



## Newsletter 28, May 2024

*Dear friends,*

Since our last Newsletter of December 2023, much, which is worth sharing with you, has happened in our PCC- Hand in Hand Community. That is why we are sending you this Newsletter, hoping and expecting that you will be adequately informed about the most important developments in PCC after having read it. We wish our readers an enjoyable read!

### OUR RESIDENTS

In our last Newsletter we proudly wrote that after having finished their school careers at Junior High, *Emmanuella* and Stephen would continue their education at Senior High School (SHS).



*Emmanuella*

Which happened accordingly, Stephen has even entered a Boarding School. But they are running into the limitations of the Ghanaian educational system. Ever since the government has implemented "free SHS" a few years ago, the number of SHS-students has increased considerably, for which neither school buildings nor the number of teachers were suitable or sufficient.

So, as a consequence, Senior High Schools are now teaching their pupils in shifts: 2 months of schooling alternated with 2 months of no schooling at all (during that period another group of pupils is attending school). That is why *Emmanuella* and *Stephen* are being home taught in PCC during the latter 2 months. Not at all an ideal situation, but yeah: "This is Ghana"!

### New residents



*Markus*

In February we welcomed 2 new residents, i.e. little 9-month-old *Markus*, he has various brain injuries (probably sustained at his birth), and *Hannah* ([picture on page 4](#)), who is about 15 years old and deaf. She also has a minor intellectual disability.

Both came from Kumasi Children's Home. In the meantime, they have become completely accepted in our Community.

Especially *Markus* needs much medical and paramedical attention! *Hannah* is active in our sheltered workshop.

Another girl, aged about 17, called *Valentina Mabel* from Duayaw Nkwanta came to live here at her family's request. She also has a minor intellectual disability. Her family hopes that she will benefit from working in the sheltered workshop and living in our dormitory. *Valentina* needed some time to adjust to PCC, fortunately, things are better now, and she is feeling more and more at home now.

### Sick residents

During the last few months some of our residents were hospitalized, for example

Samson, Markus, James and Dora and some children, like Sarah and *Jonathan*, expressed very difficult behaviour.



*Jonathan*

Luckily, most problems have been solved in the meantime or have become less complex, but we do realise that in a Community like ours new health and behavioural problems will continue popping up again.

**PCC IN GENERAL**

The most important theme for PCC in 2024 will be ensuring the continuity of the management in Ghana after Baffo's retirement in September of this year.

Joe Emma will take many of Baffo's tasks upon his shoulders, in addition to his job as a health manager. He will be assisted in doing this by the Support Group.



**Support Group**

Last December we were already able to tell you that the Support Group consisted

of 4 experienced male caregivers. Last January this support model for the daily management of PCC – Hand in Hand was implemented and expanded with 2 experienced female caregivers.

The Support Group does not only support Joe Emma in the figurative but also in the literal sense of the word, [see the picture](#).

Baffo will share his vast experience and pass on his wide knowledge to Joe Emma and the Support Group in the coming months.

**Baffo in Europe**

Baffo's trip to Europe was already due for 2020, but because of, first, Covid-19, later illness, and an extremely painstaking visa application, it was 2024 when Baffo was finally able to come to The Netherlands on the invitation of the Dutch foundation Hand in Hand.



*Baffo in Lelystad*

So, very close to his retirement, Baffo was able to discuss extensively future policies for PCC and HIH with the Board of HIH.

Besides this he also gave his view on various developments in Ghana, which are important to the running of PCC, including the ever-increasing work in the Districts through Outreach.

Baffo has also been able to say goodbye to old friends and acquaintances in The Netherlands in an appropriate manner.

## **OUTREACH**

### **Daycare**

During the last few years various Daycare centres for children with special needs who live at home, have been realised in different places in Nkoranza's surroundings. They have proven to be a very successful part of PCC's Outreach work.

In our last Newsletter we made mention of a new Daycare centre in Kyeradeso. This has been officially launched last February and fortunately, its initial functioning is very encouraging.

Meanwhile, there are 3 PCC Daycare centres in the surrounding Districts and, probably there will be a 4<sup>th</sup> (!) Daycare centre, in Forikom near Techiman. We are discussing its set-up with those parents concerned and local leaders in a very positive manner.

### **Outreach team**

For the last 10 years, Gabriel Nkpawiasé has worked very hard for the development and expansion of PCC's Outreach work.

Because he stopped this work on April 1<sup>st</sup>, Emma Boyan (who has also been working for Outreach for about 8 years), has taken upon him to do all Outreach work for the time being!

We wish him much success. There still is (more than enough) work to do!

### **PCC has found its way again**



*The new road (by then under construction)*

Some time ago we wrote that we had lost access to the road leading to our Community. This particular road also crosses the hospital's premises. So, we had "lost our way"!

However, we are most fortunate to have found ourselves a new access road (to put it more accurately: constructed one ourselves), which goes around the hospital's premises. The bridge which was constructed by the G8-group in 2022 appears to be of an even greater value!

So, if you are planning on visiting us here soon, make sure you are taking the new road!

### **New murals!**

In January Miriam Kerkhof created some very nice new murals in the centre of PCC and she also gave a colorful facelift to some old ones, especially the one she already made as far back as 2011 (!) on the wall of the PCC central kitchen.



*The update of the kitchen mural*

For more nice pictures of all new murals go to the link with the column in Alberts Corner:

<https://operationhandinhand.nl/en/joy-in-pcc-a-new-look-and-new-residents/>

### **Ghana in general/national election**

In many countries elections are being held in 2024, in Ghana as well. In December both a new president and a new parliament will be elected.

During election years Ghanaian politicians (but not only they...) tend to make all kinds of expensive promises

and the incumbent government often decides to do many "nice things for the people" during an election year.



We are much interested in how the elections will influence the precarious position of the Ghanaian economy and especially its effects on the rising costs of living in Ghana, with which PCC will have to deal daily.

We certainly hope for peaceful elections and a positive outcome for the Ghanaian population!

### **Sponsoring**

A considerable number of children does not receive any or only little sponsoring and we actually need extra support for these children. Have a look at our Homepage on our website if you would like to know more.



*Tetty with the characteristic condition of his back*

Information about sponsoring can also be obtained from Jeannette Klein: [sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl](mailto:sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl) or [handinhandpcc@gmail.com](mailto:handinhandpcc@gmail.com)

### **Finally**

That's it for this Newsletter. You are fully up to date now! Thanks very much for your interest and commitment!

If you would like to be kept posted on the stories of PCC – Hand in Hand, you can follow "Albert's Corner" on our website (a fresh issue every month): [www.operationhandinhand.nl](http://www.operationhandinhand.nl).

**NB:** *There also is a link via Facebook: see PCCHandinHandCommunity.*



*Hannah and caregiver Esther*

With kind regards and sincere thanks for your support and concern, on behalf of *Baffo, Joe Emma, Jeannette* and all residents and workers of the PCC - Hand in Hand Community + Outreach!

*Albert van Galen*

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