



Newsletter 23, November 2021

Dear friends of PCC-Hand in Hand,

The year 2021 is nearing its end and since our latest issue of April last, a lot has happened in our Community. So, high time for this 23rd Newsletter in which we hope to inform you on the ups-and-downs of PCC by telling you stories and offering you pictures to look at. We are very grateful for your unceasing attention for and commitment to the life of the residents here in Nkoranza.

Corona

After our caregivers had recently and rather unexpectedly received their first vaccination against COVID-19 (see the October issue of Albert’s Corner), we were in for a second surprise a few weeks later!

Then a team of the Ministry of Health came to PCC *to immunise all of our residents of 18 and over (a total of 38!!)* here, right on the spot, against COVID-19.



Vaccination against Covid

They have all done very well, only a few of our youth had some light post-

vaccination complaints the next day, but these only lasted for a very short time. We are very pleased with this increasingly higher protection against corona infections in PCC!

Daycare Nkoranza

Daycare in Nkoranza has not been functioning for a year yet, since its flying start in January 2021 and it already is a giant success.

Each day about 20 children are coming to this centre although initially we had reckoned with a maximum of 15.

Fortunately, the building has been designed with ample room for a larger number of people. This success is exemplary for the need for complementary care for children with special needs and it is no wonder that parents and children are very happy with this wonderful facility.

Because we have had our own means of transport for a couple of months now – thanks to a generous donation – they feel even happier.



With this so-called:

Okada or Pragya

(in other parts of the world it is often called a Tuk-Tuk) the children are picked up from home in the morning and they are brought back home again in the afternoon. Now, that’s a service!

Daycare Donkro Nkwanta

For a number of years now, we have been running a smaller Daycare in the Nkoranza District, i.e. in the village of Donkro Nkwanta about 15 km away. About 8 children are coming to this centre daily. Outside the village we are busy starting a farm project for a few older youths with special needs.

The building we have used so far for this Daycare will be no longer available to us and we have recently decided to build a Daycare centre of our own.

We are very grateful that we have received a generous donation for the realisation of this project. It is really impressive to have such good friends and loyal supporters.



We hope to be able to use this brand new building in Donkro Nkwanta starting from the end of 2021.

We are much satisfied with the present development of both Daycares. They are, clearly, important facilities for local communities!

We are taking giant strides forward in better care for children with special needs outside the gates of PCC and it makes us proud!

Theresa deceased

We are very sorry for the loss of one of our residents during this past period: Theresa, who lived in PCC for over 13 years, died rather suddenly.

Theresa has always been quite a vulnerable girl and she enjoyed the care in PCC in her own unique way. We sincerely hope that she will now rest in eternal peace.

For more information, see:

<https://operationhandinhand.nl/?p=7670>

Two new children in PCC

We are delighted to have recently welcomed two new residents in PCC, two boys aged 4 and 3 respectively. They are both from Kumasi's Childrens Home, where the two of them had already lived for a few years before coming here. They were abandoned (separately) somewhere in Kumasi at a very early age because of their intellectual disabilities.



Matthew

We think that they will be able to thrive here in PCC and we gave them both a new and beautiful PCC-name at their arrival in PCC. From now on they will be called *Matthew and Luke*.

Two residents are already called John and Marc respectively and together with *Matthew and Luke* the four Gospels of the New Testament are positively represented in PCC!

We wish *Matthew and Luke* a very happy life in PCC!



Luke

Caregivers Day 2021

It has become good custom in PCC to organise a special day of celebration for our caregivers in PCC. That is why we organised the 6th Caregivers Day on October the 19th!

On Caregivers Day we are expressing our gratitude to all of our caregivers for their commitment and good care shown during the previous year, by organising a day of sports and games, good food and drinks and last but not least a welcome bonus for everyone!



As far as the caregivers are concerned, it may always be Caregivers Day, but on all other days of the year it is non-stop Childrens Day!!

Three new young people in the sheltered workshop

This period of COVID-19 has also influenced those working in the sheltered workshop. Because of all corona measures taken they have often stayed in their own villages for a long period of time and some parents are still keeping



their children at home, which is fine with us!

Besides, some, i.e. Charles and *Bridget* (see photo left), have left the workshop and PCC after a period of 10 or even 15 years. We have said our goodbyes to them in an appropriate manner and we have wished them all the very best for the rest of their lives.

Because of these changes there is room for some new people and that is why we have recently admitted three young adults to the sheltered workshop for a probation period of three months. They are Emmanuel from Sampa, Nelson from Nkoranza and Elizabeth from Donkro Nkwanta.

We sincerely hope that we will be able to teach them many useful skills in our sheltered workshop.

Experts on visit

Fortunately, a few of our much esteemed experts were visiting us in September and October. This made us very happy and grateful after this period of stagnation caused by COVID-19.

One of them was Sue Hatton from Bristol. She has been our expert on autism for years now and she is also the designer of our training programme for caregivers. A true and much respected friend of PCC!



Sue and Solomon

We also welcomed Sabine van Erp from Groningen in Holland, who is a great expert in especially the field of play therapy. She has given the Daycare programmes in PCC a thorough boost and because she has not finished her

work yet, she will continue her work next year and we are already looking forward to this!

The young physician and a former volunteer (also from Groningen), Sofanne Ravensbergen, visited PCC for a few weeks to help and support the Board in PCC.

Together with some others she will strengthen and reduce the vulnerability of the bond between the foundation of Hand in Hand in the Netherlands and the Peace of Christ Foundation in Ghana. Sofanne, you are very welcome to this new and important task!

Jeannette in PCC again

After the heavy "Storm in Ghana": see Alberts Corner: <https://operationhandinhand.nl/?p=7626> and its consequences and concerns for Ghana as well as PCC, there was also reason for rejoicing when Jeannette van Galen was able to recently travel to PCC in good health.

On September the 17th she was festively received into PCC during an emotional gathering. Happy laughter and tears went hand in hand that day.

Foundation lies waiting

Unfortunately, the G8 (from Groningen as well...!) has not yet been able to come to PCC this year, just like in 2020, because of all corona rules and measures taken.



The foundation of the new and bigger Boys Dormitory,

which will be built by the G8, is ready thanks to a generous donation.

It is now waiting for the arrival of Bernard Meier and his company in 2022!

Sponsoring

There are still some 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 Jeannette Klein via:

sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl or via handinhandpcc@gmail.com



Reuben enjoys his life in PCC

Finally

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

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

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
handinhandcommunity@gmail.com