

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

PEACE OF CHRIST - HAND IN HAND COMMUNITY

NKORANZA, GHANA

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Annex 1: Financial statement 2023



1. Summary

Another important year in the history of PCC – Hand in Hand has passed. As always we noticed many happy moments, but also saw sad events in PCC and around the world.

Corona proved to be no problem in Ghana anymore in 2023, but the turbulent global political and economic situation, that started in 2022 with the war in Ukraine, became even worse in 2023 with the Israel – Palestine war and the civil war in Sudan. This resulted in tragic situations for many people, but also in rising prices on the world market, which also had its effects on the running costs for our Community.

In 2023 we accepted 4 new residents in PCC, but we also had to face the passing away of 2 of our senior residents.

At the end of the year 90 children + young adults are living in the Community, 83 of them permanently, while 5 young adults - still having family - are developing their social and practical skills in the Sheltered Workshop. 2 new residents are expected early 2024.

In 2023 we were happy to welcome in PCC a bit more visitors than during the past years. There is no corona pandemic anymore, but nowadays people in Europe often feel some kind of flight shame because of global climate problems, so the total number of visitors is still lower than before.

Our Peace of Christ Foundation was able to run the Community in Nkoranza quite well during this year. Our income still mainly comes from contributions from sponsors and donors Overseas. This covered almost 87,5 % of our running costs in 2023, while we were able to generate about 12,5 % 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 + South Districts as well as the Techiman South District continued and expanded, especially by offering more Daycare facilities! Nowadays a total number of about 100 children is benefitting from the services of PCC Outreach.

About 60 workers are a member of our Ghanaian staff, with 33 caregivers in PCC and 27 others, including 5 caregivers working in the Daycares in the District. They all contribute to the well-functioning of PCC and to the creation of a safe, loving and caring environment for our residents and Outreach clients.

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 2023 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 2023 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 2023

General

After some difficult years, first because of the corona pandemic (2020 + 2021) and then later because of the serious economic problems in Ghana (2022), the year 2023 was somehow less tense, but nevertheless it was a year full of interesting and important events in and for our Community.

Whatever events were noticed, we remain very happy being able to offer a safe home and proper care in a loving environment to 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.

In 2023 we started with preparations for a new financial and administrative set-up in PCC, knowing that our project Director Mr Samuel Baffo will go for retirement in 2024.

Residents



Nathan

In 2023 4 new residents came to PCC. They are Abigail, *Nathan* and Paul, who all came from Kumasi Children's Home, and Peter, who came from O-Africa in Accra.

They are very welcome in PCC and have by now all settled in our Community.

Unfortunately we also lost 2 of our residents, Alice and Yaw Peter. Both of them lived for many years in PCC and are missed. May they rest in perfect peace.

Two long-time workers in the Sheltered Workshop left our Community and one became a permanent resident. In 2024 we will review our policy concerning young adults coming to the Sheltered Workshop.

By the end of 2023 PCC was caring for a total number of 83 + 5 + 2 children, that means 83 permanent residents, 5 young adults who are active in the sheltered workshop and 2 new children from Kumasi Children's Home who arrived early 2024.

Outside PCC we actively support the care for about 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 where they will stay and with that philosophy in mind everyone tries to care for them in the best possible way.

Important developments in PCC during 2023

Some important developments in 2023 are worth mentioning:

- We were very grateful for receiving various nice donations from Europe. It enabled us, among others, to buy some important new machines, like strong *2 laundry machines (see the photo on page 12)*, a lawn mower, an oven for the kitchen, 2 water pumps and even more. Thanks to our friends and donors!

- The beautiful new *Daycare Centre in Donkor Nkwanta* was officially opened in May 2023. 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!



