workshop.

## **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, 28 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.



Most of the children came to PCC on transfer from a Governmental Children's Home, e.g. from 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 seen by our Outreach team or on request of the local or regional Department of Social Welfare, or from 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 2020**

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 three 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 2020, 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.

Woodcarving is a new PCC activity since December 2019, it is done by some of the young adults while they are supervised by Michael, one of our caregivers.



## 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.

An important target for Outreach is trying to establish some Daycare Centres in the District, centres that are supported by the chiefs and elders, the District Assembly and the parents of the disabled children from these villages.

The major goal for 2020 was the opening of a Daycare Centre in Nkoranza. We made a great effort and succeeded, but because of corona this new DC centre could only open in January 2021.

At the end of 2020 Outreach made an evaluation of the various Livelihood projects from the past years and we also reconsidered the way we are supporting the various Parent Support Groups in some villages. We use the "lessons learned" to improve upon the output of our Outreach work.



*Elijah, Gabriel and Emma*

Last but not least we are very happy that during 2020 we could strengthen the Outreach team by appointing a third team member, Mr. Elijah and by getting a nice donation for buying a second motorbike for the work of the Outreach team in the surrounding Districts. *See the photo of the Outreach team.*

The Outreach Project publishes its own Annual Report 2020.

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

## 6. About organisation, 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 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 3 well trained workers, Mr. Gabriel Nkpawiasse, Mr. Emma Boyan (who is also responsible for the Sheltered Workshop) and Mr. Elijah.

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

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

## 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 28 years! They all tried their best during the corona year 2020!

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 2020 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

### Income Sheltered Workshop 2020

The net result of sales in Ghana for the Sheltered Workshop: Cedi 6.940  
The amount of sales in Ghana, but paid Overseas: Cedi 9.804  
= sales to HIH foundation in Holland (7.707) + other sales (2.097)

So the total result of the Sheltered Workshop in 2020 is: Cedi **16.744**  
(NB: The result 2020 is only 45% of the 2019 result, no guests were coming to buy!)

### Income Guesthouses and Restaurant 2020

Profit of the GH and Restaurant in Ghana in 2020: Cedi 18.249  
The amount paid Overseas: Cedi 16.521

So the total result of GH plus Restaurant in 2020 is: Cedi **34.770**  
(NB: The result 2020 is only 30% (!) of the result of 2019, all due to corona / no guests!)

### TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURES 2020

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 760.734
- Extra Income received for constructions, projects etc. Cedi 92.972

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

----- +  
Cedi **853.706**

#### **EXPENDITURES**

- The recurrent Expenditures in 2020 amounted up to: Cedi 698.893
- Other Expenditures, mainly for Building activities  
and other extra-budgetary projects were up to: Cedi 106.564

So the **Total Expenditures** were Cedi:

----- +  
Cedi **805.457**

The year 2020 ended with a Total Balance (ADB + GCB) of  
and started with an Opening Balance (ADB + GCB) of

Cedi 317.551  
Cedi 257.689  
----- -/-  
Cedi **59.862**

that means that PCC was able to create a **surplus** in 2020 of:



Stephen on his way to school!



Annex 1: Financial statement PCC after 12 months 2020

|                                 |                |               |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Balance at ADB Bank 01/01/20:   |                | <b>30.837</b> |
| + Balance at GCB Bank 01/01/20: | <b>226.852</b> |               |

Income

|                                 |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| HIH: budget                     | 554.550 |
| Extra donations from or via HIH | 70.564  |
| Extra donation for Outreach     | 37.070  |
| Guesthouses + restaurant        | 34.770  |
| Internet café                   | 16.000  |
| Sheltered workshop              | 16.744  |
| Local donations                 | 18.546  |
| Income farm                     | 8.533   |
| Other income                    | 3.957   |

-----  
**760.734**

|                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| HIH for constructions | 75.788 |
| HIH for projects      | 12.000 |
| Overseas payment      | 1.114  |
| Refund special loan   | 4.070  |

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**TOTAL INCOME 853.706**

Expenditures

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Allowances                | 287.051 |
| Feeding                   | 176.982 |
| Gas + charcoal            | 15.336  |
| Party costs               | 10.839  |
| Repairs General + Houses  | 40.921  |
| Repairs + Insur. Cars     | 5.406   |
| Electricity               | 27.573  |
| Personal needs            | 34.115  |
| Omo & Soap                | 13.928  |
| T & T                     | 12.089  |
| Medical                   | 35.621  |
| Accountant / legal        | 4.810   |
| Bank Charges / unforeseen | 1.284   |
| Others                    | 24.540  |
| Outreach                  | 8.398   |

-----  
**698.893**

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Constructions            | 86.900 |
| Projects                 | 11.960 |
| Overseas payment         | 1.114  |
| Special loans, donations | 6.590  |

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**TOTAL EXPENDITURES 805.457**

|                                 |                |               |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Balance at ADB Bank 31/12/20:   |                | <b>79.086</b> |
| + Balance at GCB Bank 31/12/20: | <b>238.465</b> |               |