

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

PEACE OF CHRIST -

HAND IN HAND COMMUNITY

NKORANZA, GHANA

Greenville street
Nkoranza B/E Ghana



The very beautiful PCC compound

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Joe Emma with a number of happy PCC residents

1. Summary

After 2 corona years all of us in the PCC – Hand in Hand Community hoped that 2022 would be a year free of major problems, but unfortunately it wasn't like that.

Corona proved to be no problem in Ghana anymore in 2022, but the Russian war in Ukraine resulted not only in the tragic death of many innocent people over there, but also in major economic side-effects all over the world. And the Ghana economy was already very vulnerable! Many prices in Ghana shoot up with 100% and the Cedi depreciated more than 50% during 2022!

The higher prices in Ghana obviously resulted in higher running costs for PCC.

Unfortunately the latter part of 2022 was a very sad period for PCC as we had to face the unexpected death of 4 of our residents.

In 2022 we accepted 2 new residents in PCC and 2 new young adults in the Workshop. At the end of the year 93 (91 + 2) children and young adults are living in the Community, 81 (+2) of them permanently, while 10 young adults - still having family - are developing their skills in the Sheltered Workshop.

We were happy to welcome some more visitors in PCC than in 2020 and 2021, though the number is still lower than before the corona pandemic. As a result the profits from Guesthouses and Shop are still lower than before.

Despite all this the Peace of Christ Foundation was able to run the Community in Nkoranza well during this year. Our income still mainly comes from contributions from sponsors and donors Overseas, that covered almost 90% of our running costs in 2022. We were able to generate 11% of the needed funds as Local Income.

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.

About 55 workers are members of our Ghanaian staff with 30 (+3) caregivers and 22 others. 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 2022 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 2022 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 2022

General

Overall the year 2022 was a difficult year for our Community, first of all because of the loss of as much as 4 of our residents and also because of the tough economic situation in Ghana.

On the other hand we are still very satisfied with the good atmosphere and nice developments in PCC. During the whole year we were able to offer a safe home to and good care in a loving environment for all 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.



Samson

Residents

In 2022 2 new residents came to PCC, they were M'afia II and *Samson*. (N.B. 2 new ones came in Jan. 2023). Unfortunately we lost some residents in the latter part of 2022. Between October and December as much as 4 children passed away: Bernice, Wumpini, Kojo Joseph and Linda. Most of them lived for many years in PCC and all will be missed dearly. May they rest in peace.

A total of 3 of the long-time workers in the Sheltered Workshop left our Community, while 2 new ones came during 2022.

By the end of 2022 PCC was caring for a total number of 91 (+2) children: 81 (+2) are permanent residents, while 10 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 actively supported the care for almost 100 children with disabilities in the villages of the surrounding Districts 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 2022

Some important developments in 2022 are worth mentioning:

- Early 2022 as much as 13 residents of our Community were baptised during a very special and solemn church service in our own Worship Centre between the rocks. It was a day full of joy and inspiration and Father Enoch did very well while connecting to the children during this service.
As Jesus said: "Let the children come to Me and do not hinder them, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven".
- The PCC Ananse Daycare Centre in Nkoranza town, already in use since January 2021 with a daily attendance of about 20 (!) children, was officially opened in September 2022 by one of the Chiefs of Nkoranza! It all happened during a very



nice ceremony with a lot of public attention via radio and in the newspapers. Everybody told us they are very impressed by the beauty and functionality of this centre. It offers all children a safe place and good care during daytime and at the same time gives their parents the opportunity to work for their daily food and income.

The Chief performing the Official Opening

- The beautiful new Daycare Centre in Donkor Nkwanta was completed early 2022. Every day about 8 – 10 children are coming to this very nice centre. This centre is very well accepted by the chiefs, elders and inhabitants of the village!
- The PCC 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 2022. Some nice donations helped us to buy a projector and later also a big screen for usage for the training sessions. The training is given by some very experienced caregivers.
- We are also happy and very proud that various workers from 2 Ghanaian institutions (from Accra Psychiatric Hospital and Bolgatanga Operation Mango Tree) came to PCC to have a special training for working with children with disabilities in their own place. It shows that nowadays the unique care PCC gives to (abandoned) disabled children is more and more recognised in Ghana!
- PCC was happy being able to cope as good as possible with the big economic problems and fast rising prices in Ghana by deciding to buy in advance as much as possible food items in bulk, In this way we stayed at least a bit ahead of all increases in prices and shortages on the markets.
- During 2022 not only did 4 children pass away, but some residents were also very sick, like Yaw Balloon and Amma Lekma. We are grateful that they reacted well to treatment and at the end recovered surprisingly well after their serious illnesses.
- The special Network, created in 2021 to strengthen the ties between PCC and the Dutch Foundation Hand in Hand, became even stronger in 2022. Inge Maters, Sofanne Ravensbergen and Jeannette Klein all came to PCC during this year and from 2023 on they will do their activities more independently.



