

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

**PEACE OF CHRIST -  
HAND IN HAND COMMUNITY**

NKORANZA, GHANA



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# Hand in Hand

Community Ghana

## Table of contents:

1. Summary
2. General review and developments in 2024
3. Background information + History Hand in Hand
4. Report on the Sheltered Workshop
5. Outreach programme
6. Organisation, staff and management
7. Conclusion and acknowledgment
8. Financial information

Annex 1: Financial statement 2024



## 1. Summary

The year 2024 was a year full of changes in the whole world and PCC, being part of this world (!), also noticed quite some changes.

During the year PCC accepted 2 new residents, but we also had to face the passing away of as much as 4 of our beloved residents. And we are looking forward to welcome at least 3 new residents in 2025.

At the end of the year 87 children + young adults are living in the Community, 81 of them permanently, while 6 young adults - still having family in the villages - are developing their social and practical skills in the Sheltered Workshop.

In 2024 we were happy to welcome in PCC a few more visitors than in the years before. There is no 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 corona. The same applies to volunteers coming.

About 60 workers are member of our Ghanaian staff, with 30+ caregivers in PCC and 30 others, including 9 caregivers working in the Daycares in the District. They all contribute to the properly functioning of PCC and to the creation of a safe, loving and caring environment for our residents and Outreach clients.

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 120 children is benefitting from the services of PCC Outreach.

Ghana is still trying to recover from its huge economic problems in the years 2022 and 2023. In 2024 the situation somehow stabilized, but the population was still not happy and voted for a new Government by the end of 2024. We hope the new Government can stop the always increasing prices and the huge inflation in Ghana from 2025 on.

Despite these problems, 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 85% of our running costs in 2024, while we were able to generate about 15% of the needed funds as Local Income.

Since 2010 the Board of PCC had the same 4 members, but in 2024 things changed. Our project director, Mr Samuel Kwame Baffo, retired after many years of service.

[Mr Emmanuel Amponsah Daasebre](#) (his picture is on [page 2](#) under Table of Contents) is now the Director of PCC in Ghana.

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 abandoned children. We are happy that also during the year 2024 our children could benefit from living in this Community, which is very much their own peaceful place on earth.

We are grateful to God for all blessings showered upon our Community in 2024 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 2024**

### General

After some difficult years, first because of the corona pandemic and later because of the serious economic problems in Ghana, the year 2024 was a bit more quiet, but nevertheless it was a year full of interesting and important events in and for our Community.

Whatever events popped up, we still feel 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 2024 we experienced a major change in the Board of PCC, as our project Director Mr Samuel Baffo retired and left PCC after 30 years of dedicated service.

Now Mr. Emmanuel Amponsah Daasebre is the Ghanaian Director of PCC.

Gradually Outreach becomes a bigger part of the work of our foundation, as we opened 2 more Daycare centres in 2024, in Kyeradeso and in Forikrom. Nowadays in total 4 Daycare centres are operating and flourishing under the umbrella of PCC.

### Residents

In 2024 2 new residents, *Markus* and Hannah came to PCC.

Both of them were transferred from Kumasi Children's Home to PCC. Unfortunately after her arrival Hannah proved to be chronic sick and she had to go very often to various Hospitals, but at the end all was in vain.

She sadly passed away in the early days of 2025.

Very unfortunately we also lost 4 of our long-term residents during 2024: Kojo Patrick, Benjamin, Abena and Ahmed. All these sad events were really too much, it shocked our Community. All of these 4 residents lived many years in PCC and are still dearly missed.



*Markus*

May they all rest in Gods perfect peace.

One new girl came to our Sheltered Workshop, she is called Valentina. Early 2025 about 4 or 5 young adults are expected to come from the Districts to the Workshop.

By the end of 2024 PCC was caring for a total number of 81 + 6 children, that means 81 permanent residents and 6 young adults who are active in the sheltered workshop.

Outside PCC we actively support the care for about 120 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 2024

Some important developments in 2024 are worth mentioning:

- We were very happy to get our first(!) major donation from a company in Ghana, from the Enterprise group via our relation with the Databank Foundation. This company donated 2 strong new motorbikes and 1 new okada! It feels good to notice that also in Ghana more support is given to our work!

We were also very pleased receiving nice donations from Europe. Thanks to all our friends and donors!



