



## Newsletter 27, December 2023

Dear friends,

Another year has almost passed.....! Last year before Christmas we observed with great sadness and astonishment the aggressive war of Russia in and against Ukraine.

By then Peace on Earth wasn't very close, but now it seems to be further away than ever as a result of the continuation of the war in Ukraine, but also because of the bloody war between Israël and Hamas, the horrible conflict in Sudan and so much more suffering.

Knowing the woes and chaos in this world there is the more reason for happiness and pride, knowing that during this whole year we enjoyed peace and tranquility in the Peace of Christ Community (PCC).

Dona nobis Pacem and Peace on Earth, good will toward men- we will hear these songs at many places during the Christmas 2023 celebrations.

Let us hope and pray for a change for the better in 2024,

We wish all of you a prosperous and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### Great gratitude

At the end of every year we always feel the amazement that our PCC - Hand in Hand Community could continue functioning well, not in the least because of the unwavering and sometimes surprising support of old and new friends, thanks to the bigger and smaller gifts and the selfless dedication of so many, both in Ghana and worldwide.

We like to thank all of you wholeheartedly for your support, your commitment, your friendship and your love shown to our residents.

### There is a lot to tell

As always there is a lot to tell about PCC and all residents as well as about our Outreach work, hence this Newsletter. We hope it will give you lots of information and make you happy while reading (almost) all.

### OUR RESIDENTS

#### Welcome

Recently we were delighted to welcome a new resident in the Community, that was *Peter* from Accra.

Peter is 20 years and has i.e. a mild intellectual disability. For more info about Peter, see the Alberts Corner column on our website.



#### Farewell

Apart from happiness about a new resident there was also sadness during the past 6 months about the passing away of 2 residents. Both Alice and Yaw Peter were part of our Community for more than 20 years.

We published a In Memoriam for both of them also as a column in Alberts Corner on the website.

#### School exams

We all understand that most residents of our Community will never be able to go to a normal school, let alone to take a school exam and ..... to succeed!

We are all the more proud of *Stephen* (his photo at page 4) and *Emmanuella*, who both did their Junior High School exam in August and recently received the gratifying news that they succeeded, *Emmanuella* even with beautiful figures!



*Emmanuella and Joyce*

Both of them will now continue their education at the Senior High School!

### **Sick residents**

As is often the case there have been some children who have been more or less seriously ill during the past period, e.g. Kojo Patrick, Yaa Yaa and M'Affia. We are happy that they all recovered or are still recovering and are pleased to say there are no seriously sick children at the moment.

### **OUTREACH**

#### **Daycare Donkro Nkwanta**

In the previous Newsletter we told you about the official opening of the Daycare in Donkro Nkwanta, which is now in "full swing"!

During that opening we invited parents of disabled children from the surrounding villages, hoping that these children could also take advantage of the beautiful Daycare in Donkro Nkwanta.

We were happy to that various (parents with) children came from the village Kyeradeso, that is about 10 km. further on. However, the (high costs of the) daily transport proved to be a major problem.

Fortunately ..... sometimes something beautiful can yield out of a problem....!

### **New Daycare in Kyeradeso**

We decided to look for a suitable space in Kyeradeso itself, where we could start a small new Daycare for about 6-8 (or even more?) children with a disability from that village and Yes, finally we succeeded!

There is an old classroom that is no more used and we will be able to offer daily care to the children over there, at least when we have renovated that room to make it suitable for a Daycare. That is done at the moment and we hope we will be able to put the Daycare in Kyeradeso into use before the end of the year.

It is great to experience that the Daycare formula has become a great success in our District. There are some more places where people are hoping that we can establish a Daycare soon, e.g. in Forikrom.

There the main challenge is to find a suitable location in that town.



*Daycare Kyeradeso*

### **Visits of Experts and Network**

Surely there is no reason for us to complain about the wonderful assistance of our experts and the members of the PCC Network.

Inge Maters, our physio expert and member of the Network, came to PCC in July in her well-known enthusiastic and energetic way. After that Sue Hatton and Elizabeth Atfield visited us in October.

