

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

**PEACE OF CHRIST -**

**HAND IN HAND COMMUNITY**

NKORANZA, GHANA



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# Hand in Hand

Community Ghana

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## **1. Summary**

The year 2014 was another special year in the history of the Peace of Christ Foundation and the PCC – Hand in Hand Community. We welcomed a lot of new developments. Very important and impressive was the construction of a new Centre in the Community with 3 wonderful new buildings: the Royal Community Hall, the Physio Palace and Noah's Ark. Great achievements and a wonderful step forward for PCC thanks to our donors!!

We were also able to make a good start with the new PCC Resource Centre, aimed to inform and assist parents of children with intellectual disabilities. We know we can't accept all children as new residents in PCC, but we find it very important that we can advise, support and direct the parents / family members in the best possible way.

During the year we were very grateful to receive a fine new PCC car replacing the 9-year old Community car.

We also welcomed the introduction of 24 Solar panels, making PCC less dependent and more durable

In 2014 3 new children joined the residential community, while 4 young adults came to PCC as new workers in the Sheltered Workshop. Unfortunately we also lost 1 of our children, the vulnerable Quinten, who died after having been with us for 14 good years. At the end of the year 2014 as much as 85 children are living in the Community, 65 of these are now living permanently in our Community, while 20 young adults, coming from outside PCC, are attached to the Sheltered Workshop, spending here most of the year.

We are able to run the growing Community mainly through contributions of sponsors and donors from overseas, this amounts up to about 75-80% of our annual budget. However, we also generate about 20-25 % of the funds locally to help us to become financially more independent. Our guesthouses are attractive for many visitors and recommended by various travel guides and agencies. Running the guesthouses and the restaurant helps us to make extra income, while additional funds are generated through the sales of products from the Sheltered Workshop and sold in our shop and in Europe.

Nowadays more than 40 persons are members of our Ghanaian team of caregivers and other workers. We also provide an interesting working place for 4-5 foreign volunteers at a time, mainly from Europe, who are all coming to Ghana for at least 3 months to assist PCC in caring for the children by participating in the Special Attention programme.

By the end of 2014 the Governing Board of PCC has 4 members: Dr Albert van Galen, general director, Mr Samuel Kwame Baffo, project director, Mr Emmanuel Amponsah Daasebre, care director and Mrs Jeannette van Galen - Wattel, education director and supervisor of guesthouses and sheltered workshop.

What started as a small seed in 1992 has grown over the years into a wonderful place of peace, love and care for many intellectually disabled children. We are happy that also in 2014 our children could benefit from living in the Community, which is very much their own peaceful place on this earth.

We are grateful to God for all blessings showered upon our Community as well as to all sponsors, donors, workers and volunteers who supported us throughout 2014 in a great way, helping us to maintain and even improve PCC as an unique and loving Community.

On behalf of the Board of PCC Ghana,

Albert van Galen, M.D.  
*General Director PCC – Hand in Hand Community*

## **2. General review and developments 2014**

### General

During 2014 we were fortunate to see many new developments and highlights. In general we are very happy with and positive about the situation and developments in PCC. We are able to offer a safe home, a loving environment and good care to all PCC residents and workshop children. The atmosphere in PCC is very good and the children are happy and almost all very healthy, also depending on their character and nature.

### Residents

Thinking about 2014 we remember many, many moments of happiness and lots of joy. Most important is the fact that almost all children did very well over the year. We were very happy to accept 3 children, Joel, Miriam and Benjamin, as new permanent residents of PCC. We also welcomed 4 young adult boys, Atta, Emmanuel Babato, K.T. Yamua and Obeng Kintampo. They came as new workers to the sheltered workshop.



During 2014 unfortunately and to our sadness we lost one of our residents, the vulnerable *Quinten*, who lived here for 14 years and passed away in September. May he rest in peace.

By the end of 2014 we care for a total number of 85 children: 65 are permanent residents, while 20 children and young adults are now active in the sheltered workshop, most of them living in the boys- and girls dormitories.

It remains so wonderful to see how children, given up and abandoned elsewhere, are able to grow and flourish very well here. They are really at home in our Community, where they meet and live together with many comparable children. In fact, this is really their own home, their Community and with that philosophy in mind everyone tries to care for them in the best possible way.

