



## Newsletter 20, May 2020

*Dear friends,*

Suddenly everything has changed and the complete world has turned upside down as a result of all drastic coronavirus measures taken, not only in the world but also in the world of Ghana and that of PCC. Who would have been able to predict this only a few months ago? In January we were all watching the images of the situation in Wuhan in China from a distance of approximately 12,000 kilometres. Even experts didn't see it coming: the subsequent pandemic, the numerous infections, thousands of deaths and in almost all countries some form of lockdown. We have to face the fact that life is elusive and unpredictable.

Nevertheless we are very happy to be able to send to you the 20<sup>th</sup> (another jubilee!) half-yearly Newsletter about PCC - Hand in Hand. However elusive life might be, your great interest in and constant commitment to the well-being of our Community remains very predictable throughout the years. Fortunately, life in PCC still goes on with the usual care for all of our residents, thanks to Baffo, Joe Emma and all of our caregivers!

### What does Corona mean for PCC?



At the moment of writing this column, no coronavirus infection has been recorded in the Brong Ahafo Region yet. On the other hand over 1.200 cases have been recorded in the rest of Ghana especially in Accra and in Kumasi, though fewer cases than in Accra.

Many healthcare measures have been taken in PCC. No visitors are admitted into the community, if necessary caregivers can speak to their relatives and friends at the gate at a distance of 1,5 metres. Caregivers and other people concerned must keep visits into town at a minimum and washing your hands frequently is obligatory. Everybody fully realizes that many residents of PCC are very vulnerable and that Coronavirus must be kept outside of our community at all costs!

### Our plans for 2020



*New day care building in Nkoranza*

For the year 2020 we are planning a few very important developments, some of them are already in full progress. Perhaps the most important one is the realisation of a wonderful building for Day Care down town Nkoranza. In the near future children with disabilities will be able to spend their days here while their parents can go to work.

The construction of the building is rapidly progressing and it promises to become really great, just have a look at the picture above.

We know there is an urgent need for such a centre in Nkoranza and we do hope that it may help the Ghanaian

society in their acceptance of children with special needs.

The second important development is the construction of a large home for a number of aging boys who would be able to live more independently in PCC then. The G8 from Groningen will come and help us building in it in October, if - of course - travelling internationally is possible again.

Furthermore, we also hope to realize two newly built smaller houses this year. Have a look at the picture of one of them in the picture below.

With regard to our new training programme we would also like to take the next step.

Because of Coronavirus the launch of the third module of this PCC educational and trainings programme has been delayed. We hope to be able to make this new module available later this year. The caregivers are really looking forward to it. They appear to be very keen on learning!

### **Annual Report PCC & 2019 in retrospect**

The 2019 Annual Report of PCC is online and can be read on our website: <https://operationhandinhand.nl/wp-content/uploads/2019-Annual-Report.pdf>

It has been an eventful year again! Hopefully, this Annual Report will give you a proper and interesting picture of this past year. And of course we would be much obliged if you were willing to share your questions and remarks with us, if there any after having read the report and seen the accompanying pictures.

### **New residents**

In the last Newsletter we already announced the arrival of two new children: Susanna, *Sue* for short, and *Marc Hope*.

*Sue* is a sweet girl of about 7-8 years old, who has come to PCC from Kumasi Children's Home (KCH), just like *Marc Hope*, who is about 5-6 years old.



*Sue*

Both children have moderate symptoms of intellectual disabilities, they both show various aspects of the autistic spectrum and they are not able to speak (they do produce some significant sounds though), *Sue* is also suffering from epilepsy.

They are both rather agile children, it is (still) difficult for them to rest in one place.

PCC has embraced the both of them warmly and they already completely belong to our community.

### **New home**

During the past few months a small house has been built, which will be suitable as a semi-independent living arrangement for one or two of our aging young adults.

The house sits next to *Kojo Evans'* house and it looks like *Kofi Asare's* house.

It is looking really great even though it hasn't been finished yet.



## Drone images of PCC

Last December a visitor on his way to Southern Africa took some fabulous photographs of PCC with a drone with a camera. As a result we now have a unique overview of PCC, magnificent images of our Community from the air.



## New sponsor administrator

Recently *Nieske van der Meer*, who has taken care of the sponsor administration and the mailing of the Newsletters of PCC for years and in an excellent manner, has transferred her responsibilities to *Jeannette Klein*.

Jeannette gained experience in Ghana in the past and she and her husband have been friends of PCC for years. We would like to thank Nieske for all of the great work she has done for PCC and the love and commitment she has demonstrated while carrying out her tasks. Also we like to welcome Jeannette aboard the ship and to wish her much success in carrying out this important work.

## Woodcarving

During the last period a new activity was introduced for the young adults who work in the sheltered workshop namely *woodcarving*: the making of masks and fertility dolls from one solid block of wood.

Just have a look at the picture of *Ayuba* below while he is woodcarving.

## 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 Jeannette Klein.

Please mail to:

[sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl](mailto:sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl) or [handinhandpcc@gmail.com](mailto:handinhandpcc@gmail.com)

## Finally

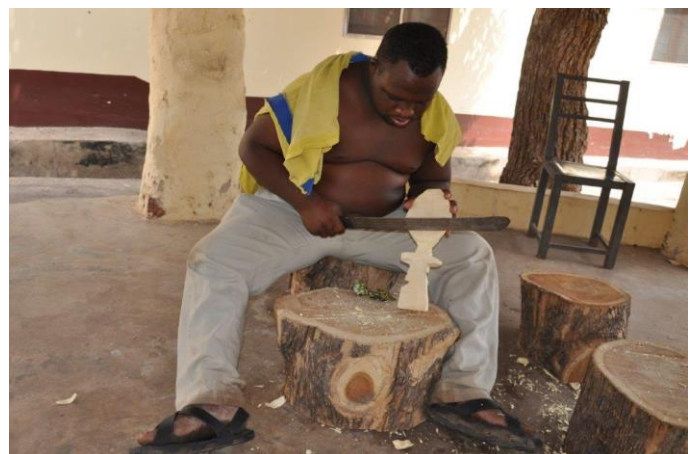
So far for this 20<sup>th</sup> Newsletter. We hope you are now fully updated again.

Every month you can find a new update about the weal and woe of PCC in the column "*Alberts Corner*" on our website: [www.handinhandcommunity.com](http://www.handinhandcommunity.com)

Cordial greetings from everyone at PCC!

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*Ayuba woodcarving!*