



Newsletter 17, November 2018

Dear friends,

It has been six months since we sent you an update on the ups and downs of our Community. So it is high time for a fresh Newsletter because much has happened since May, both good and – unfortunately – a few sad things. We hope that by reading this Newsletter you will be informed about the present state of affairs in our unique Community.

Loss and grief

Earlier this year we had to say our permanent goodbyes to Lisa, sadly enough also two very special residents passed away in the course of 2018, namely Abass and Amma Ghana.

After 2 years of recovering of a life-threatening illness in 2016, **Abass** was almost fully restored to health again. Unfortunately, the same (neurologic?) disease soon recurred and this time the paediatrician in Techiman was not able to help him.



Abass was about 14 years old and he has lived in PCC for 5 years. In a loud voice but in a characteristic and affable way he would tell many tales, which

were only partly understandable to us. The way he moved was typical for him and he took part in all PCC's activities in a quiet manner. Abass was simply a very nice and well-loved resident of PCC and we will certainly miss him a lot.

We were all touched by the death of **Amma Ghana** in June. Amma has lived in PCC for 20 years (!). She wasn't really standing out in the Community and often a little on the sidelines, but she was a young woman with a clear will of her own. She was small in stature, but she had a strong character and much to the surprise to many she sometimes appeared in the spotlights during festivities and especially when she could dance.



Amma took fully part in the Community and it is still hardly comprehensible that she suddenly died after a seemingly mild illness and a short visit to hospital. Her characteristic high voice will never sound again, she will be profoundly missed.

May both Abass and Amma Ghana rest in peace in the arms of God our Father.

But also 5 new residents!

Although the arrival of new residents will never make up for the loss of well-loved ones, we are still very happy with the coming of no fewer than 5 new children during the past period.

We will mention them briefly (for more details we would like to refer you to the AC columns of October and November):

Malnourished *William of Orange* came to PCC in June. He is 3 years old now and has become a much-loved new resident in the mean time. Various people have had difficulties to resist the urge to take him home. Have a look at his picture (on the right) and you will understand why.

The next 4 children came from Kumasi Children's Home to PCC together in October.

Blessing, a little girl of about 4 years old with a wonderful smile, who doesn't talk and who is not able to walk more than a few paces, but who is able to capture everybody's heart!

Jonathan is about 5, hyperactive and autistic and always on the lookout of food. It didn't take him more than a few days to find out where in PCC he would be able to find it!



William of Orange

Portia in the sheltered workshop

We also have a new worker in the sheltered workshop. It is 18-year-old *Portia* from Sunyani. She suffers from a mild intellectual disability and she helps along in the sewing room. *Portia* is happy to be in PCC and so are we because she is a hard and avid worker!

New boost for Physio and Day care

It is most fortunate that PCC was able to welcome Inge Maters (3rd time) and Marian Schenk (2nd time) in October again. Inge is our outstanding expert on physiotherapy, orthopaedic shoes and wheelchairs and Marian (her picture is on page 3) is our very capable expert on Day care.

Their visit gave (just like the times before) a great impulse and a lot of new energy to our Community and its caregivers. It is a privilege to have such good friends and experts in our PCC family. Many thanks to Inge and Marian!



Rachel, Blessing, Tobias and Jonathan

Tobias of about 9 years old suffers from both a rather serious intellectual disability and epilepsy. He looks very fragile and he cannot speak.

We suspect he has lived a life full of physical abuse, all his primary reflexes point in that direction. We sincerely hope that a smile will break through his face in PCC.

Rachel is mildly intellectually handicapped and about 13 years old. Within days she changed from a very shy young lady into a happy girl. She has come to the right place!



Inge Maters teaching some caregivers



Marian Schenk and Abena

Visit Chairman Hand in Hand

In September PCC was visited by the chairman of the Dutch foundation of Hand in Hand, Mr Wim van Minnen, who has been chairman of HIH for 4 years but had never visited Ghana or PCC.

During his visit relations between PCC and HIH have been consolidated even more by the signing of a new agreement in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding.

On the basis of very clear agreements the good relation between PCC and HIH has again been consolidated for years to come!



Wim van Minnen and Gabriel on the Outreach motorbike

Circus in PCC

This year's best event was undoubtedly the visit of circus school Hannes and Co of Anne Kuipers in May.

They came to PCC for a weekend to teach the children many wonderful acts, e.g. waving brightly coloured and swirling cloths, turning rings, continuously spinning Chinese plates on

sticks, balancing on the cord, throwing colourful balls, turning twinned wheels, juggling and spinning the balance stick and last but not least interactive acrobatics.

The whole Community (and for sure *Piedu*, see the picture) was thrilled to bits. The circus weekend was a great success and put a wide smile on many residents' faces, who were of course very proud of their own performances in the circus!



Outreach

We are very fortunate to have been able to purchase a powerful *motorbike for Outreach* (see the picture on the left) lately made possible by a generous donation. So now we can even reach the most distant villages in the Nkoranza region.

Partly because the work done through our Outreach programme is relentlessly continued. PCC is very active in both intramural and extramural caring for people with various limitations. Day care initiated by us in one of the villages, Donkro Nkwanta, seems to have become quite a success.

We can conclude the same for our project Livelihood in which we support handicapped youth as much as possible in doing meaningful work in their own villages so they can contribute to the family income as e.g. a goatherd, a mushroom grower or a rabbit breeder. In these cases we donate for instance 2 sheep or 2 goats as a seed capital and it seems to work rather well!

Fire in PCC

There are risks to be taken into account also in PCC. Last spring there was a fire in one of the rooms of our caregivers, caused by an overloaded and melting wall socket.

Result of various operations

The operations on Stephen, Moses, Balloon and David have all been seemingly successful. Moses does no longer have a deformity on his foot, Stephen is able to straighten his knees and also Balloon and David show clear improvements.

Caregivers Day 2018

Also this year's Caregivers Day, the new festive day of PCC in October, was a great success. The caregivers had been looking forward to this day for weeks and they had even ordered a special t-shirt for this year's celebrations. The new sound system of PCC that is going to be used to support musical activities like the weekly Disco and other festive occasions was also put into use on Caregivers Day.



Happy caregivers

Joe Emma in Europe

The second visit of Joe Emma to Europe (The Netherlands and Germany) in June and July was a great success. Except for meetings with Hand in Hand (The Netherlands) and Ananse (Germany) he received a weeklong special training by our two experts Inge and Marian (see above).



Captain Joe Emma on the IJsselmeer

He has seen and heard a lot during that week that PCC will profit from!

Sponsoring

There are still children for whom we are looking for a full or partly sponsoring, e.g. for the 5 new children. Please check our website, for instance at the Homepage.

You can also get more information from our sponsor administrator Nieske: mail to

sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl or handinhandpcc@gmail.com

Finally

So far for this 17th Newsletter. We hope you are now fully updated again.

Every month you can find a new update about the weal and woe of PCC in the column "Alberts Corner" on our website: www.handinhandcommunity.com

NB: *There is also a link via Facebook: (PCHandinHandCommunity).*

Cordial greetings on behalf of the PCC Board, that is Baffo, Joe Emma, Jeannette and me and of course from everyone else at PCC!

Albert van Galen,
General director PCC – Hand in Hand
handinhandcommunity@gmail.com