### Quality of food

During the year we gave a lot of attention to the quality of the food given to the children three times per day. We were happy to improve on certain aspects, like more different types of food, less starch and more protein rich food, more fruits, beans cake etc. Our children are very much in favour of it, they respond quite well to all changes.

### Developments 2014 in PCC

Quite a lot of important developments made in 2014 are worth mentioning:

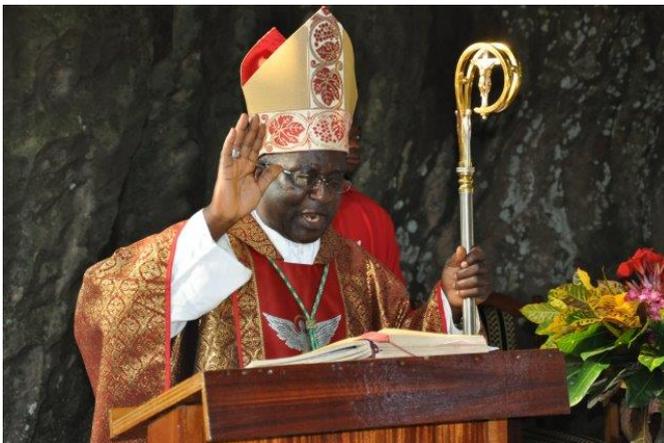
- We were able to renew a major part of the Centre of PCC, by constructing a new TV room, now called the Royal Community Hall, as well as a new House of Games now called Noah's Ark and last but not least a wonderful Physio Palace.

The 3 new buildings are really beautiful and very functional and we hardly can imagine that we had to do our work without these great new assets!

*Physio Palace + Noah's Ark*



- We started with the PCC Resource Centre for Information and Advice, aimed to support parents of children with an intellectual disability. We noticed a huge lack of knowledge in this field, many parents come to us with lots of questions. PCC is not able to accept all intellectually disabled children from Ghana as resident in PCC, so we feel it's very important that we are able to advise, support and direct the parents who are trying to cope with the often difficult situation at home. This 1<sup>st</sup> year of the Resource Centre was very encouraging. An extensive database with lots of important information for parents was build up, while many disabled persons or their parents visiting PCC received very helpful advices and sometimes even much needed wheelchairs or other support materials for disabled persons.
- In 2014 we were happy to get financial means from Holland for a new car, a *Nissan Navara Double Cabin pick-up*, to replace the 9-year old Nissan X-trail as official PCC car. This new car is multifunctional and can transport an equal number of passengers as the old PCC car and at the same time more load.
- PCC was even able to introduce Solar Energy to the Community by the end of the year, making PCC more durable after the installation of 24 Solar Panels.
- We started a small and nice new working place behind the Sheltered Workshop close to the Autism Room. The place is called "The House of Silence" and some children from the workshop are now spending a good time there every day again in a very quiet, relaxing atmosphere.
- In July *the RC Bishop of Techiman* came to PCC. It was the first time somebody of his position paid us a visit. He showed great interest in our Community and he



also did Confirmation to as much as 13 of our young adults and 4 caregivers during a very impressive mass and ceremony.

- The programme "Best of 2 Worlds" continued also in 2014, as well as the sign language classes, the Summer School and many more wonderful activities. etc.. All this contributed to having a great year 2014!

- During 2014 we were delighted to launch our beautifully renewed and modernised website. This helps us to communicate even better with our many supporters, donors, sponsors, friends and sympathisers all over the world.

#### Agreement with the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation

In December 2012 the Board of PCC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation, to confirm the good and close cooperation of both foundations for the long term upkeep of PCC.

The purpose of the cooperation between PCC and HIH is to guarantee the best possible care for all disabled children and young adults living in PCC, to get the necessary financial support for PCC, to create a continuous and stimulating exchange of expertise and ideas to support the PCC Board with Management and Administration and to develop an adequate long term policy in order to ensure good quality care in PCC for many years.

This agreement guarantees the very important long term support for PCC!

Like in the previous years during the year 2014 PCC received the majority of its foreign contributions for the running of PCC from the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation. Through the Dutch foundation PCC also got a lot of support from the English and German charitable support organisations Hand in Hand UK resp. Ananse Germany.

