



## Newsletter 30, June 2025

Dear all,

A lot can happen in just half a year! Ghana now has a new government, and the USA has a new president. Since then, there seems to be a new, almost unbelievable action or statement every day that shocks many people.

The entire world seems to be caught in an extreme wave movement, resulting in a tsunami of daily "sensational" news items—from bizarre political behavior to escalating wars, from broken alliances to new trade conflicts.

Being reliable appears to have lost much of its value in 2025...

Fortunately, PCC – Hand in Hand is still reliable (at least, that's what we think ourselves...), and that's why we'd like to keep you informed through this newsletter about all the developments in our Community—and there are many once again! Hopefully, all the good news will bring you some joy!

### Happy to welcome 4 new residents at PCC

After the sad period at the end of last year and the beginning of this year due to the passing of some residents, we are now full of joy to report that 4 new residents have recently joined our Community.

Three of them come from Osu Children's Home in Accra, where they lived for several years after having been abandoned as small children somewhere in Accra.

They are King Saul, Naomi Adwoa, and Simon PaaKwasi. You'll find their photos throughout this newsletter.



*King Saul*

Recently, Patience also joined PCC, coming from the north of Ghana. She is a severely physically and mentally disabled girl of about 10 years old. Her smile, which appeared just a few days after arriving at PCC, is wonderful to see.

We wish these four new residents a fantastic future at PCC.

### Five new young adults in the sheltered workshop

We are also happy to welcome five new young adults to our sheltered workshop. They are: Rose, Blessing, Rocky, Eric, and Akwasi.

We hope they will have a good time at PCC and will be able to learn a lot here.



*Naomi Adwoa*

### The PCC Board

We are very pleased to see that the transition in PCC's daily leadership—following the appointment of Joe Emma as Director after Baffo's retirement in September 2024—is turning out well. Joe Emma has wholeheartedly embraced

his new role and all the additional responsibilities that come with it. He carries them out with great dedication, love, and wisdom, supported by the Support Group.

In addition, Emma Boyan, head of the PCC Outreach Program and our sheltered workshop, was recently appointed as "Assistant to the Board"! Emma has taken on this extra role with great enthusiasm.



*Emma Boyan*

Thanks to this strong leadership team, PCC has continued smoothly after the leadership change in 2024, and we are very proud of our new Director Joe Emma and his supportive team!

### **Bernard House**



*Bernard House*

In our previous newsletter, we reported on the wonderful start of the construction of a new Girls' Dormitory, made possible through the support of the G8 group.

Despite a significant delay in the delivery of the roofing materials, construction was recently completed—and the result is impressive: a truly beautiful new building!

On May 28th, the building was officially inaugurated and opened by Rev. Janneke Ruijs from the Dutch Hand in Hand Foundation and Janet from the PCC kitchen.

During the ceremony, the name of the building was also revealed: this house was named BERNARD HOUSE.

In the Netherlands, Bernard Meier—leader of all G8 groups since 2007(!)—received a royal decoration in April for his volunteer work. This honor especially recognizes his major efforts, together with all the G8 groups, for our Community.

To the G8 group we say: Thank you for this beautiful building!

And to Bernard Meier: Congratulations on your well-deserved decoration—your name now proudly adorns the Girls' Dormitory



*Simon PaaKwasi*

### **PCC and Changing Exchange Rates**

You might think that PCC is barely affected by the major shocks in the (global) economy—but that's not entirely true.

Since a large part of PCC's support comes from Europe (in Euros), significant fluctuations in exchange rates also have a major impact on PCC, and that is exactly what's happening now.

In 2025, the exchange rate of the Euro against the Ghanaian Cedi has dropped by as much as one-third. This means PCC now receives far fewer Cedis for each Euro. At the same time, prices in Ghana are not going down—in fact, they continue to rise!

*More about the consequences of this will be shared in the next edition of Albert's Corner on our website.*

### **Physiotherapy and Assistive Devices**

The importance of physiotherapy for our residents—and for children with disabilities in our Outreach Program—can hardly be overstated.

We are therefore very happy and grateful to have received 30 specific children's assistive devices, such as wheelchairs, walkers, standing frames, and walking aids, along with a large shipment of adapted shoes from the company Wittepoel. These items were recently shipped from the Netherlands and Germany to Ghana thanks to our tireless physiotherapy expert, Inge Maters.

Altogether, this is a huge boost to our physiotherapy capabilities!

