



Newsletter 21, November 2020

Dear friends,

When the last Newsletter appeared in April 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic had just broken out and it was not at all clear at that time what its effects would be either on the whole world or on PCC.

Now, more than 6 months later we may conclude that the word "corona" has remained as newsworthy as it was right from the start. It has become even more important lately. Almost all countries in the world have had to deal with coronavirus to a greater or lesser extent, Ghana as well and - although indirectly - of course PCC.

Fortunately, at the end of October we can conclude that no one has been infected in PCC so far! Taking into account that the number of new infections in Ghana is becoming smaller, it is less probable that this will happen after all, which is very fortunate and a great blessing at the same time!

We would like to thank you all for the many tokens of sympathy PCC has received during this turbulent and unstable period. Your unceasing solidarity with PCC has done us the world of good!



Of course, we would like to tell you about what has happened in PCC since April, because there is never a dull moment here! Enjoy.

Residents

We have been very careful with admitting new residents from e.g. Accra and Kumasi this year because of COVID-19. We have recently admitted a new resident into PCC, in fact an old acquaintance, because we have known her for quite some time now via our Outreach programme: *Linda!*



Linda is about 12 years old, born with spina bifida, which causes complete paralysis in the lower part of her body and legs. A while back Outreach requested us to have a look at the severe wounds on Linda's legs. Our Community was able to successfully treat her for these wounds and with her father's help the wounds soon healed. Sadly enough the father is the only family member who is willing to look after Linda....

We have also tried to break through Linda's social exclusion from her village, but all to no avail. She was for example not permitted to go to school in her wheelchair, other parents were vehemently opposed to this.

After having taken her complete situation into account we have suggested to offer her a home in PCC as a permanent resident. As Linda is not intellectually disabled, she was by all means able to show both us and her father that she was very pleased with the opportunity!



Kwame and Adwoa

Kwame Evans has recently left PCC at his own request to work at a carwash in Nkoranza. He had been working there parttime for some time. In PCC Kwame worked in the sheltered workshop for 13 years after he had come to our Community from Wamanafo in 2007.

The family of *Adwoa* from the Sheltered Workshop came to PCC to take *Adwoa* back home as she is going to marry to *Kwame Evans*.

We wish both of them all the best in the rest of their life.

Boadu

Last September one of our oldest residents, *Boadu*, fell severely ill with dysentery. He refused to take any medicines or food and got visibly worse.

His situation didn't improve after we had taken him to hospital in Techiman and we had to fear for his life.

However, he could be fed by means of a feeding tube eventually and now he is slowly but surely getting better. We are much pleased that he is still with us!



Boadu when very sick, with feeding tube

Daycare Nkoranza

In our last Newsletter we already mentioned that the building of a Daycare Centre in the centre of Nkoranza, meant for children with intellectual or multiple disabilities still living at home, had started.

Meanwhile the building is nearly finished and it looks really wonderful. However, the children and their parents will have to wait until January before it will open its doors. Till that time all primary schools and centres like the Daycare Centre are closed as directed by the government because of COVID-19.

In honour of the German foundation *Ananse*, which substantially contributes to the work done by Outreach on a yearly basis and which has also contributed generously to the building of this excellent centre, for all of which we are very grateful, it will be called: PCC Ananse Daycare Centre



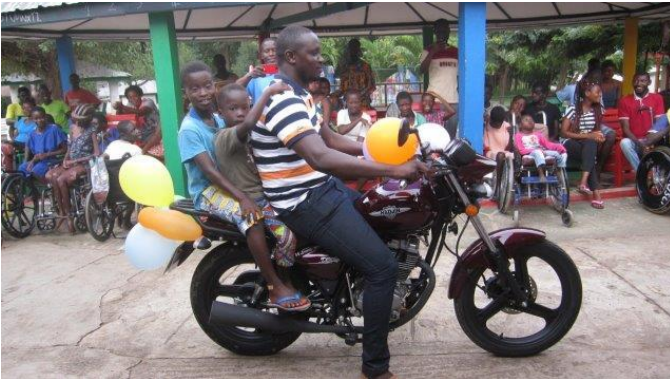
New staff members for Outreach and PCC

Because of the increasing importance and size of our Outreach work we were fortunate enough to be able to add a third staff member to the team. His name is *Elijah*, who has studied Community Based Rehabilitation at the University of Winneba. We wish him much success in his challenging work in the District. *For a picture of the whole Outreach team see page 4.*

We have also been able to employ a new Accounts Officer named *Eric*. He is a most welcome new member of the financial administration of PCC.

Second motorcycle for Outreach

Thanks to a donation from Ananse/Mano a Mano from Germany we were able to purchase a very nice and powerful second motorcycle. Given the currently larger Outreach staff it offers us the opportunity to develop even more activities in the District! This motorcycle has ridden its first festive miles in the meantime.



Impact COVID-19 on PCC

Because of COVID-19 it has been very silent in PCC this year: there are neither volunteers, nor guests nor people who want to buy our bags and ornaments. To PCC this is extraordinary, there are always some visitors or people interested in our community.

Unfortunately, the G8 group from Groningen was not able to travel to Ghana either because of C-19. They would have been here in October to offer a helping hand in building a new home for the older children of PCC.

A great pity to both them and us! We are hoping to welcome them in 2021. They are close and loyal friends of PCC after all!



Those children of PCC who were used to going to their either special or regular primary school, have not been able to attend school since the end of March 2020 as a result of the C-19 measures taken in Ghana and this situation will last until January 2021.....!

This put quite a strain on the day programmes of PCC. It first led to a rather impoverished day programme but fortunately, we have been able to raise the level to what we desire, much to the happiness of both children and caregivers.

A daughter for Gertrude & Michael

At the beginning of 2020 we told you about the marriage of two of our caregivers, *Gertrude* and *Michael* (Albert's Corner, January 2020).

Meanwhile there is some good news about this couple again because their first child, a beautiful daughter, was born in the first half of October!

The parents are (evidently) very proud and we congratulate them on the birth of this baby with true "PCC-roots". We wish her a happy and prosperous life!



In this context we would also like to inform you on the following: *Gertrude* (who is still on maternity leave) and *Vivian* (who will be giving birth soon) will be the first caregivers who will work at the new Daycare Centre in Nkoranza!

In this way the Centre will have an excellent start with these two skillful and accomplished women.

New house in PCC

Under the direction of Baffo a wonderful and new house was built in PCC's compound during the last period of time. The new house is necessary to accommodate the growth of our Community. It sits next to the Jubilee House and has blended in with the Jubilee House because of its stylish wall paintings. A major asset for PCC!



Caregivers Day 2020

New traditions can be created and will linger. We celebrated Caregivers Day for the 5th time this October. A special day during which we express our gratefulness for the commitment and the dedication of our caregivers. It was a very festive and happy day for both caregivers and children. They had a lot of fun e.g. during the sports and games morning and the *Pool Games* in the afternoon.

After a wonderful party, a delicious meal and an extra bonus the caregivers must have woken up with a big smile on their faces the next morning! In this happy mood they surely returned to work looking forward to Caregivers Day 2021!



Finally

So far for this 21st Newsletter. We hope you are now fully updated again.

Cordial greetings and heartfelt thanks for your support and interest in our work, on behalf of Baffo, Joe Emma, Jeannette and all residents and employees of Hand in Hand!

Albert van Galen

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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 sponsor administrator Nieske: sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl or via handinhandpcc@gmail.com

The Outreach team:



Elijah, Gabriel and Emmanuel

By the way: You can find regular update about the weal and woe of PCC in the column "*Alberts Corner*" on our website: www.handinhandcommunity.com