

# PEACE OF CHRIST FOUNDATION



## 3<sup>RD</sup> QUATHER REPORT (OUTREACH)



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## **INTRODUCTION**

The outreach project was started purposely to identify, register and support children living with intellectual disabilities using community-based approaches. The project also aims to create public awareness about the rights of the children and change negative perceptions people have about persons with intellectual disabilities using multi-faceted and multi-disciplinary approaches.

The overall objective of the project is to improve the social conditions of children and young adults with intellectual disabilities within the Nkoranza South and north Districts.

The specific objectives are:

- a. To activate community members to accept and respect the rights of children with intellectual disabilities
- b. To erase the negative perceptions people, have about intellectual disability
- c. To encourage community members and parents to take responsibility for their children with intellectual disabilities
- d. To form parents, support groups and empower them to take good care of their children with intellectual disabilities
- e. To undertake small scale livelihood projects for young adults with intellectual disabilities.
- f. To advocate for the inclusion of issues concerning children with intellectual disabilities in policy decisions

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report gives account of the activities undertaken by the outreach team in the period from July to September, 2022. The thematic areas contained in the report are:

- ❖ **Home Visit**
- ❖ **Antiepileptic Drugs**
- ❖ **Livelihood**
- ❖ **Daycares**
- ❖ **Physiotherapy**
- ❖ **Public Education and Awareness**
- ❖ **Farm Project**
- ❖ **Assistive devices**
- ❖ **Story of change**
- ❖ **capacity training**
- ❖ **Challenges**
- ❖ **way forward**

Below are some of the salient interventional highlights contained in the report:

- A total of 2880 Tablets to a 16 children and young adults living with intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- An average of 35 homes were visited over the reporting period
- Two children benefited from livelihood support
- Fourteen (14) children with various physical conditions, from various communities across our three operational districts visited our center for physiotherapy services.
- Two persons were given assistive devices
- In our story of change, Mohammed is able to walk, bringing relief to his family.

## HOME VISITS



**I RUDIGER TAKING PICTURES AT  
SALAMKROM**

Visiting to check on our clients is a regular feature of the outreach work. We make conscious effort to reach out to each client to find out their health and social conditions within each month.

During the period under review, we visited an average of 35 homes per month.

The outreach team was joined by

Mr. Rudigers (one of our donors from Germany) during some of the visitations. They were in Ghana to make a follow up on the state of implementation of our projects including that of our mother organization. We visited communities such as Donkro Nkwanta (to see the Daycare), Salamkrom, Kyeradeso, Jerusalem, Nyinasi among others. They were taken to see some of the children that we supported through the livelihood intervention as well as those we supported to undergo apprenticeship training.

The team also went to some of the villages with Miss Naomi- a Ghanaian volunteer with PCC from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

## **PHYSIOTHERAPY**

During the second quarter of the year, the outreach team in consultation with the executive board



**II PHYSIO SESSION IN PCC**

of PCC, forged a collaboration with the physiotherapy team from the Holy Family Hospital at Techiman to visit our community to offer Physio services to children within the catchment area. The decision was as a result of the growing need for physio services for children in the Nkoranza enclave. We found out that many a parent were not able to travel long distances to access physio services due to

the cost of transport and also the cost of services. The move therefore was to eliminate these factors and invariably make physio services accessible to children with IDD in our operational area.

In all, fourteen (14) children with various physical conditions, from various communities across our three operational districts visited our center for physiotherapy services. Out of the number, 8 went through Plaster of Paris procedure. The parents have also been taken through the exercises to enable them continue at their various homes.

Aside the regular children with intellectual and Developmental Disability in our database, we also received two referral cases from St. Theresa Hospital in Nkoranza.

We also offered free accommodation to three parents and their children for one week to enable them have extra exercise from the PCC physio team lead by Twum Michael.

## ASSISTIVE DEVICES



III FELIX IN WHEELCHAIR

Outreach PCC continues to offer assistance to children to ensure their functional mobility. The provision of assistive devices has been one of the cardinal interventions of our work.

In the period under review, our team assessed and supported Felix Acheampong with a wheelchair.

Prior to this support, the family was finding it difficult to put him in a good sitting posture. They also had to back him whenever he was ill and they had to visit the hospital. But with the support, he can

now be wheeled comfortably to the hospital and other social places in a more dignified manner.

We also gave out a walker to the municipal Director of Social welfare to aid his old mother to cope with her daily activities.

## DAYCARE CENTERS



IV MRS RUDIGER AT NKWANTA DC

The cardinal reason why NGO exist is to identify gaps in the provision of services in the public sector and take steps to implement interventions to achieve public good. In this regard, PCC through the outreach project has over a period of two years been providing functional education to children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, through the daycare concept. We have two

daycare centers caring for about 29 children with IDD. Aside the care, we also offer free lunch and transportation services for the children.

During the period under review, the daycare center in Nkoranza township recorded one new admission to bring the number of children at the center to twenty-one (21).

During the period under review, the two daycare centers got new learning materials from Mrs. Ruediger to enhance learning. She presented the materials when she visited the centers to interact with the children and staff and get a firsthand experience about the needs and challenges facing the centers.