#### Caregivers

During the year 2014 7 new Ghanaian Caregivers came to join our team, to replace some old caregivers who left PCC during the year.

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 we have 28 caregivers (2013: 26), caring for 65 young permanent residents and 20 semi-permanent young adults in the sheltered workshop.

In July 2014 a group medical students from SKIP, England came for the 4<sup>th</sup> successive year to work as volunteers in PCC. An important part of their activities was giving lectures on selected topics to our Caregivers. This was well appreciated and all caregivers who attended these lectures received a special Certificate.

#### Volunteers

During 2014 we had the continuous and very appreciated support of about 4 – 6 volunteers, coming from countries in Europe to PCC.

Most volunteers from abroad come to stay with us for 3 – 6 months.

#### Christmas 2014



For many years already the highlight of the year in Hand in Hand is the celebration of Christmas and New Year's Eve. This is done during a week full of activities, PCC parties, special music by choirs and dancing groups and of course with some small presents and good food. This year during Christmas we were very happy that we could enjoy the singing of a special PCC Choir, with participation from various caregivers and volunteers.

All special activities during the X-mas season were a great success.

We saw a very subdued *Father Christmas (Yaw Peter)*, we heard the Frafra singing and dancing group and there was once more a wonderful Christmas play, performed by all children of PCC, with Tettey playing the little Jesus and carried around by the people!

#### Visitors

We were happy to welcome many visitors to our Community during 2014. They stayed in our Guesthouses, some for one day, others much longer. Almost without exception all visitors coming to the Community are very positive and impressed by the atmosphere and the good care provided at Hand in Hand. It has been like that over the years and obviously the Spirit of PCC is also touching many visitors! Their number over the years has increased and so does the income of the guesthouses and restaurant! This money is used as good input to cover at least part of our expenses.

Unfortunately the number of visitors dropped in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2014 when the fear for Ebola in West-Africa kept many people away from travelling to Ghana, though there hasn't been a single case of Ebola in Ghana in 2014.



*Joël*

### **3. Background information about the “Hand in Hand Community”**

In the rural areas of Ghana intellectually disabled children are sometimes still referred to as “water-children”. Local tradition claims that these children are born as a result of a woman being raped by a water-spirit. Water spirits, real or not, are thus causing havoc in people’s lives and the water-children, being half spirits and half human, are much feared. In the traditional way the disabled child is put back along the riverside where these spirits are staying. At night the spirits then submerge and take the children “back home” to the depth of the river. Luckily these traditional concepts are gradually changing.

In Nkoranza the presence of our many special children has already caused a sustained positive change. In the beginning we had a real problem finding caregivers who could rise above the fears and family pressures of the local community and have enough courage to live with our kids. Now, more than 22 years later, our caregivers form a loving and stable team and we have no problems in finding new caregivers anymore! Increasingly churches, schools, the government and many non-governmental initiatives are investing in educating the Ghanaian society about the nature of “spiritual” diseases, intellectually disabilities and behavioral disorders.



*Benjamin*

Apart from the dangerous traditional belief-systems, the parents have to cope with the universally experienced feelings of agony when faced with having a disabled child.

It is not surprising therefore, that some of these children are abandoned somewhere, starved or hidden away in small rooms and sheds, while others are laid abandoned in public places in the hope that someone may find them and keep them alive. It is to abandoned children like these that PCC offers a warm and loving home.

Most of our children in PCC came on a transfer from the Accra or Kumasi Children’s Home. This is where most abandoned foundlings are brought if they are lucky enough to survive. For long these institutions, ill prepared as they are for housing intellectually disabled children, were the end of the line for these kids, as there were no good

residential homes for intellectually disabled children in Ghana, not until the “Hand in Hand Community” was founded. Apart from this, we also accept children from Social Welfare, other orphanages and hospitals from all over Ghana.

### **History**

Our community started in 1992 through an initiative of four health-professionals, 3 Ghanaians and one Ghanaian-Dutch, Dr. Ineke Bosman. She was the driving force behind the foundation and without her the Community would not have emerged and developed to what it is nowadays, a Community with an unique and appealing atmosphere.

Our premises are large, 24 acres of hilly land with a lovely natural setting. The land is beautiful with natural sources and awesome rock-formations. The buildings where the children and their caregivers are living do form a half circle of small cottages. At the other side of the semi-circle of children-cottages lay the guesthouses for our visitors.

