



Newsletter 16, May 2018

Dear friends,

It has been half a year since we have sent you a last update on the ups and downs of our Community. So it is high time for a next Newsletter because much has happened since October 2017: many good but also a few sad things.

We hope that by reading this Newsletter you will be informed about the present developments in our unique Community.

PCC's 25th anniversary celebrations

The absolute climax of the past period was undoubtedly the celebration of PCC's Silver Jubilee at the end of 2017. Preparations were made in the months before the actual festivities, which was not for nothing because it has become a wonderful Jubilee.

Its main climaxes were:

- a very dynamic Parade of all residents of PCC - together with former and new caregivers and many guests from both home and abroad – through the streets of Nkoranza;



- the official Jubilee Dunbar at which various traditional Chiefs and many VIP's, amongst them 2 MP's and a Ghanaian Secretary of State, were present;

- a jubilee performance by PCC's residents during Dunbar, which was loudly applauded by the audience;

- a special service at the PCC's rock church;

- on top of that we all had a good time enjoying much music, dancing and – of course - good food.

It must go without doubt that we had a fantastic Jubilee. From now on PCC is enthusiastically looking forward to its 50th anniversary.

We would like to point your attention to the following link to our PCC website for a detailed report of our Jubilee activities: <http://www.operationhandinhand.nl/?p=5785>

Sronko Diaries



The last activity during our Silver Jubilee took place in January 2018. A festive afternoon with music and dance was organized in cooperation with a group of socially engaged youth from Accra called Sronko Diaries. They support a truly inclusive society in Ghana.

We much approve of and hope for many more signs of change in Ghanaian society concerning the ideas about and attitude towards people with special needs!

Two new residents

In October 2017 we welcomed 2 new residents in PCC, namely David – who is about 4 years old - and 7-year-old Reuben (his picture is on page 4). Both came from Kumasi Children's Home and we are very happy to notice that in the mean time they have completely settled in our Community.

It is clear that they feel at home here because they laugh more often than at the time of their arrival and they are growing well. Besides David's clubfoot is already being treated. We wish them both a pleasant and good life in PCC.

In Memoriam Lisa



Unfortunately we had to say our permanent goodbyes to dear Lisa in April.

Lisa was welcomed in our Community in 2004 and she had to cope with very serious handicaps during her entire life. In fact the only ways she was able to communicate with us was by smiling, by crying or through her eyes. In spite of it all she had the loveliest smile in the world, which could capture one's attention completely.

She passed away after a short period of illness. We are sad but on the other hand she has found eternal rest from her heavy life now.

May the Lord have mercy upon her from now on and into eternity.

2017 in retrospect

It is safe to say that a lot has happened in our Community in 2017. Maybe too much to mention it all though, but we will try and make a summary of the past year.

Renovation of the swimming pool

At the beginning of 2017 PCC's swimming pool was completely renovated. As a result there now is a really wonderful pool with broad benches and safety fences. The pool is a great success with the children of PCC who make use of the pool each and every day and much to their delight.

The tree that saw it all

It was both literally and figuratively speaking an enormous shock when the big tree in the centre of PCC suddenly started to shed its branches. Eventually the whole tree had to be felled and the thud could be felt from a great distance. We still miss this landmark of a tree, which provided so much shadow in the centre of PCC. And also the nests of the weaver birds, which were built in this tree. However, in the mean time we have planted a new (but different) tree in its stead and we hope this one will grow big soon!



A new home, the Jubilee House

In order to be able to receive even more children in our Community the G8 group from Groningen built and financed another wonderful house just like they did for us in 2015 (and in the years before).

Many thanks to these true friends of PCC!

It has become a comfortable and spacious house, which we officially opened as the Jubilee House on January 1st 2018. The house has - thanks to its downhill situation - some very convenient storage space as well.

No wood fire for cooking in PCC anymore

In Europe everybody wants to get rid of gas for cooking. In Ghana and PCC it will take a long time before this phase will be reached. We are most happy to have been able to just make the step from cooking on wood fire to cooking with gas. In 2017 a gas tank and some gas cookers were installed.

It is a relief and luxury for our cook Janet (and PCC) that the time of being forced to cook in constant clouds of smoke is over.

Annual report PCC 2017

For the true fan of PCC: the informative annual report of PCC for the year 2017 is now available.

Those who would like to have a glance at it or read it can find this report integrally on our website under "Annual reports".

<http://www.operationhandinhand.nl/wp-content/uploads/2017-Annual-Report.pdf>

Various medical interventions

During the last period of time various children of PCC have had a surgical intervention.

Yaw Balloon was operated to remove a big keloid scarring, a growth of scar tissue on his back.

He was bothered by it and also by the scabs and sores around it.



We sincerely hope the tumour will not return although – unfortunately – this is often the case when keloid scarring has been removed.

Stephen was operated on his knees at the orthopaedic unit of Duayaw Nkwanta hospital in November 2017, (just like in 2016). He is (finally!) able to bring his knees in a straight position and because of that he is walking more easily, although still with braces and crutches.

Moses had to be operated in November 2017 on his Achilles tendon. He is walking very well now and without his equinus foot deformity!

In Memoriam Hagar Kwasi



In February we were shocked to hear about the sudden death of one of our young caregivers, Hagar Kwasi.

She had been working as a caregiver for a.o. Sara and Theresa in PCC for a couple of years. She was a happy, modest and dedicated person.

After a short period of illness of heavy stomach aches and probably an internal bleeding she fell into a state of shock. In spite of hospitalization and several blood transfusions she passed away within a few days. It is a terribly sad thing that such a young and lively woman is no longer amongst us.

May she rest in God's perfect Peace.

New plans for 2018

In our new business plan we haven't taken any large scale building plans or particular renovations into account. We do have plans for some small adjustments and improvements.

Of course we will continue monitoring the good level of all existing health care facilities for our nearly 100 residents.

You can find in our business plan for 2018 information on e.g.:

- a new update on the Day Care programme, also on the House of Silence and the Autism Table;
- improvements on some buildings of the sheltered workshop;
- the extension of the toilet facilities of our residents and last but not least:
- a new motor bike for our Outreach work.

We hope to be able to realize all of these improvements in 2018.

Sponsoring

There are still children for whom we are looking for a full or partly sponsoring, e.g. for *Reuben* (see below).

Please check our website, for instance at the Homepage.

You can also get more information from our sponsor administrator Nieske: sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl or via handinhandpcc@gmail.com



Reuben

Finally

So far for this 16th Newsletter. We hope you are fully updated again.



Thanksgiving church service during the Silver Jubilee

You can find more and regular updates 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) and Twitter: (PCCHandinHand).*

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

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