*More on this soon in the Albert's Corner section on our website.*



*Patience so happy in her wheelchair*

### **PCC Paths – Bodegraven**

The walking paths in our Community are used intensively every day—not just during the daily morning walks, but also for chalk drawings and many other play activities.

They are truly the lifelines of PCC!

Unfortunately, over the years, these paths had become quite damaged due to weathering, construction traffic, and tree roots.

But thanks to the proceeds of a special fundraising campaign by the Emmaüs congregation in Bodegraven, we've been able to fully repair all the paths.

A big thank you to all our faithful friends and supporters in Bodegraven!



*Damaged paths*

### **Link to PCC and Outreach Annual Report**

Of course, everyone is eager to read the Annual Report of PCC for the year 2024. Well, you can easily find and explore it via this link:

<https://operationhandinhand.nl/wp-content/uploads/2024-Annual-Report.pdf>

### **Outreach – General + Daycare**

The Outreach work has become a solid and important part of our efforts, especially in and around Nkoranza and Techiman.

The Daycares are particularly visible signs of our support for many children with disabilities and their parents in the surrounding districts.

The Daycares launched in 2024, in Kyeradso and Forikrom, are running very well in their temporary locations.

We are now working with the local authorities to find a permanent site and begin construction for these Daycares. Would you like to learn much more about our Outreach work? Check it out here:

<https://operationhandinhand.nl/wp-content/uploads/ANNUAL-REPORT-2024.pdf>

## The Network

The Network is becoming more and more important. This year again, all three Network members visited or will visit Ghana: Sofanne in March, Inge in July (upcoming), and Jeannette Klein will follow in November—on top of three visits by Jeannette and Albert. The PCC Board recently decided that whenever Network members are in PCC, they will officially act as members of the PCC Board.

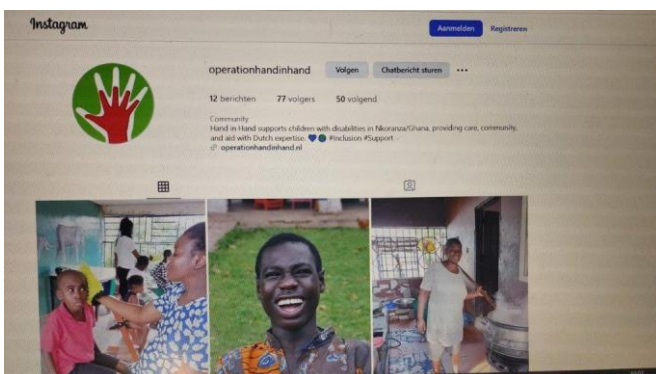
This gives them a clearer and more defined role during their visits.

## ICT / Website / Instagram

As you know, communication tools are evolving rapidly—and we're doing our best to keep up with these changes.

We recently launched an Instagram account, where Jelle posts beautiful weekly photo updates with captions. Highly recommended!  
@operationhandinhand

Or follow us on Instagram  
[https://www.instagram.com/operationhandinhand?igsh=dW16eXlzdXg2dnFj&utm\\_source=qr](https://www.instagram.com/operationhandinhand?igsh=dW16eXlzdXg2dnFj&utm_source=qr)



Our website is also due for a major update. The Online Team—Maarten, Jelle, and Sjai—is working hard on developing a brand-new site. This is a big and important job. Would you like to contribute to the further development of our digital presence?

You're more than welcome to join! Please send us an email with some info about yourself and your ICT skills:  
[digital.marketing@operationhandinhand.nl](mailto:digital.marketing@operationhandinhand.nl)

## Sponsorships

There are still children in need of full or partial sponsorship.

You can find more information on our website, especially on the homepage. For additional info, please contact Jeannette Klein from our sponsorship team: [sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl](mailto:sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl) or [handinhandpcc@gmail.com](mailto:handinhandpcc@gmail.com)



*The paths in PCC are also perfect for sidewalk chalk art!*

## Conclusion

That's it for this newsletter—you're all caught up again!

You can continue to follow the latest updates and stories about PCC via "Albert's Corner" on our website:  
[www.operationhandinhand.nl](http://www.operationhandinhand.nl).

Also on Facebook:  
PCCHandinHandCommunity and  
Instagram: @operationhandinhand

Warm regards and many thanks for your continued support and interest—also on behalf of Joe Emma, Jeannette, the Network, and all the residents and staff of Hand in Hand!

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