

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

**PEACE OF CHRIST -**

**HAND IN HAND COMMUNITY**

NKORANZA, GHANA



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# Hand in Hand Community Ghana

## Contents:

1. Summary
2. General review and developments 2012
3. Background information + History Hand in Hand
4. Report 2012 of the Sheltered Workshop
5. Organization, staff and management
6. Finances
7. Conclusion and acknowledgment

Annex 1: Financial statement 2012



## 1. Summary

The year 2012 was a very special year for the Peace of Christ Foundation and the PCC – Hand in Hand Community in many aspects. We were happy to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation in December with some unique Jubilee activities.

What started as a small seed in 1992 has grown over the years into a great place of peace, love and care for many disabled children. We were happy that our children could benefit for another year from living in the Community, which is very much their own peaceful village.

During the year we saw many developments. We were able to complete the last part of a major renovation project, which started in 2011. The (re-)opening of some new or renovated buildings gave great pride to all of us, e.g. the siesta, the extended restaurant plus the new shop and last but not least a great new Giraffe house that will enable us to accept more children in the year 2013.

In 2012 4 new children, Eno Mary, James, Gabriel and Amma Lekma joined the residential community. A young adult girl from Bolgatange, Akoos, became one of the workers in the Sheltered Workshop.

Unfortunately and to our great sadness we also had to face the loss of as much as 4 children during the year 2012, Bright, M'Adwoa, Ntiamoah and Kwame Agagi. And on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 also John Fabeson passed away. So despite all good things it was a very dramatic year for PCC and this shocked all of us tremendously.

At the end of the year 2012 in total 77 children were living in the Community. As much as 62 children and young adults are living permanently in our Community, while 15 young adults are attached from outside to PCC to the Sheltered Workshop.

We are able to run our large Community mainly through contributions of sponsors and donors from overseas, this amounts up to about 70 - 75 % of our annual budget.

However, we also have made important steps to generate funds locally, to help us to become financially more independent for now and in the future.

Our guesthouses are much appreciated and recommended by various travel guides and agencies. Both the guesthouses and restaurant give us some extra income and more additional funds are generated through the products, made in our Sheltered Workshop and sold in our local shop as well as in Europe.

Our Ghanaian team of caregivers and other workers in the Community nowadays counts almost 40 persons. We also provide a very interesting working place for about 5 - 6 foreign volunteers mainly from Europe at a time, who come to assist PCC in the care for the children for some months, in particular via the Special Attention programme.

By the end of 2012 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, supervisor of guesthouses, sheltered workshop and volunteers.

We are grateful to God for all blessings upon our Community as well as to all sponsors, donors, workers and volunteers who supported us throughout the year 2012 in such a great way. We can't say anything else then a big THANK YOU to all!

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 2012**

### General

The past year we saw many highlights, but unfortunately there were also some very sad events. In general though we are glad and positive about the situation and developments in PCC.

We were and are able to offer a safe home, a loving environment and good care to the almost 80 PCC residents and workshop children. The atmosphere is very good and most children are happy and healthy.

### Jubilee in 2012

In 2012 our Community was able to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Peace of Christ Foundation, which was founded in 1992. It feels like a miracle that became true!!

This Jubilee was celebrated by the end of December and it was a very big success. Many guests, old caregivers and so many interested others came to Nkoranza for the festive celebration of this Anniversary and we are sure that nobody regretted participating. For the children it was also a wonderful and very special period.

The Parade with all children, caregivers, volunteers and guests and musically supported by a swinging brass band through Nkoranza town was may be the most impressive element of the jubilee celebrations. The enormous joy of so many and the tangible solidarity and pride made this Parade a unique event in the already special and rich history of PCC, a kind of "coming-out". The wonderful and colourful yellow and green jubilee T-shirts completed it all.

And that was not even all. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the official celebration all PCC workers were wearing beautiful dresses and suits, all made of special Jubilee pieces of cloth. Everyone looked really marvellous in these clothes.



A striking aspect of all festivities was the active role the children played. When the stories of their life were told, they showed their qualities by dancing, with a poem or even by mouth writing, done by *Emmanuella*.