*2 new motorbikes + 1 new okada*

- We were also very grateful for the voluntary assistance given during a number of weeks by some Helping Guests, like Mirjam & Wilfred and also Jelle. And we should not forget the wonderful new mural paintings, made by Miriam Kerkhof in January 2024 in the centre of PCC!
- PCC was well able to cope with the fast rising prices and high inflation in Ghana and we were happy that this difficult situation gradually stabilized during 2024.
- During 2024 some residents were often sick, like Tobias, Samson, Markus and others. We are grateful that these young residents reacted well to treatment and recovered all after their illnesses. However, Pakor became rather suddenly weak in 2024 and showed no improvement even when getting treatment.



*Forikrom Daycare*

- Two new Daycare Centres were started in 2024. In February we started a Daycare Centre in Kyeraseso in Nkoranza South District and in August in Forikrom in Techiman South District.

Our foundation is now running 4 Daycare Centres, what a great development! In each centre every day about 10 – 14 (or even more) children are welcomed, showing that we are able to offer good care to more and more disabled children also outside our Community in Nkoranza.

- In September we had to say “bye bye” to Sue Hatton, who has been so helpful to our Community for more than 15 years. For personal reasons Sue is not able to come to Ghana anymore. We gave her and her friends Elizabeth and Carmel a nice farewell party in September. We are very grateful to Sue for her great contribution to the care in PCC in general and to the care for autistic children in particular and also for developing our important training programme for caregivers. Sue will for always be a beloved member of the PCC family. May God bless her.

- The special Network, created in 2021 to strengthen the ties between PCC and the Dutch Foundation Hand in Hand, becomes stronger and stronger. Inge Maters, Sofanne Ravensbergen and Jeannette Klein all supported PCC during the year and contributed a lot to PCC in many different ways. What a great cooperation between our people in Holland and in Ghana!



- The year 2024 was very special for our Project Director Mr Samuel Baffo. First he was (finally) able to visit Holland and Germany, including meeting the Board of the Dutch foundation Hand in Hand and visiting many old friends. He had a great time and enjoyed every minute of this special visit to Europe! After his return to Ghana things went very fast and soon was there the day of his retirement, in September 2024. A whole day of activities and celebrations was organized to thank Mr. Baffo for 30years of good and faithful services to PCC.

Well done, Samuel Baffo, Aye koo. Now it's time for you to enjoy your pension! May God bless you for the good work done and give you long life!

- Two of our residents, Emmanuella and Stephen, worked hard while going to the Senior High School. We are very proud of their performances and results.

When Emmanuella goes to the SHS in Nkoranza every day one of our caregivers is joining her to support Emmanuella during her day at school.

- During 2024 Mr Joe Emma and some experienced caregivers have taken up various new responsibilities.

Joe Emma became the PCC Director in Ghana while 6 caregivers formed a so-called Support Group, to support Mr Joe Emma and the whole PCC Board.

By the end of 2024 still 5 Support Group members are active in PCC and they are giving their best to the welfare of PCC and all residents.

- In 2024 the G8 did a great job by starting the construction of a big new Dormitory for all young female residents who are gradually growing older in PCC,

In this house they can be a bit more semi-independent.

This new house will be completed in 2025.



### Caregivers and other workers

During 2024 9 new Ghanaian caregivers came to join our team in PCC, to replace 6 caregivers who left PCC during the year.

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 there were 31 caregivers in PCC.

The total of PCC workers (including Outreach) is now average 60 workers. They are supporting the proper functioning of our Community! One can conclude that over the years PCC has become quite a big organisation and an important local employer!

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

In October 2024 we organised for the ninth 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 a financial token of our appreciation.

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



### Agreement with the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation

In 2023 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

Also in 2024 we welcomed visitors to our Community, though the total number is still not like before the corona years, also due to more feelings of flight shame with people in Europe.

We are happy that the income from the Friendship houses + Restaurant was higher than in 2023.

And also the income from the Shop, where products from our Sheltered Workshop are sold, gave a better result than in 2023

### 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!



*Sara showing her happy face*

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 strong man David*

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, 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 2024**

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 the PCC expert for the Outreach Programme.

##### *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.

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.



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.

### 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 and picnic cloths. These products are very much appreciated by the visitors of our PCC shop as well as by clients overseas.

