



Newsletter 29, December 2024

Dear friends,

High time for the next Newsletter about PCC – Hand in Hand to inform you adequately about all developments in and around our Community during the past period.

Towards the end of the year 2024 we are looking back in pleasure and great joy on the many good developments in PCC, although we do realize that there are always matters which deserve (more of) our attention in the new year.

However, we are also looking back in melancholy on some very sad occasions. Also, we feel extra concerned about some of our residents.

The year 2024 – in general

Unfortunately, 2024 has not brought us the Peace we were all hoping for and for which we are still hoping.

On the contrary, all around us distressing trends, the loss of human lives caused by warfare and chaos in the world, are worsening. World leaders appear to have egos which seem much bigger than their hearts. We are trying not to lose ours!

Therefore, there is not much reason for optimism for the new year 2025, but we remain steadfast in our belief – sometimes against all odds – in Gods promise of a future of Peace and Justice. May we soon experience that day!

We would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and - despite the chaos in the world - a good and happy 2025.



Ubuntu

Signs of hope

Each and every year we are experiencing signs of that future world we are fervently looking forward to - a world full of mercy, selfless love and humanity - in the incessant support and deep commitment of sponsors, donors and friends of our PCC – Hand in Hand Community. *Ubuntu!*

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your fabulous and incessant support for the care for the children of our Community and those in our Outreach programme.

Residents of PCC

We are grateful for the fact that many residents in our Community are developing well. We are especially grateful for the fact that they look very happy and full of life, characteristics which are so typical for PCC. May this remain a long-lasting situation...!



Unfortunately, sometimes the lives of our residents develop differently. We lost two of our residents during the last few months. Kojo Patrick and Benjamin sadly passed away.

Kojo Patrick (nickname: Kojo Charm) died of complications after a serious infection (Kojo's picture is on page 1).

Benjamin's congenital severe brain damage was ultimately fatal for him. See also the special columns about Kojo and Benjamin in the Alberts Corner on our website.

We are much concerned about another resident, Pakor. He is losing his ability to walk after a knee infection. In spite of the extra care and attention which has been given, there is little visible progress and/or recuperation. He is now on extra physiotherapy, thanks to Inge Maters.

Breaking news: Just before publication of this Newsletter, we received more tragic news, the passing of Abena. It was the end of a long-term decline. Abena has been living in PCC for more than 30 years.

We hope and pray that Kojo Patrick, Benjamin and Abena may rest in peace, until the Last day.

Caregivers Day



Caregivers Day 2024

It has become a good tradition in the meantime to put the focus of attention on the important work done by our caregivers once a year.

This past year for already the 9th time since 2016! Of course all to the great delight of our residents who always feel like a party, but also the caregivers are looking back on a very festive day and an extra bonus!

The Board of PCC



Baffo says goodbye, next to him Joe Emma

Last September Mr Samuel Baffo retired from PCC after a 30-year-long commitment to our Community primarily as the Project Director.

We celebrated his retirement with a proper and wonderful farewell party. See:

<https://operationhandinhand.nl/en/baffo-retired/>

After Baffo's departure Joe Emma is the only Ghanaian Director of PCC, but luckily he is well supported by the 6 members of the PCC Support Group.

We wish Joe Emma much success with his extensive variety of tasks. He has been our Care Director for years, but now he will be responsible for all daily affairs in PCC. Not an easy job!

We trust in his huge commitment, his great wisdom and his accumulated expertise!

Go Joe Emma, go!

Outreach

Our Outreach work, the care for disabled children living in the surrounding Districts, has really taken off during the last couple of years.

After the opening of our 3rd Daycare in the village of Kyeradeso in the Nkoranza

South District last February, we soon opened our 4th Daycare Centre in August. What rapid developments!

This 4th Daycare is situated in Forikrom in the Techiman South District. It was made possible by a.o. the local church. This Methodist Church is supporting us by lending their old church building for a period of 2 years.

After a renovation this Daycare Centre has been operational since last August.

The parents of the Forikrom children with special needs are delighted with the fact that a Daycare Centre is now available to their children, too.



Daycare in Forikrom

What a fantastic development it is that these Daycare Centres are such a success!

These centres provide for an enormous need, they offer children with special needs suitable and good care within their own surroundings and they also contribute to the acceptance of these children by the local community.

Farewell Sue Hatton

During her 11th visit to PCC since 2008 (!) our expert on autism and the designer of our educational programme for caregivers, Sue Hatton from England, has said goodbye to our Community.

Unfortunately, she is no longer able to come to Ghana for personal reasons.



Sue Hatton with Solomon

We are extremely grateful to Sue for her *immense* input, expertise and love for our residents and we wish her the very best!

Visit of 2 experts, Inge and Sabine

Inge Maters and Sabine van Erp were staying in PCC for a few weeks in November. Inge is the much celebrated physiotherapist for children with physical or multiple disabilities. She also is a member of the Network which structurally and continuously supports the Board of PCC.

Sabine is both our expert in the further development of Daycare in PCC and in the training in the right use of the interactive materials which we have at our disposal.

It is so good to have these most helpful and skilful experts around PCC!

Major donation

We usually do not mention every major donation in our Newsletter, because we are grateful for all donations, small and big. Think only of the biblical story of the widow in the temple and her donation of only a few small coins.

However, a recent major donation by a Ghanaian company, the Enterprise Group, should not go unmentioned, because such a large donation by Ghanaians has never been made before!

The Enterprise Group has given us 2 new and strong motorbikes and a new Okada

("tuk-tuk") for our work in PCC and for our Outreach work.



The 2 motorbikes are welcome!

We are very happy with these generous gifts, especially also because it seems that PCC's work in Ghana is gradually getting more recognition and support!

A new G8 building

For those who have been following our updates for years it won't be a surprise that also this year we have welcomed the G8 group from Groningen. They have been coming to our Community (about) once every two years for a very long time.

This time this particular G8 group, led as always by Bernard Meier, has supported us tremendously, through their unique fund raising and their energetic building activities, with the realisation of a new Girls Dormitory.



The new Girls Dormitory – to be

This new home is meant for the older girls in our Community and it will give them some more independence. The Dormitory will be finished in the coming months. To be continued!

We are very grateful for their great support and friendship through the years. From 2007 and on! Applause!

Sponsoring

Some children do not receive any or only little sponsoring and we actually need extra support for these children.

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

Finally

That's it for this 29th 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.

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

Albert van Galen

General Director PCC - Hand in Hand



Merry Christmas!