## **ANTIEPILEPTIC DRUGS**

According to the Ghana Health Service, epilepsy is the topmost neurological condition in Ghana.



**V MISS NOAMI GIVING OUT DRUGS**

The situation in our operational area is not different from the general situation in the country. The treatment of epilepsy and for that matter its management in Ghana is not easy due to the misconceptions people have about the condition and also the cost of drugs. Many families therefore resort to the use of traditional

concoctions or prayers as the case may be. In view of the misconceptions, outreach PCC has over the years been doing public education and awareness about epilepsy. We have been giving free antiepileptic drugs to children and young adults with epilepsy from needy families as well. The move is to make them aware of the efficacy of the drugs and disabuse their minds from their long-held perceptions about the condition.

In the period under review, the outreach team distributed a total of 2880 Tablets to 16 children and young adults living with intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. This means, we distributed 960 tablets per month. The intervention has over the years helped to prevent the beneficiaries from experiencing crisis situations.

## FARM PROJECT



vi BOYAN HARVESTING MAIZE

During the first quarter of 2022, the outreach team acquired a one-acre land at Jerusalem for the cultivation of maize. The team met with parents and their wards to discuss and subsequently ploughed and planted the maize.

We have since harvested and stored the maize for sale when the price picks up. However, we have not been able to replant due to the fact that the yield

during the major session was not very impressive. The rains also delayed in coming to ensure we plant the lean session maize before the end of August.

We have therefore decided with the parents to plant okra during the lean session since the time for planting the maize has since elapse.

## **LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT**



**VII GOATS FOR LIVELIHOOD**

The livelihood support intervention is one of the means by the outreach team to engage the young adults with IDD in income generating activities. In some instances where the child can not personally undertake any activity, the supported is extended to the parents or caregiver.

Since the roll out of the intervention, many young adults have benefited.

Some of the initial beneficiaries have been able to use the dividends from the intervention to improve their social and economic conditions. A case in point is the Mother of Princess and Ernest (both with IDD) at kyeradeso. She was given a cash amount of Seven Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢700.00). She invested it in the sale of used cloths. She has been able to use the profit to expand her maize farm and therefore able to feed and cater for the needs of her family.

During the third quarter of the year, we supported a single mother living with her two children with IDD. Kwaku Fori and Precious Gyamia (both living with IDD) are living with their mother at Forikrom in the Techiman south Municipality. Kwaku has severe and recurring epilepsy while Precious on the other hand is unable to walk. Their situation exerts a lot of pressure on the young mother who has other children to fend for.

We also gave out two female goats to parents of Mavis Chanwuro, (one of the children in Nkwanta Daycare center).

## **STORY OF CHANGE (MOHAMMED)**



The ultimate expectation of the outreach team from every intervention is to impact the life of a child positively. In the period under review, we have started our story of change series with the focus on young Mohammed. He was identified in November, 2021 at Donkro Nkwamta, Mohammed was born with clubfoot. The condition was left untreated over a period and therefore hindering the ability of the child to stand and subsequently walk.

### **VIII MOHAMMED BEFORE**

The outreach team gave advice to the parents and later referred

the child to St. John of God Hospital at Duayaw Nkwanta for treatment. We paid for the procedure as well as the cost of transport and feeding.

During our recent follow up visit, we noticed that the child is now able to walk. This has brought so much relief to the family of Mohammed, especially the mother. The family will soon enroll him into school. The mother who basically was left at home because of Mohammed, now has the hope of looking for a job to support the family.

The story of Mohammed mirrors the stack reality of many children living with similar conditions that have remained unresolved due partly to the lack of



**IX MOHAMMED AFTER**

access to basic physiotherapy or orthopedic services and in some instances, lack of funds to pay

for the services. This is the reason why PCC through the outreach project will strive to impact the lives of many more children like Mohammed.

## CAPACITY TRAINING

Managing the outreach project require learning new body of knowledge about best practices and



NGO strategic management in order to deliver in an efficient manner to our clients and also meet the expectation of our donors. In view of this, the team periodically attend workshops and also scout for training programs that will ultimately improve our knowledge in delivering better services to our target group.

During the period under review, management sponsored Gabriel to do a six (6) week online certificate course in NGO project and operations management. The course was put together by the Cambridge Center for Excellence. The team of lecturers are experts from varied field such as the NGO sector, the legal fraternity and as well as the media and communication space. Some of the models of the course include:

- ✓ **Ngo strategic management**
- ✓ **The theory of change**
- ✓ **Fiduciary trust and financial management**
- ✓ **NGO funding and proposal writing**
- ✓ **Advocacy and media skills**
- ✓ **Community entry**
- ✓ **Tools for monitoring and evaluation**

Gabriel's participation in the training program will broaden the knowledge of the outreach team to plan and implement projects with far reaching impact on children with IDD's and their families.

## **CHALLENGES (S)**

The rising inflation in Ghana that currently stands at 33.9% with the cascading effects on general cost of living has taken a hit on our budget for fuel and feeding for the daycare centers

## **Way forward**

In the months ahead, the outreach team will organize a stakeholders meeting to take feedback from our clients, their parents and other institutional representatives to enable us make the needed adjustments and changes in our annual plan for 2023.