The Sheltered workshop was realized in 2003 and expanded between 2005 and 2009. In 2012 a small, but nice sensory room was created and by the end of 2014 we started with the House of Silence for some children, who prefer working very quietly.

Caregivers are living like parents with their children. They sleep together, play together, bath their children, eat with them and bring them to school or workshop. The caregivers also have general assignments in the group, such as running daycare, cooking, computer classes, supervising the swimming-hour, etc. Emphasis is laid on warmth, fun and love.



*Miriam*

We loyally adhere to a precise daily routine so that the children may feel safe. A good and predicable structure is a very important cornerstone for our Community.

Highlight of the daily schedule is the 4 PM swimming-time where the children bath, exercise and have fun with the water. This “pool-happening” is also the beginning of the end of the day. Afterwards kids and caregivers eat together and then retreat to watch TV or movies or move to their cottages. At 8 PM all are quiet and go asleep.

#### **4. PCC Sheltered Workshop Annual Report 2014**

There are several divisions in the sheltered workshop.

##### Beads hall

In this hall most of our young adults are working. In general these children are very happy and communicate well with the supervising caregivers. The production of necklaces, key holders, bracelets, hip strings and ankle bracelets has become their hobby. At the end of the year, the total number of kids in the Beads Hall is: 20.



##### Weaving Department

In the Weaving Hall 7 youngsters are having a good time every day with kente weaving, producing beautiful materials to produce nice bags, purses and scarfs.

##### Sewing Department

This sector helps the workshop to generate extra income for PCC by producing a wide variety of products, including various types of bags, aprons, placemats, purses, picnic cloths, all very appreciated by many visitors of our PCC shop as well as by clients overseas.

##### Autism Table

The Autistic kids are still enjoying their light and airy place. Caregivers have been trained and nowadays they understand more of the situation of autistic kids. We try as much as possible to do things that interest them, including colouring and drawing, playing with water, painting on papers and walls, playing with sand, dancing and drumming. At the end of 2014, there were 10 children gathering every day at the Autism Table.

#### **Income Sheltered Workshop 2014**

The total net result for the Sheltered Workshop in 2014 was Cedi: **19.440**

The amount transferred to the main Account of PCC was Cedi: **17.800**

NB: Apart from this an amount of **Cedi 16.146** was received overseas, as payment for various local sales (500) + sales to HIH foundation in Holland (15.646).



*Royal Community Hall*

## 5. About organization, staff and management

The aim of PCC / Hand in Hand is to give integral care to abandoned and intellectually disabled children from all over Ghana. The style is open and family like. Children live in small groups of two or three with a caregiver, who is acting as an alternative mother or father figure for their kids. Attendance to school, rehabilitation, medical care, therapy, joint meals, joint siestas in the siesta room and of course music and play are all part of the daily program.

The caregivers who live and work with the children consider their service as voluntary. They receive a monthly allowance as well as free boarding and lodging with their children. The children and caregivers have a coordinator in Mr. Emmanuel Daasebre.

The workshop has its own coordinator, Diana Sawine, who is responsible for all activities in the workshop.



*Since 2010 the Board of PCC / Hand in Hand has 4 members:*

Dr. Albert Van Galen, chairman and General Director,

Mr. Samuel Baffo, Project Director for income generating activities and constructions,

Mr. Emma Daasebre, Care Director and

Mrs. Jeannette van Galen, Education Director + supervisor of the workshop.

We have place for 4 – 5 volunteers at the same time, who help on a one to one base with special kids, in the computer lab and at the autistic table. Joe Emma coordinates the volunteer program. Carlijn Willems, living in Holland, selects and coordinates the volunteers coming from Europe.

The guesthouses + restaurant are 2 special parts of PCC. Our hostesses plus three cleaners are supporting this part of PCC. Mr. Baffo is in charge and Mrs. Jeannette van Galen supervises the maintenance of the guesthouses.

The "Araba memorial Internet café" runs as a small, separate department. There are 3 staffs and a cleaner employed.



*Joël, James and Gabriel*

**6. Financial information**

(Ref. Annex 1 for the 2014 financial statement)

PCC/Hand in Hand works without government aid, so the running depends mainly on donations and child sponsorships from outside the country.

