

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

PEACE OF CHRIST -

HAND IN HAND COMMUNITY

NKORANZA, GHANA

P.O. Box 120
Nkoranza B/A Ghana



PCC is offering a shelter to almost 100 children, including Emmanuella and Linda

Email: handinhandcommunity@gmail.com
Website (English): www.handinhandcommunity.com
Website (Dutch): www.operationhandinhand.nl



Table of contents:

1. Summary
2. General review and developments in 2021
3. Background information + History Hand in Hand
4. Report on the Sheltered Workshop
5. Outreach programme
6. Organisation, staff and management
7. Conclusion and acknowledgment
8. Financial information

Annex 1: Financial statement 2021



..... and also to Yaw Balloon and Daniel Kofi

1. Summary

In the whole world and also in the PCC – Hand in Hand Community the year 2021 will mainly be remembered as the second year of the Corona pandemic.

In Ghana the number of new corona infections and deaths remained relatively low and people tried to return to their normal lives during 2021. Though we all gradually got (a bit) used to corona, the consequences were still present in PCC during the whole of 2021.

The borders of Ghana re-opened by the end of 2020, but we hardly saw visitors coming to our Guesthouses during 2021 nor could we welcome any volunteer to support our care programme. And the sales of our Shop remained also very low.

Still our Peace of Christ Foundation was able to run the Community in Nkoranza properly during this 2nd corona year. Our income comes mainly from contributions from sponsors and donors Overseas. The input from Overseas contributed to more than 90% (!) of our annual Budget.

Despite a severe drop in Local Income we were still able to generate about 8% of the needed funds locally

At the end of the year 94 children and young adults are living in the Community, 83 of them permanently, while 11 young adults - still having family - are active in the Sheltered Workshop.

In 2021 we accepted 3 new residents in PCC, while we regretted the loss of 1 resident and some of the young adults in the Sheltered Workshop left for home.

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 + Techiman South Districts continued and expanded, especially with offering more Daycare facilities! Nowadays a total number of about 100 children is benefitting from the services of PCC Outreach care.

About 55 workers are members of our Ghanaian staff with 33 caregivers and 22 others and they are all contributing to the good functioning 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 2021 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 2021 as well as to all sponsors, donors and workers 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 2021

General

The year 2021 was overall a good year for our Community, despite the fact that it was the 2nd year of the corona pandemic.

Luckily enough corona didn't affect any of our residents or caregivers, while we were also very happy that in October and November 2021 all workers and residents above 18 years were vaccinated!

During 2021 most people in Ghana went back to "normal life as before corona" and all schools re-opened. PCC however still experienced the situation that no guests nor volunteers are coming to Ghana yet. We hope 2022 will show us some improvement.

In general though we have been very glad 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 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.



Matthew

Residents

In 2021 3 new residents came to PCC. Two of them came from Kumasi Children's Home, they are the young ones *Matthew* and *Luke*.

The 3rd one, *M'afia II*, is a young adult and she had been with us on a temporary base already for some years after being abandoned by her relatives when they dropped her in Nkoranza a few years ago.

Unfortunately we also lost 1 resident in 2021. It was our beloved *Theresa* who had been with us for more than 13 years. During all these years she was a very quiet and vulnerable young lady and (also) because of that loved by all. May she rest in peace.

A total of 7 of the long-time workers in the Sheltered Workshop left our Community, while 3 new ones came during 2021. These three are *Afia Ganganatu*, *Nelson* and *Emmanuel* and as existing policy they are here first of all for a probationary period.

By the end of 2021 PCC was caring for a total number of 94 children: 83 are permanent residents, while 11 young adults are active in the sheltered workshop. Most of the last group are living here in the boys- or girls dormitory for 9 - 10 months annually.

Outside PCC we care for about the same number of almost 100 children through our PCC Outreach Programme!

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 2021

Some important developments in 2021 are worth mentioning:

- Looking back to 2021 we are very happy that corona didn't create any health problem in our Community and we even feel better and safer since our workers and residents above 18 year received their vaccinations in October / November.
- A very important development in 2021 was the wonderful start of the PCC Ananse Daycare Centre in Nkoranza town. It opened in January 2021 and is now in full use! Daily about 20 (!) children are coming to this beautiful centre. It gives them a safe place with good care and their parents the opportunity to work for their daily food and income. We are very happy with this DC and became even more happy when we received a nice donation to buy an Okada that enables us to provide daily transport for the children, in the morning to the Daycare and in the afternoon back home. No need to say that parents and children are very pleased.
- During the year 2021 we unfortunately had to leave the existing Daycare Centre facility in Donkro Nkwanta, it was a small building of the Ministry of Agriculture. We were helped when getting a small temporary location near a church, but all of us became very, very happy and grateful for a wonderful donation that enabled us to build a complete new Daycare Centre in Donkor Nkwanta on our own plot of land! This building will be completed early 2022.



Sue Hatton

- The training programme developed by our expert *Sue Hatton* is still used for all new caregivers to help them to become better and more professional caregivers and the programme has improved more during 2021. After completing the training caregivers can get a special Certificate!

- In 2021 some experts were able to come to Ghana and PCC again, like our physio expert Inge Maters, our autism expert *Sue Hatton* and day programme support by Sabine van Erp. We really feel blessed by their input and connection.

