



Newsletter 25, December 2022

Dear friends,

Scoop: Christmas Greetings and Newsletter combined!

It is almost December again; the year has nearly passed, and Christmas and the New Year are approaching.



Celebration of Christmas in 2021

The year 2022 has doubtlessly been very turbulent: a horrible war in Ukraine and subsequently, unprecedented price increases and a considerable inflation. Because of increasing food shortages and political unrest, unfortunately, the Peace of the Christmas Eve seems very far away.

PCC has experienced some ups and downs this year as well, however, there is still much to be very grateful for. In this restless world PCC remains a beacon of peace and quiet.

We thank you all for your lasting support and loyal involvement with the fortunes and misfortunes of our Community during the past year and we wish you, on behalf of the Board of PCC and the trustees of Hand in Hand, a very merry

and peaceful Christmas and all the best for the year 2023.

By means of this Newsletter, the 25th, so an anniversary issue, we would like to inform you about the most important developments in and around PCC during the last six months. We sincerely hope that you will read this Newsletter with great interest.

Ghanaian economy and consequences for PCC

The Ghanaian economy is caught in a downward spiral during the past period. The Cedi has lost more than 50% of its value since mid-2022 and prices are rising at a record pace. Petrol for instance is 2.5 times more expensive than it was in January.

Understandably, these unprecedented price increases also affect our PCC – Hand in Hand Community, each month the increase in total costs is becoming more and more alarming! We hope that the Ghanaian government, with the support of the IMF, will be able to turn this whole situation for the better: all Ghanaian people are suffering under these circumstances.

Hereby as an almost logical consequence the following request:

Financial support by sponsors

For the past 20 (!) years the sponsorships for the care of our residents have not been increased. It has always been 1 x €75 or 3 x €25 per month.

In the meantime, it has become evident that we will no longer be able to make ends meet, which probably will not surprise you after such a long time. This is mainly caused by the increase in expenditure on PCC's work, including the Outreach programme, but also because of the high inflation rate in Ghana.

That is why we would like to request our sponsors to consider if it would be possible for them to increase their sponsorship from €75 to €100 and €25 to €30 or €35 per month.

Evidently, we do understand that it will not be possible for all sponsors to increase their sponsorship: these are expensive and uncertain times. We would appreciate and hope for many positive responses to this request. It is entirely up to you!

Gate hospital



Suddenly, PCC lost its way, because the hospital put up a gate on the only entrance way to our Community.

Fortunately, the G8 from Groningen arrived in PCC just in time to help us out and on our way by constructing a completely new bridge on a road that no vehicle was able to take anymore. As a result, we were able to find our way back again!

For more information and photos: <https://operationhandinhand.nl/en/pcc-has-lost-its-way/>

Deceased

Unfortunately, our Community was shocked quite recently by the passing away of 3 of our residents in rapid succession (see their photos on page 5).

First we lost Bernice and Wumpini, who have been much loved residents of PCC for 13 years and even 20 years respectively.

And only 2 weeks later Kojo Joseph ("Kojo Runaway") also passed away. He stayed in our Community for 14 years and he lived in his own world for most of that time.

We are much stricken by this great loss during such a short period, but we hope and believe that all 3 of them have found their eternal peace with their Heavenly Father.

For more details see In Memoriam: <https://operationhandinhand.nl/en/a-sad-week-for-our-community/> and <https://operationhandinhand.nl/en/kojo-joseph-is-no-more/>

While writing this column (end of November) we are also very much concerned about the critical condition of Amma Lekma, who is suffering from a very serious affliction to her right arm and - although somewhat less serious - also to her other arm and legs. Not to mention the already existent brain damage she has. These are sad times for PCC – Hand in Hand.

New resident

A few months ago, we were happy to welcome a new resident, Samson who is about 6 years old, and who was abandoned by some unknown people in Wenchi and who came to us via Social Welfare.