Total budgetary income <u>including</u> transfer: for projects, buildings, payments in 2014 was	Cedi	<u>415.039</u>
Extra budgetary amounts received at GCB etc.		<u>51.850</u>
This makes an all-over <b>Total Income</b> of Cedi:		<b>466.889</b>

The recurrent expenditures in 2014 amounted to: <u>12%</u> more than budgeted (mainly due to the high inflation in Ghana)	<u>304.646</u>
Apart from that, building activities and other extra budgetary expenses for various projects amounted up to:	<u>145.677</u>

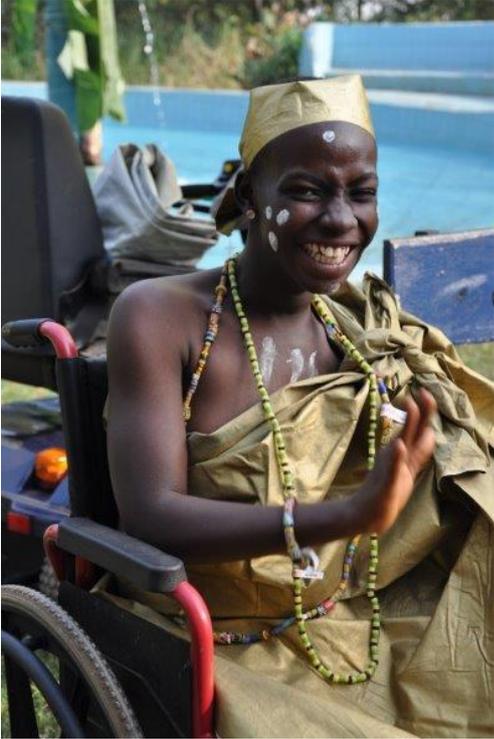
The all-over **Total Expenditures** therefore were Cedi: **450.323**

So the year ended with a small surplus of Cedi: **16.566**  
(See Annex 1 for more details)

Income generated locally: This year we generated approximately 20 - 25 % of the money needed for the running of PCC from the sales of products made in our sheltered workshop and from income from the guesthouses + restaurant. This is a very satisfying result.

**7 Conclusion and acknowledgment**

We are very grateful to our staff members and caregivers, to our volunteers, our many friends and to all our sponsors and benefactors. Without their great efforts, dedicated work and appreciated support PCC could not continue to function as it is doing nowadays.



*Adwoa*

We are very proud of our children who, with our help, are able to build a contented life on foundations of abandonment and deprivation. This is a small miracle that no one, neither social workers nor psychologists, nor we for that matter, fully understands.

It is clear that we are involved in a vision and a commitment that is larger than that of all of us together. We believe that the Spirit of God and the Peace of Christ are at the heart of it. This may also explain the joy and peace that many people, including complete strangers, experience at our premises.

## **Annex 1: Statement of account for the year 2014 – PCC General**

Start ADB 1/1/2014:

**16.818**

### Income

HIH: budget + other contrib.	324.650
Guesthouses + restaurant	39.600*
Internet café	5.290
Sheltered workshop	17.800*
Lilian Fund	22.800
Local donations	4.899

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**415.039**

Donation Vastenaktie Holland (2x)	32.300
Donation Madamfo Holland	19.050
Refund special loan	500

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Total Income **466.889**

### Expenditures

Allowances	106.653
Feeding	91.609
Party costs	7.982
Repairs General	7.179
Repairs houses	8.483
Repairs + Insur. Cars	7.763
Electricity	14.938
Personal needs	26.348
Omo & Soap	5.490
T & T	11.355
Medical	9.144
Accountant / legal	1.200
Bank Charges	1.134
Others	5.368

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**304.646**

Constructions	111.279
Projects	22.983
Special loan	500
Resource Centre (allowances)	5.070
Resource Centre (extra costs)	4.045
Overseas Payment	1.800

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Total expenditures **450.323**

Balance at ADB Bank 31/12/14

**33.384**

+

Balance at GCB Bank 31/12/14 (mainly from transfers HIH)

**98.490** (+ **3.778** cash)

+

Profit of sales of old X-trail car (money received early 2015)

**23.300**

(NB: \* = (part of) income from payments overseas is **not** included:

Guesthouses:	Cedi	10.000
Sheltered workshop:	"	16.146)