- By the end of 2021 we were very pleased to have many people from surrounding villages and from other places in Ghana who were all coming to present items like food, clothes, soap and drinks or make financial donations during Christmas. It shows us that PCC becomes a well-known and respected institution in Ghana!
- During 2021 2 members of the PCC Board needed a big operation. In April it was Jeannette van Galen and in November Samuel Baffo. We are very happy and grateful to God that both of them recovered nicely after their operation.
- The strong ties between PCC and the Dutch Foundation became even stronger in 2021, when not only Albert and Jeannette van Galen came to PCC, but also a Network was created to support and strengthen the existing relation. For now three persons are part of it, Jeannette Klein, Sofanne Ravensbergen and Inge Maters.

- In the early months of 2021 we were able to organize a special Tree Planting Day in PCC, to help keeping PCC very green and protected against the sun.
- Some renovations were done in 2021, it included the old Ameyaw house (with support of G8 funds) and the PCC outdoor Church!

Caregivers

During 2021 8 new Ghanaian caregivers came to join our team, to replace some old caregivers who left PCC during the year. At 31st December 2021 there are 33 caregivers.

They are caring for our 83 young permanent residents as well as for 11 semi-permanent young adults in the sheltered workshop.



In October 2021 we organised a special *Caregivers Day* in PCC for the 6th 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.

Everybody enjoyed.

Football match on Caregivers Day

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 2021 because of corona, even less than during 2020.

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, 30 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.



Alice enjoying being touched softly

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 2021

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 some 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.

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.

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 2021 10 children are gathering every day around the Autism Table.



Sue

House of Silence

In the House of Silence about 10 of our young adults from the workshop are spending a good time every day again in a very quiet and relaxing atmosphere.

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 reached in 2021 was the opening of a Daycare Centre in Nkoranza, while the construction of a new Daycare Centre in Donkro Nkwanta will be completed early 2022.

The work of the PCC Outreach Programme has become more and more substantial over the years.

On our PCC website there is now a special page for all information about our PCC Outreach Programme.

You will find there more information as well as Quarterly and Annual Reports on PCC Outreach.

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 30 years! They all tried their best during the 2nd corona year 2021!

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 2021 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!



*Two happy young boys,
Gabriel and Nyamekye
= Nana Yaw*

+

*Two happy young girls,
Blessing and Miriam*



8. Financial information

Income Sheltered Workshop 2021

The net result of <u>sales in Ghana</u> for the Sheltered Workshop:	Cedi	2.500
The amount of sales in Ghana, but <u>paid Overseas</u> :	Cedi	8.367
= sales to HIH foundation in Holland (6.206) + other sales (2.161)		-----
So the total result of the Sheltered Workshop in 2021 is:	Cedi	10.867

(NB: The result 2021 is only about 30% of the pre-corona years result!)

Income Friendship houses and Restaurant 2021

Profit of the FH and Restaurant <u>in Ghana</u> in 2021:	Cedi	2.389
The amount <u>paid Overseas</u> :	Cedi	10.548

So the total result of FH plus Restaurant in 2021 is:	Cedi	12.937

(NB: The result 2021 is less than 10% (!) of the pre-corona years result!)

TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURES 2021

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	790.297
- Extra Income received for constructions, projects etc.	Cedi	213.734
		----- +

This makes a **Total Income** of Cedi: **Cedi 1.004.031**

EXPENDITURES

- The recurrent Expenditures in 2021 amounted up to:	Cedi	804.850
- Other Expenditures, mainly for Building activities and other extra-budgetary projects were up to:	Cedi	248.298
		----- +

So the **Total Expenditures** were Cedi: **Cedi 1.053.148**

The year 2021 ended with a Total Balance (<u>ADB + GCB</u>) of	Cedi	220.715
and started with an Opening Balance (ADB + GCB) of	Cedi	317.551
		----- -/-
that means that PCC faced a deficit in 2021 of:	Cedi	- 96.836

Annex 1: Financial statement PCC after 12 months 2021

Balance at ADB Bank 01/01/21:		79.086
+ Balance at GCB Bank 01/01/21:	238.465	

Income

Donations Foundation HIH Holland	623.601
Extra donations from or via HIH	38.522
Extra donation for Outreach	20.127
Own contribution PCC	44.306
Friendship houses + Restaurant	12.937
ICT activities	8.000
Sheltered workshop	10.867
Local donations	24.426
Income farm	1.060
Other income	6.451

	790.297

HIH for constructions	155.838
HIH for projects	52.392
Overseas payment	2.910
Refund special loan	2.594

TOTAL INCOME	1.004.031

Expenditures

Allowances	329.434
Feeding	216.819
Repairs General + Houses	55.107
Electricity	30.207
Personal needs	72.651
T & T	16.889
Medical	41.658
Accountant / legal	3.025
Bank Charges / unforeseen	1.610
Others	10.626
Outreach	26.824

	804.850

Constructions	155.709
Projects	52.188
Overseas payment	4.510
Special loans, donations	35.891

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1.053.148

Balance at ADB Bank 31/12/21:		29.965
+ Balance at GCB Bank 31/12/21:	190.750	