### Autism Table

The Autistic children are enjoying their light and airy place. Caregivers have been trained and nowadays do understand more of the situation of autistic children. 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 2024 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 2024 we were very pleased we could open 2 new Daycare Centres! Now 4 of these Centres are in full operation every working day, to support (the parents of) many disabled children in the surrounding Districts.

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** had always 4 members, but after almost 15 years we noticed a big change, as Mr. Samule Baffo retired in September 2024.

After his retirement the PCC Board continues with 3 members:

*Dr. Albert Van Galen*, chairman and General Director,

*Mr. Emma Daasebre Amponsah*, 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.

The same Mr. Emmanuel Boyan is also part-time active as the responsible person for the Outreach team

The guesthouses + restaurant are 2 special parts of PCC. Our hostesses plus 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 now doing for already more than 30 years! They all tried their best during the year 2024!

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 2024 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 2024**

The net profit from <u>sales in Ghana</u> for Sheltered Workshop:	Cedi 19.000
The amount of products bought in Ghana, but <u>paid Overseas</u> :	Cedi 60.452
<i>(This includes sales to HIH foundation in Holland (16.455))</i>	-----

So the Result of the Sheltered Workshop in 2024 is: **Cedi 79.452**

*(NB: A small profit of Cedi 6.250 remained on the SW bank account)*

**Surplus on Friendship Houses and Restaurant 2024**

The surplus on the FH and Restaurant <u>in Ghana</u> in 2024:	Cedi 915
The amount due in Ghana, but <u>paid Overseas</u> :	Cedi 105.723
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So the total result of FH plus Restaurant in 2024 is: **Cedi 106.638**

*(NB: A profit of Cedi 96.370 remained on the GH bank account)*

**TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURES 2024**

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 2.088.369
- Extra Income received for constructions, projects etc.	Cedi 293.861
	----- +
This makes a <b><u>Total Income</u></b> of Cedi:	<b>Cedi 2.382.230</b>

**EXPENDITURES**

- Expenditures within Budget in 2024 was up to:	Cedi 1.857.964
- Other Expenditures, mainly for Building activities and other extra-budgetary projects were up to:	Cedi 440.057
	----- +
So the <b><u>Total Expenditures</u></b> were Cedi:	<b>Cedi 2.298.021</b>

The year 2024 ended with a Total Balance ( <u>ADB + GCB</u> ) of	Cedi 465.434
and started with an Opening Balance (ADB + GCB) of	Cedi 511.976
	----- +/-
that means that PCC had a <b>deficit</b> in 2024 of:	<b>Cedi -/- 46.542</b>

*(NB: By the end of the year 2024 the Dutch Foundation Hand in Hand postponed a small part of their annual contribution for the running costs of PCC and Outreach, in relation to the unattractive Euro – Cedi exchange rate in December. The transfer will now be made in 2025).*



Annex 1: Financial statement PCC for the year 2024

Balance at ADB Bank 01/01/2024:	251.497
+ Balance at GCB Bank 01/01/2024:	260.479

<b>Total at Bank</b> as per <u>01/01/2024</u> :	<b>511.976</b>
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**Income**

Donations from HIH Holland	1.445.260
Extra donations HIH ( <u>incl.</u> extra EoS)	80.033
Extra input via GCB	261.526
Friendship houses	106.638
ICT Department	8.880
Sheltered Workshop	79.452
Local donations	81.508
Other Income	25.072
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	<b>2.088.369</b>

Transfer for constructions	182.052
Transfer for Projects	30.600
Overseas payments	57.505
Refund of special loans	23.704
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<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2.382.230</b>
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**Expenditures**

Allowances	597.593
Extra End-of-Service	65.045
Costs of Feeding	519.653
Repair General and houses	106.071
Electricity	90.284
Personal needs	148.964
T&T	48.343
Medical	93.822
Accountant + legal	3.500
Bank charges + unforeseen	1.896
Others	37.580
Outreach	145.213
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	<b>1.857.964</b>

GH + ICT via ADB	8.640
Constructions	326.212
Projects	50.712
Overseas payments	45.089
Special loans & donations	9.404
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<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2.298.021</b>
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Balance ADB 31/12/24:	335.708
+ Balance GCB 31/12/24:	129.726

<b>Total at Bank</b> as per <u>31/12/2024</u> :	<b>465.434</b>
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