- A wonderful new building has been realised between October and December with the great support of the Dutch G8 group, to become another Boys Dormitory, for the young male residents from PCC who are gradually growing older. G8 supported the construction and paid for the building as well, so no surprise the name of the new house is: **G8 House**.

- The G8 did another great job by constructing a small bridge to give PCC an safe road to town, as the Hospital made clear they don't like that all traffic for PCC and others is passing the Hospital compound. A big gate blocked the old road!

Caregivers

During 2022 10 new Ghanaian caregivers came to join our team, to replace 13 caregivers who left PCC during the year. At 31st December 2022 there were 30 caregivers, while 3 new caregivers are employed per January 2023, bringing the total back to 33 again.

The caregivers are caring for our 83 young permanent residents as well as for 10 semi-permanent young adults in the sheltered workshop.

In October 2022 we organised for the 7th time a special *Caregivers Day* in PCC, as a token of our appreciation for the good work done by our caregivers during the whole year when caring for all PCC children.

It was a wonderful day and once again a great success.

Everybody enjoyed.



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 welcomed some more visitors to our Community in 2022 than during the 2 corona years 2020 and 2021, but the number of visitors is still less than before.

This also results 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”

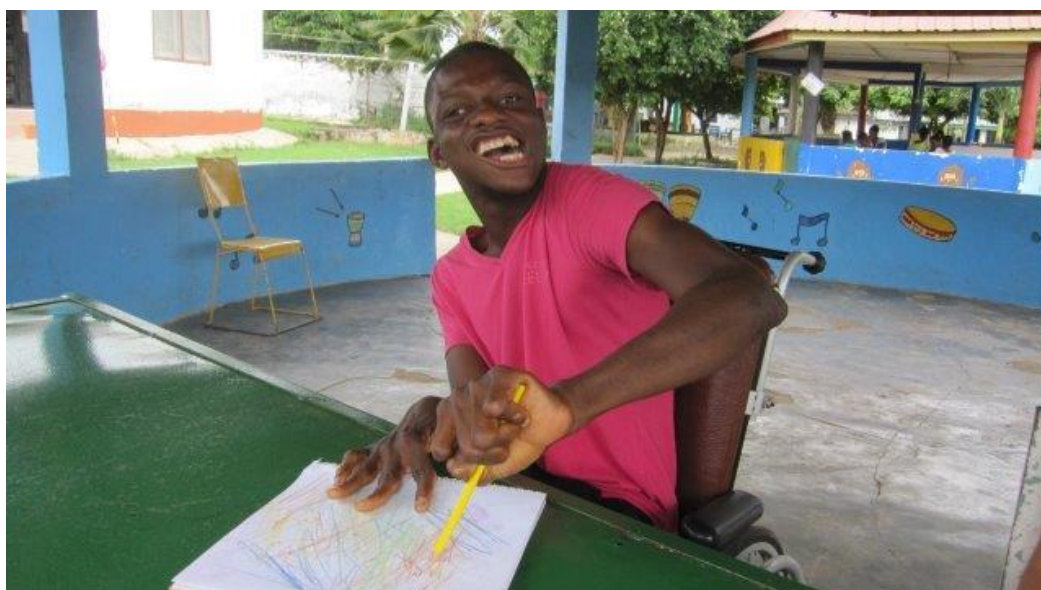
In the rural areas of Ghana intellectually disabled children are sometimes still referred to as “water-children”. Local tradition claims that these children are born as a result of a woman being raped by a water-spirit. Water spirits, real or not, are thus causing havoc in people’s lives and the water-children, 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-workers. Dr. Ineke Bosman 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 Sheltered workshop was realized in 2003 and expanded later. There is also a special room for care for autistic children and next to it is a special House of Silence for children preferring a quiet environment.

Our special Summer School started in 2010 and is active the whole year for some groups of our children, guided by 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. 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.

