



Newsletter 18, May 2019

Dear friends

It is spring again, fortunately the sun is shining more often in the Netherlands now and fortunately there is less sunshine in Ghana after the recent heat. The right moment for our half-yearly newsletter, informing you on the ups and downs of PCC and its residents.

Loss and grief

Sadly we have unexpectedly lost two of our residents in the period after the release of the latest Newsletter of November 2018.



Peace

Last March first *Peace* suddenly died and that same month we also lost Lazarus, who was seriously weakened because of chronic gastrointestinal disorders. Both *Peace* and Lazarus suffered from epilepsy, mental disability and autism. They both were young when coming from Accra to PCC and the two of them lived here for nearly 20 years.

Both *Peace* and Lazarus, two striking personalities in PCC, had grown to sturdy guys over the 3 years. It is very unreal that they are no longer amidst us. May they rest in peace.

Bob Maram

In March also Bob Maram, the American husband of Ineke Bosman, founder of PCC, died.



Bob died in peace in The Hague at the age of 87.

After their marriage in 1996 Bob supported Ineke for 12 years in Ghana mainly on financial matters regarding the Community. Bob was also a member of the board of PCC at that time.

We are very grateful for Bob Maram's devotion to and personal support for PCC.

His passing away was remembered in a fitting Ghanaian manner in PCC.

Three youngsters back to their families

A few youngsters, who have been working in the sheltered workshop in PCC for many years and who have acquired many new skills there, returned – in agreement with their parents – to their families and villages last January.

Abigail, Kofi Baidu and Yaw Johnson are still supported by us but from a distance. We hope that they will be able to make a brand new start in their lives.

Plans for 2019

We do not have any great building plans for 2019. However, we are going to give a new boost to physiotherapy this year

as Inge Maters will come to PCC again in July.
In July we will also start with the PCC training programme (see below).

Besides, the care we provide for our autistic residents will get a new boost because our autism expert *Sue Hatton*, Elisabeth Atfield and other people from the UK will visit us in July too.

So no big building plans, but we intend to renovate all footpaths in PCC thoroughly this year, all buildings will be painted both inside and out (we started this last year) and we will exchange old mattresses of caregivers and residents for new and robust ones.

Jubilees of 4 PCC Board members

The year 2019 is a very special year for all four members of the Board of PCC, because for each of us it is a jubilee year. Yes, indeed!

Baffo is celebrating his 25th (!!!) and *Joe Emma* his 20th (!) anniversary and both *Jeannette* and I are celebrating our 10th (!) anniversary in PCC.



Samuel Baffo

Enough reason for a wonderful party for the whole of the Community, which we are certainly going to organise later in the year.

Training scheme

It seems that a long-standing wish will finally be fulfilled this year: the development of a PCC educational and training scheme for caregivers.

We will be able to prepare new caregivers in a much better way for their work in PCC. This is of major importance because unfortunately there is no school for caregivers in Ghana, so new caregivers come to PCC without any relevant theoretical or practical know-how.



Sue Hatton

Our expert on autism, *Sue Hatton*, has taken this heavy task on her shoulders, but she can count on the assistance of others. The programme will be introduced in PCC in July.

Number of residents

At the end of 2018 96 people were living in PCC: 78 permanent residents and 18 young adults working and living in the sheltered workshop.

Besides, there regularly are some children in PCC, whom we take care of in Day Care for a limited period of time. One of them is *Maame Serwaa*, her story plus picture is on page 3.

Outreach

The Outreach programme in the many villages of the North and South districts of Nkoranza is still developing in a positive way.

In the village of *Donkro Nkwanta* in the Nkoranza South district we opened a Day Care centre last year for a group of about 10 disabled children, who live in that village.

We will continue to support this centre intensively in the hope that it will remain a success and also become a good example to other villages.



Day Care Donkro Nkwanta

Also the other activities of Outreach are quite successful, like continually promoting public awareness on the causes and backgrounds of mental health disabilities; making parents familiar with the positive effects of medicines against epilepsy; supporting young people with limitations to live a life as independently as possible; forming Parent Support Groups; stimulating disabled children to attend school and so on.

There is so much more to do, but we already are very content with the success of the programme since its start in 2015.

Day Care

Because of the Outreach programme also disabled children, who still have families of their own that still want to take care of them, are coming to PCC more often because they need some kind of Day Care.

One of those children is *Maama Serwaa*, a girl of over 3 years old, who came to us via Outreach in a severely malnourished condition last year. Her mother is very willing and we have supported mother and daughter for $\frac{3}{4}$ year now with good food and physiotherapy in PCC. *Maame Serwaa*

(see picture below) is developing well and she seems to be rather happy now.

Sponsoring

There are still children for whom we are looking for a full or partly sponsoring.

Please check our website, for instance at the Homepage.

You can also get more information from our sponsoring administrator Nieske.

Please mail to:

sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl or handinhandpcc@gmail.com

Finally

So far for this 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: (PCCHandinHandCommunity).*

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,
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Maame Serwaa