Sue and Elizabeth have a lot of expertise with autistic children and apart from that Sue is very important for keeping our

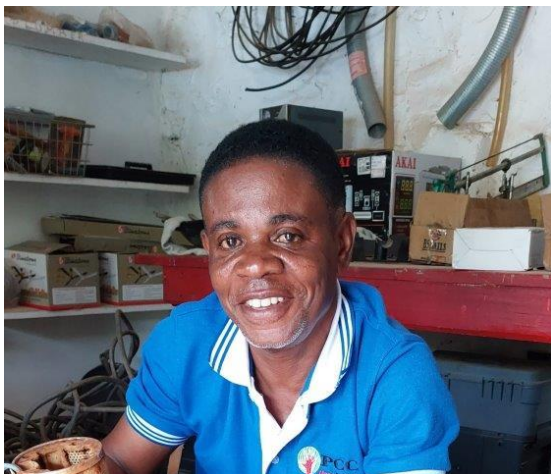
internal training programme for caregivers up-to-date

They were also very helpful by giving competent advices for the right care for some "difficult" children.

Finally Sofanne Ravensbergen has been very active in PCC during the whole of November. She is also a member of the Network and she will also gradually take over the responsibility for the medical supervision in PCC.

What a luxury and a great feeling that every year we receive so much competent and committed support from various experts. It brings the level of care in and around PCC at an continuous advancing level.

### **The year 2024 – Baffo will retire**



*Baffo*

Already some time ago we informed you about the well-deserved retirement for Baffo after August 2024. The preparations in PCC for his leaving are moving on.

Over the years many tasks were placed on the shoulders of Baffo. Nowadays he is actively turning over a growing number of these tasks by helping others who are gradually taking over some of these tasks to ensure the continuity of PCC.

Question: who are the people who are taking over all these important tasks from Baffo....?

### **New role for Joe Emma**

First of all there is Joe Emma, who already for years has been a part of the PCC Board being the Care Director, but after Baffo's departure he will be the first Ghanaian man in charge in our Community as the day-to-day supervisor. No small thing!

Gradually Joe Emma is taking over more and more tasks and he is very dedicated to ensure the smooth running of PCC after Baffo has retired.

### **The creation of the Support Group**

It's obvious for all of us that Joe Emma can't do everything on his own and therefore we decided to create the so-called **Support Group**.

At the moment we have appointed 4 experienced caregivers who all got various extra tasks to share to responsibilities as much as possible and by doing so support and relieve Joe Emma.

This includes finances, the administration, major and minor maintenance and also the supervision of all daily activities in PCC.

The Support Group is now warming up and will officially start from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 on!

We wish this Group, under the leadership of Joe Emma, lots of success in the interest of all residents of PCC.

### **Caregivers Day 2023**



*29<sup>th</sup> September: 8<sup>th</sup> Caregivers Day*

## Our website

Maybe you have noticed, maybe not, but during the past period we experienced various times major problems with the performance of our website, as a result of some persistent infections with among others a Japanese virus.....?!

Thanks to our webmaster Maarten van Minnen we have eventually been able to solve this problem well.

We hope the website will now for years to come function very well and without any "viruses".

Please, feel yourself invited to visit our website. There you will find lots of information and all you like to know about our Community and our Outreach work.



Joel (L)

and

Nana Yaw  
(R)

## Vacancies

We are sure you will understand that the work for our website and PR plus the communication with our donors and supporters is not happening on its own.

Therefore we are inviting interested persons to engage themselves with their expertise to our Community and its residents.

Are you interested....? Great!  
Please, send an email to Albert via [handinhandcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:handinhandcommunity@gmail.com) and we will definitely be in touch with you!

## Sponsoring

A considerable number of children does not receive any or only little sponsoring and we actually need extra support for these children. Have a look at our Homepage on our website if you would like to know more.

Information about sponsoring can also be obtained from Jeannette Klein: [sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl](mailto:sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl) or [handinhandpcc@gmail.com](mailto:handinhandpcc@gmail.com)

## Finally

That's it for this Newsletter. You are fully up to date now!

If you would like to be kept posted on the stories of PCC – Hand in Hand, you can follow "Albert's Corner" on our website (a fresh issue every month): [www.operationhandinhand.nl](http://www.operationhandinhand.nl).

**NB:** There also is a link via Facebook: see *PCCHandinHandCommunity*.

With kind regards and sincere thanks for your support and genuine interest, on behalf of *Baffo, Joe Emma, Jeannette* and all residents and workers of Hand in Hand!

*Albert van Galen*



*Stephen is very technical*