Samson started his new life here by eating very much, then he stopped eating for a while, but now he is doing fine. We expect he will be doing well here; he did not get his beautiful name for nothing.

Accident and illnesses

Most of you will know Stephen, who suddenly slipped on a wet floor during a rainy night and broke his upper leg. In hospital the surgeon decided that an operation on his leg was not advisable because of the condition of his bones. So, he had to spend time in traction. Meanwhile he has recuperated and is back from hospital.

Almost always a few of our residents are ill to a greater or lesser extent, e.g., from malaria, and probably this will always be the case.

During the past period - except from the deceased Bernice, Wumpini and Kojo Joseph - also Amma Lekma, Yaw Balloon and William of Orange have been seriously ill. Fortunately the latter two are getting back their health again.

Dormitory built with the help of G8



We have already mentioned the presence of the G8 in PCC regarding the construction of the new bridge, but the real reason that they were here was to help build a new Dormitory near the sheltered workshop for the bigger boys. The building is expected to be ready at the end of 2022 and it promises to become a wonderful accommodation!

Outreach and Official opening of PCC Ananse Daycare Centre Nkoranza

Since the beginning of 2021 the PCC Ananse Daycare Centre in Nkoranza has been in use, but this remarkable centre has never been officially opened due to the Covid-19 upheavals.

This (small) problem has been solved now, because during a festive and well-attended ceremony on the 21st of October one of the Chiefs from Nkoranza officially opened the building after some compelling speeches by cutting a ribbon.



Of course, we made good use of the occasion by drawing the attention of those present to the need for good care for children with special needs.

The Daycare Centres are a wonderful addition to the health care provided by PCC, and we hope to be able to start 2 of these centres in the districts around Nkoranza within 1 to 2 years.

Visit of several experts

We are very fortunate that various experts came to support us – again - last October. First, our expert on autism and developer of our most important training programme for caregivers, Sue Hatton, arrived here together with her 2 friends Carmel and Deborah.



Then there were Inge Maters and her colleague Ingrid, both very skilful physiotherapists, and finally Greetje – a much appreciated help in the sheltered workshop – and her husband Arie.

And let's not forget the able builders of the G8 group from Groningen supervised by Bernard Meier!



PCC feels truly blessed with such loyal and professional friends!

Physiotherapy from HFH Techiman

Because of the annual visits of our physio-expert Inge Maters during the past 7 years a huge boost has been given to the quality of physiotherapy especially where the children of the Outreach programme are concerned. A (understandable) bottleneck was – of course – that Inge is staying in PCC for only a few weeks a year and new requests for physiotherapy are being made throughout the year.

That is why we are very fortunate that we have been able to take the next step.



In June 2022 we made an agreement with two physiotherapists of HFH

Hospital in Techiman that they will come to PCC once in 2 weeks to offer physiotherapy to especially the children in the Outreach programme. The first evaluation in October, during which Inge Maters was also present, was very positive.

Finally volunteers in PCC again

It has taken a while because of Covid-19 but finally it was possible again: in August and September we were happy to welcome 2 volunteers to PCC, one from Ghana (the first ever!) and one from The Netherlands!

As from old the children were queuing to get "special attention" from one of them!

We sincerely hope that more volunteers will come to our Community. We would be very pleased to host them and for almost all volunteers working here for a while is an unforgettable and life-enriching experience!

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 treasurer Jeannette Klein: mail to penningmeester@operationhandinhand.nl

Finally

So far for this 25th Newsletter. We hope you are now fully updated again.

For more frequent information check my monthly column Alberts Corner on the PCC -website:

Cordial greetings on behalf of the PCC Board, that is Baffo, Joe Emma, Jeannette and me and of course from everyone else at PCC!

www.handinhandcommunity.com

Albert van Galen,
General director PCC – Hand in Hand

handinhandcommunity@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM



Bernice



Wumpini



Kojo Joseph