Since 2015 PCC is also running an fast growing Outreach Programme, aimed to support disabled children and their parents in the villages and to raise public awareness about the situation of disabled children in the Ghanaian Society. You will find more info about our Outreach Programme further on in this Report.

4. PCC Sheltered Workshop Annual Report 2022

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.

Babato

Weaving Department

In the Weaving Hall some young adults are having a good time every day with Kente weaving, creating beautiful materials for producing 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 another 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 2022 12 children are gathering every day around the Autism Table.

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 supported by the chiefs and elders, the District Assembly and the parents of the disabled children from these villages.

The major goal reached in 2022 was the opening of a Daycare Centre in Nkoranza, while the construction of another new Daycare Centre in Donkro

Nkwanta was completed early 2022. The official opening is planned for 2023.



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.

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 a coordinator, Mr. Emmanuel Boyan, who is responsible for all activities in the workshop.

Outreach has 2 well trained workers, Mr. Gabriel Nkpawase and Mr. Emma Boyan (who is also responsible for the Sheltered Workshop).

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, our many friends and supporters and to all our sponsors and donors. Without their great efforts, dedicated work and appreciated support we could not continue functioning as we are already doing for more than 30 years! They all tried their best during the year 2022!

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 2022 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!



8. Financial information

Income Sheltered Workshop 2022

The result of <u>sales in Ghana</u> for the Sheltered Workshop:	Cedi	9.920
The amount of sales in Ghana, but <u>paid Overseas</u> :	Cedi	27.216
<i>= sales to HIH foundation in Holland (17.073) + other sales (10.143)</i>		

So the result of the Sheltered Workshop in 2022 is:	Cedi	34.222
Balance surplus at Shop Bank account:	Cedi	2.914

Calculated Total:	Cedi	37.136

(NB: The result 2022 is in line again with the pre-corona years results!)

Income Friendship houses and Restaurant 2022

Profit of the FH and Restaurant <u>in Ghana</u> in 2022:	Cedi	21.337
The amount <u>paid Overseas</u> :	Cedi	62.713

So the total result of FH plus Restaurant in 2022 is:	Cedi	84.050

(NB: The result 2022 is still 28% lower than the pre-corona years results!)

TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURES 2022

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	1.577.782
- Extra Income received for constructions, projects etc.	Cedi	289.081
----- +		
This makes a <u>Total Income</u> of Cedi:	Cedi	1.866.863

EXPENDITURES

- Expenditures within Budget in 2022 was up to:	Cedi	1.058.382
- Other Expenditures, mainly for Building activities and other extra-budgetary projects were up to:	Cedi	337.462
----- +		
So the <u>Total Expenditures</u> were Cedi:	Cedi	1.395.844

The year 2022 ended with a Total Balance (<u>ADB + GCB</u>) of	Cedi	507.434
and started with an Opening Balance (ADB + GCB) of	Cedi	220.715
----- -/-		
that means that PCC had a surplus in 2022 of:	Cedi	286.719

(NB: this surplus is mainly the result of a big transfer plus an advance payment for 2023, made in Dec. 2022, from the Foundation Hand in Hand Holland as well from better than budgeted Local Income from Guesthouses, Shop and Local Donations.)

Annex 1: Financial statement PCC for the year 2022

Balance at ADB Bank 01/01/22:		29.965
+ Balance at GCB Bank 01/01/22:	190.750	
<u>Income</u>		
Donations from HIH Holland	1.068.908	
Extra donations from or via HIH	134.707	
Extra donations for Outreach	28.628	
Transfer from GCB to ADB	181.841	
Friendship houses	84.050	
ICT Department	10.000	
Sheltered Workshop	34.222	
Local donations	26.855	
Other Income	8.571	

	1.577.782	
Transfer for constructions	183.181	
Transfer for Projects	43.719	
Overseas payments	41.881	
Refund of special loans	20.300	

TOTAL INCOME	1.866.863	
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Allowances	357.328	
Outreach allowances	31.288	
Costs of Feeding	286.664	
Repair General and houses	71.591	
Electricity	34.839	
Personal needs	83.790	
T&T		
20.482		
Medical	65.537	
Accountant + legal	3.022	
Bank charges + unforeseen	8.899	
Others		
13.692		
Outreach	81.250	

	-	
	1.058.382	
Constructions	232.194	
Projects	49.227	
Oversea payments	36.681	
Special loans & donations	19.360	

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1.395.844	
Balance ADB 31/12/22:		500.988
+ Balance GCB 31/12/22:	6.446	