- We also saw the need of about 6 – 8 disabled children in another village, Kyeradeso, situated about 10 km. from Donkro Nkwanta. We first tried to create a transport facility for these children between Kyeradeso and the DC in Donkro Nkwanta, but that proved to be difficult and very expensive. Therefore we decided to look for an opportunity to start a new Daycare Centre in Kyeradeso. We were able to agree with the Ghana Education Service to use some old and out-of-use classrooms for some years, to make a start with a Daycare Centre in Kyeradeso. By the end of 2023 2 classrooms were renovated and are ready to be used as a Daycare! The start will be early 2024.
- The PCC training programme, developed by our expert Sue Hatton, is still used for all caregivers to help them to become better and more professional caregivers. The programme has improved even more during 2023, when Sue Hatton came for a visit and an update of the programme to PCC. The training is given by some very experienced caregivers. Sue Hatton also brought a nice projector for educational purposes to be used in and outside PCC.
- PCC was well able to cope with the fast rising prices in Ghana and we were happy the situation gradually stabilized during 2023.
- During 2023 some residents were also very sick, like Kojo Patrick, Yaw Balloon and Yaa Yaa. We are grateful that they reacted well to treatment and recovered 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 stronger and stronger and even more effective during 2023. Inge Maters, Sofanne Ravensbergen and Jeannette Klein all came to PCC during the year and contributed a lot to PCC in all kind of ways.
- We were also happy with the great contribution of Sue Hatton, Elizabeth Atfield (from the UK) and Sabine van Erp (from Holland), who all came to help PCC during 2023 in their various fields of expertise. We are grateful for such friends!
- In 2022 the G8 did a great job by constructing a small bridge to give PCC a safe road to town and in 2023 this new road could be completed.



Matthew trying to read!

- During the year 2023 we spent a lot of time preparing our organization for the future, knowing that our very experienced Project Director Mr Samuel Baffo will leave for retirement in Aug. 2024.
By the end of 2023 our Care Director Mr Joe Emma and some experienced caregivers have taken up various new responsibilities and this new administrative structure will be expanded in 2024, when these caregivers will form a so-called Support Group, to support Mr Joe Emma and the whole PCC Board.
- During 2023 we welcomed the good school results of both *Emmanuella* (see [page 2 for her photo, with her caregiver Joyce](#)) and Stephen who both completed the Junior High School with good results. Wonderful! Both have since then started with furthering their education by going to (2 different) Senior High Schools.

Caregivers and other workers

During 2023 9 new Ghanaian caregivers came to join our team in PCC, to replace 6 caregivers who left PCC during the year.

At 31st December 2023 there were [33 caregivers in PCC](#).



The total of PCC workers (including Outreach) is now more than 60 workers, who are supporting all aspects of the functioning of our Community! One can conclude that over the years PCC has become quite a big organisation!

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

In October 2023 we organised for the eighth time a special *Caregivers Day* in PCC, to show our appreciation for the good work done during the whole year by our caregivers, when caring for all PCC children. All other workers also enjoyed the appreciation.

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

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, from the German support organisation Ananse and also from some other foundations.

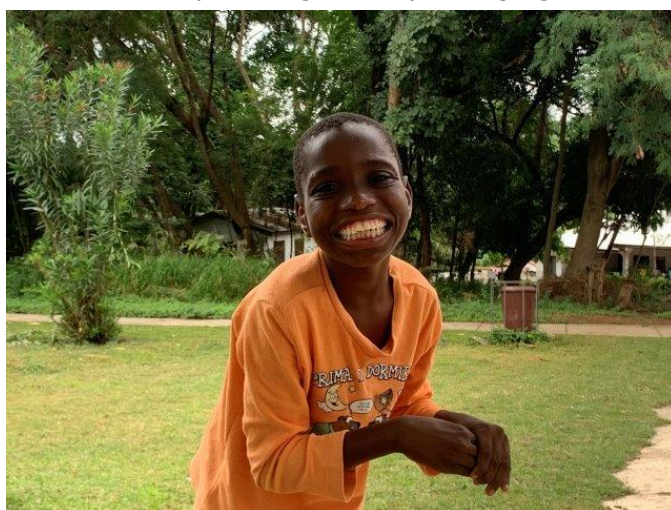
Visitors

In 2023 we welcomed more visitors to our Community than during the last 3 years (3 corona and post-corona years). This also resulted in an higher income from the Friendship houses + Restaurant. However, the income from the Shop, where products from our Sheltered Workshop are sold, was unfortunately lower than in 2022.

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!



James

Apart from the dangerous traditional belief-systems, the parents have to cope with the universally experienced feelings of agony when faced with getting 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 and in good co-operation with Social Welfare Ghana.

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 2004 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 very quiet and peaceful environment.

Our special Summer School started in 2010 and is active during the year for some groups of our children. It's guided by caregivers who received a special in-service training.

Caregivers are living like parents with some of the PCC children. They sleep together, play together, bath the children and eat with them. 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, making fun and showing 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 of our Community.

Highlight of the daily schedule is *the 4 PM swimming-time (see photo)* 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 steadily growing Outreach Program, 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 can read more about our Outreach Programme further on in this Report.

