



Newsletter 26, June 2023

Dear friends,

Since the release of Newsletter 25 of December 2022, a lot has happened in PCC – Hand in Hand Community. There's never a dull moment here!

We would like to bring you up to date with the most important, happiest or the most dramatic events of the past half year.

Three new residents

We are very happy with our three new residents, who came to us from Kumasi Children's Home on the 23rd of February. They are Abigail (a girl aged 6) and *Nathan* (picture) and Paul (two boys of 5 and 2 respectively). They are doing well now after an initial period of getting used to our ways: they had to unlearn some old and bad habits.



Nathan

For more information please read: <https://operationhandinhand.nl/en/three-new-residents-and-yaw-peter/>

G8 House

Last January we were able to officially open and use our wonderful and new Boys' Dormitory. During this festive occasion the house was given the name of G8 House, as a token of our appreciation and gratitude for the contributions made by our friends of the G8-group!

Seven 16 to 20-year-old boys, who are old enough now to live in one house together with only one caregiver, are living in that new building now.

Everyone is happy with and grateful for this fine G8 House, see picture:



Passing away Linda

The last quarter of the year 2022 was, as you may well remember, a very sad period for PCC, see our previous Newsletter.

Just after its release our dear Linda, as if it weren't enough, died of a serious liver function disorder plus infection. A very sad occasion and to this day, we are still missing her modest smile.

See for her In Memoriam: <https://operationhandinhand.nl/en/unbelievable-also-linda-passed-away/>

How is Ghana doing at the moment?

Fortunately, the Ghanaian economy has stabilised in comparison with 2022, but still, these are difficult times. Nearly all prices have doubled during the past year (while salaries have risen with "only" 30%), the inflation rate is (officially)

hovering around 50 to 70% and the Cedi has lost much of its value.

Ghana is unable to settle its domestic and foreign debts. The country and all its people (PCC as well) are doubtlessly facing challenging times.

The relative ease (or should I say: endurance) with which most Ghanaians tend to deal with the huge problems in their country and in their daily life, is quite remarkable. Their attitude is often one like: "It is the way it is, what can we do.....?".

Accepting major setbacks: in this respect the Ghanaians might teach us a lesson or two....

Gabriel at Joe Emma's



Gabriel, who came to PCC in 2012, diagnosed with Down's Syndrome, has been developing positively ever since. The diagnosis appeared to be wrong! Gabriel is now 12 years old and, fortunately, he is doing well in every respect, also at school.

He is still living in PCC, but no longer in a caregiver's house. Since January 2023 he has been living with Joe Emma and his relatives. He has been lovingly taken up as a new "son of the house"! He is part of a real and close family now, and it is making him extremely happy and proud!



Official opening DC DN

You will probably know that our Outreach programme is beginning to leave an even bigger and positive "footprint" behind in the Districts surrounding us. One of the most visible effects of this development is the building of special Day Care centres.



After the opening of Day Care in Nkoranza last year, we also officially opened Day Care in Donkro Nkwanta (about 20 km further away) last May.

The building has become a real treat for the eyes and its opening by the Chief of Donkro Nkwanta was truly momentous, happiness all over the place!



The finishing touch of the new Daycare

Many thanks to all sponsors who made the building of this unique centre possible!

Visits members Network

The close relationship between the Dutch foundation of Hand in Hand and PCC in Ghana was tightened last year by the creation of a special Network. This Network, consisting of three people plus

Jeannette and Albert, was formed to support PCC's policy and management. In 2023 three ladies - Jeannette Klein, Inge Maters and Sofanne Ravensbergen - will be visiting PCC for a few weeks. As a matter of fact, Jeannette already visited us in March. Inge and her family will visit us in July and Sofanne will be here in November.

Jeannette and Albert will be staying in PCC during the months of January, May and September.

This tight connection will hopefully guarantee a lasting and bright future for PCC, in fine cooperation with Hand in Hand in The Netherlands.

Besides, Sue Hatton, our expert on autism and developer of PCC's internal education programme, will be visiting us in November.

What a luxury, all this expert support!

Preparations retirement Baffo 2024



It is hard to imagine maybe (because he is still looking good and young...), but our excellent Project Director Samuel Baffo will retire in August 2024, for sure!

And those who are more familiar with the daily routines in PCC will understand that he is not replaced "just like that"!

Baffo plays a major part in PCC: in the field of finance, constructions, maintenance, supervision of various activities, external relations, and procurement.

That is the reason why we are already preparing for his inevitable departure. Because it is essential that our

Community, also after Baffo's retirement, will remain functioning properly. We have committed ourselves to our residents and workers!

So, a lot of meetings and discussions, deep thoughts and much to take care of!

Final exams Emmanuella and Stephen

It is only 2 months now when both Stephen and *Emmanuella* will take their final exams for Junior High School!! Wowww!



Emmanuella

They are both taking extra lessons now, so that they will be able to pass with good marks, which will help them to enter Senior High School at the right level.

We wish them both the best of luck and much wisdom!

Wanted: WEBMASTER

For the past 10 years Elianne Breet has been our much-esteemed webmaster. She has updated our website in 2014 and she has kept it in working order ever since. Due to private circumstances Elianne has laid down her work recently. We are much indebted to her for her considerable and notable contributions to our website.

Well done, Elianne!!

However, this also means that we have to find ourselves a new WEBMASTER, i.e. an expert on the development and maintenance of our WordPress website or a designer with photoshop or Canvas skills.

