



## **Newsletter 22, April 2021**

*Dear friends,*

Spring 2021: time for a new edition of our Newsletter! We would like to inform you on the most recent developments in PCC – Hand in Hand Community from the latest edition of last November until now.

The most important overall change since our latest edition in the year of COVID-19 is, that life in Ghana and PCC is slowly but certainly returning back to “normal”, i.e. life before corona virus. Besides, there are a few very nice developments taking place in PCC and Outreach which are worth mentioning, for example the opening of Daycare in Nkoranza.

### **New resident**

For about three years now Maame Serwaa has come to PCC every single day. We first met her in 2017; malnourished and stunted. Since October 2017 she has received day care in PCC and because she is making progress and will need our help for a long time to come, we have formally accepted her as a resident of PCC.



For more information about Maame Serwaa, who is also lovingly called Aketè (= the little one), see Alberts Corner of March this year:

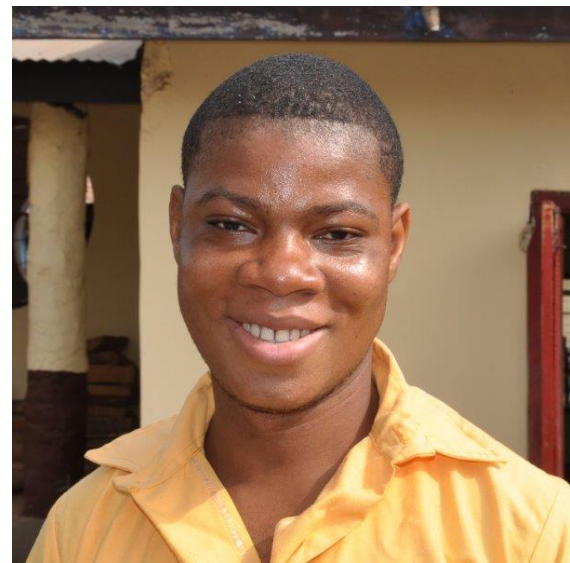
<https://operationhandinhand.nl/?p=7379>

### **Corona in Ghana and its consequences for PCC**

In February 2021 there was an increase in the number of new corona virus infections, however, on the whole one could say that COVID-19 has not had as great an impact on Ghana (or other countries close to the equator) as on e.g. Europe or Northern- and Southern America.

Since January all schools in Ghana have been open again and that is why PCC has been able to pick up the usual dayprogramme from then.

### **New in the Workshop**



Since last January young adult Michael Appiah from Wenchi has joined the other energetic and inquisitive youth from the sheltered workshop.

He is doing very well and is happy with his new place in PCC.

We hope to be able to teach him the necessary skills over the next few years so he can return to his family and have a meaningful life at home.

## **PCC Ananse Daycare Nkoranza**

Finally..., the new Daycare in Nkoranza opened last January! Unfortunately the whole progress has been taking quite a long time because of COVID-19.

The kick-off was a festive occasion in which many proud parents and health care workers of PCC and Outreach took part. Obviously they are very pleased with the possibilities of this new and important facility in the centre of Nkoranza.

During the last few months it has become clear to many inhabitants of Nkoranza what PCC is all about and what it does for society. Many people came to us with their questions and all are speaking highly of this exceptionally beautiful building!

In the mean time more than 15 children are coming to this Daycare every day.



## **Outreach in general**

Besides Daycare all other work by Outreach in the whole of the District will continue as from old. Even new activities have been kicked-off recently.

For example, we have started a Farming Project for a number of young adults with special needs from the village of Donkro Nkwanta and its surroundings. The village of Donkro Nkwanta is based in the Nkoranza South District where we have been running a smaller Daycare for some time now.

With the help of some motivated local people we are trying to offer these participants good daytime activities while giving them the opportunity to contribute to the local food supply by the income they generate from their work.

## **Visit physio-expert Inge Maters**



Inge Maters visited PCC in January which is her 5<sup>th</sup> time in 6 years. Her presence is not only very important for maintaining the quality standard of our physiotherapy, but also for the fitting of the right orthopaedic shoes and the adaption and necessary maintenance of good wheelchairs for our residents. Besides, special needs children who have come to us via Outreach and Daycare also profit from her expertise.

Inge's visits never go unnoticed. PCC is buzzing with activities then: from lessons for caregivers to new activities in our very small but very handy workshop for wheelchairs, braces and shoes. We are already looking forward to Inge's next visit by the end of the year.

## **Wanted: wheelchairs for children**

We are rather well equipped with "ordinary" wheelchairs, but we do need pediatric wheelchairs, especially those with a tilting frame.

So, in case you can spare such a wheelchair or maybe you know someone who can, please let us know! Maybe you can help us out! Send a message to: [handinhandcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:handinhandcommunity@gmail.com)

## Training caregivers

When caregivers leave PCC, which happens regularly, new people will take their places, which makes continuity in the supervision and in-service training of newcomers an important point of attention.

In 2019 and 2020 the first two modules of the trainingsprogramme, focussing on the first six months of work as a caregiver in PCC, have been written and put into practice.

At the beginning of 2021 our special expert on autism, Sue Hatton, finished (in agreement with us) the third module of this programme, which is focussing on the education of caregivers during the first two years of work in PCC.

It has become a welcome addition to our trainingsprogramme which aims at improving the quality of care in PCC!

## Sickness and operation of Jeannette

On the 14th of April our Education Director Jeannette van Galen has been operated in the Netherlands.



We are very glad and grateful to God that the operation was successful. Jeannette is now recovering well from the major surgery.

More news about Jeannette in the next Alberts Corner!

## Comeback in Ghana: no power

During (at least) half-a-year the supply of electricity via the general electricity network will be low in the whole of Ghana, so also in PCC because of major maintenance and operations.

That is why we will be more dependent on our own generator for the time being. So we took a fright when a connection melted a while ago.



*Here was the problem!*

Fortunately, this problem was definitely solved within a few days by the help of Europe (Paul Lamberts), Accra (Sammy Kudasu) and PCC (Obeng): the best of two worlds!

## Your e-mail address

Sometimes people change their e-mail addresses. No problem..... but would you be so kind not to forget to inform us on your new email address?

It would be a pity if we were no longer able to reach you!

## Photos and stories residents of PCC



*Benjamin, 1 of the 100 new photos*

Some time ago we uploaded new and recent photos of all residents of PCC on our website. So, if you are interested in what the children look like in 2021 and whom you are supporting: have a look at them and their stories!

We would also like to update their stories, but this is taking up some more of our time with 100 residents.....! We hope you will understand.



*Blessing, also 1 of the 100!*

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

## Finally

So far for this 22<sup>nd</sup> Newsletter. We hope you are now fully updated again.

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](http://www.handinhandcommunity.com)



*Look, Gabriel is wearing glasses!*

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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