4. PCC Sheltered Workshop Annual Report 2023

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 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 (see picture)

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.



Latif and Kojo Evans weaving

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. These products are very much appreciated by the 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, being 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 2023 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 to epileptic children (who were not receiving any treatment) 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 work of the PCC Outreach Programme has become more and more substantial over the years.

In 2023 we were very pleased with the outcome of a survey of Hester Jonkheer, who did a Master Thesis in our area and at the same time observed all aspects of our Outreach programme and shared a lot of valuable observations and advices with the Outreach team and the PCC Board. It will help all of us to decide on the best way forward.

On our PCC website there is 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 an Advisory Person:
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 these 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 receive a monthly allowance as well as free boarding and lodging with the children they are caring for.

The workshop has a part-time coordinator, Mr. Emmanuel Boyan, who is responsible for all activities in the workshop.

Outreach has 2 well trained workers, Mr. Gabriel Nkpawiasse and also Mr. Emma Boyan (part-time, as he 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



Joel and Nana Yaw

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 now doing for more than 30 years! They all tried their best during the year 2023!

It is our belief that we are involved in a vision and a commitment larger than each of us individually and 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 our visitors, often experience when coming to our Community.

Looking back to 2023 we therefore can't say nothing 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 2023

The net profit from <u>sales in Ghana</u> for Sheltered Workshop:	Cedi	1.845
The amount of products bought in Ghana, but <u>paid Overseas</u> :	Cedi	24.335
<i>(This includes sales to HIH foundation in Holland (16.455))</i>		-----

So the Result of the Sheltered Workshop in 2023 is:	Cedi 26.180
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(NB: The result 2023 is unfortunately about 30 % lower than the result 2022!)

Surplus on Friendship Houses and Restaurant 2023

The surplus on the FH and Restaurant <u>in Ghana</u> in 2023:	Cedi	83.385
The amount due in Ghana, but <u>paid Overseas</u> :	Cedi	42.769

So the total result of FH plus Restaurant in 2023 is:	Cedi 126.154
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(NB: The result 2023 is about 50% higher than the result 2022!)

TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURES 2023

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 1.271.626
- Extra Income received for constructions, projects etc.	Cedi 274.494
	----- +
This makes a <u>Total Income</u> of Cedi:	Cedi 1.546.120

EXPENDITURES

- Expenditures within Budget in 2023 was up to:	Cedi 1.479.366
- Other Expenditures, mainly for Building activities and other extra-budgetary projects were up to:	Cedi 316.246
	----- +
So the <u>Total Expenditures</u> were Cedi:	Cedi 1.795.612

The year 2023 ended with a Total Balance (<u>ADB + GCB</u>) of	Cedi 511.976
and started with an Opening Balance (ADB + GCB) of	Cedi 507.434
	----- -/-
that means that PCC had a small surplus in 2023 of:	Cedi 4.542

*(NB: though the Total Balance at the end of the year is about the same as the Opening Balance, one should keep in mind that the inflation in Ghana was more than 30% in 2023, that came on top of the 50% inflation in 2022.....!
So the buying power of the Balance by the end of 2023 is definitely not the same as one year ago!)*



Zuleha is very happy with 2 new laundry machines

Annex 1: Financial statement PCC for the year 2023

Balance at ADB Bank 01/01/2023:	500.988
+ Balance at GCB Bank 01/01/2023:	6.446

Total at Bank as per <u>01/01/2023</u> :	507.434
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Income

Donations from HIH Holland	992.804
Extra donations from or via HIH	52.266
Extra donations for Outreach	0
Friendship houses	126.154
ICT Department	14.000
Sheltered Workshop	24.335
Local donations	50.926
Other Income	11.141

	1.271.626

Transfer for constructions	54.594
Transfer for Projects	146.389
Overseas payments	57.511
Refund of special loans	16.000

TOTAL INCOME	1.546.120
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Expenditures

Allowances	497.162
Costs of Feeding	437.125
Repair General and houses	98.521
Electricity	50.595
Personal needs	142.731
T&T	30.257
Medical	87.629
Accountant + legal	5.850
Bank charges + unforeseen	1.776
Others	26.116
Outreach	101.604

	1.479.366

Constructions	93.396
Projects	121.577
Overseas payments	56.733
Special loans & donations	44.540

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1.795.612
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Balance ADB 31/12/23:	251.497
+ Balance GCB 31/12/23:	260.479

Total at Bank as per <u>31/12/2023</u> :	511.976
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