The children also showed their strength and capabilities with a beautiful traditional dance and a home-made play.

Another highlight: during the Jubilee celebration we invited Ineke Bosman to reveal a plaque that honours her and tells about her unique contribution to

PCC.

To cut things short, the Jubilee has been celebrated spectacularly and many participants will remember the countless special moments during the various Jubilee activities for a very long time.

### Children

During 2012 unfortunately and to our great sadness we had to face the loss of as much as 4 children, being Bright, M'Adwoa, Ntiamoah and Kwame Agagi. And on 1st January 2013 also John Fabeson passed away. So despite all good things it became a very dramatic year for PCC. We are shocked tremendously by this enormous loss and pray that for quite some time PCC will not have to face another death of one or more children.

But thinking about 2012 we also remember many moments of happiness.

Most important is the fact that all other children did very well over the year and we were also happy that we could welcome 4 new children, Eno Mary, James, *Gabriel* and Amma Lekma as new permanent residents as well as 1 young adult girl, Akoos, as a new worker to the sheltered workshop.

By the end of 2012 the total number of children is 77, being 62 permanent residents and 15 children in the sheltered workshop + dormitories.



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

#### Quality of food

Also this 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 etc. Our children are very much in favour of this, they do react quite positive to the changes.

#### Developments

Quite a lot of important developments during 2012 are worth mentioning:

- All visitors are very happy with the opening of the new and enlarged restaurant, a great place to sit and enjoy some nice food from the also renewed restaurant kitchen. We were glad with the realisation of a new and bigger shop, where all products from the sheltered workshop are sold.
- The siesta room, where all children enjoy their daily afternoon nap, has also been enlarged. It was renewed in April, including new mattresses and appalling decorative painting.
- After a trial the year before, in 2012 the Summer school has officially been introduced as a structural and very successful part of the PCC daily programme. The school is open 5 days per week in the beautiful Education Centre. Every day about 20 of our children enjoy here some Special Education, whereby a lot of attention is given to group activities, interactive and educational games and of course to music, writing and drawing. The children are really very happy with this nice development.
- In August the playground was also completely renovated, after adding some nice new playground elements already earlier during the year. It all looks great again, a real pleasure for the eye and even more when playing there and that's what our children love to do!
- A construction of a spacey new house, the Giraffe House. The G8 group from Groningen in Holland donated this lovely house to PCC and during some weeks in October they even came to PCC to do a lot of voluntary building activities. The house was decorated beautifully by Mary with many giraffe heads and because of that the house is now called the Giraffe house. A great asset for PCC! Through this house we have created the capacity to accept more new children into the Community in 2013.



*Giraffe House*

- We continued with a major screening programme for all children, to enable us to identify the most appropriate goals for each individual child of PCC, goals which we would like to achieve with them for the short as well as long term.

#### Renovation project

During 2011 and 2012 we gave a lot of attention to a major maintenance and renovation project for almost all old buildings at the PCC compound. Some of these buildings were almost 20 years old and over the years we saw more and more decline in the quality of the roofing, ceilings, walls, bathrooms and taps, electricity wiring, concrete floors, windows plus doors etc. etc., so major maintenance was urgently needed.

With the much appreciated help of various organisations and foundations we were able to complete this important project by the end of 2012. We are very glad with and proud of the fact that the buildings are fine again, without leakages, frail walls, broken floors or old electricity wiring etc. and we try to maintain the good condition by giving (even) more structural attention to preventive maintenance.

#### 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 in 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!

During the year 2012 PCC also received the majority of its foreign contributions for the upkeep of PCC from and through the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation.

#### Caregivers

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

At present we have 24 caregivers, caring for the 62 permanent young residents and the 15 semi-permanent young adults in the sheltered workshop.

During July 2012 a group medical students from SKIP, England came to work as a volunteer at PCC and part of their activities was giving some lectures on selected topics to our Caregivers. This was much appreciated and the caregivers who attended these lectures received a special Certificate.

We were happy to welcome many visitors to our Community during 2012, who stayed in our Guesthouses for one day of sometimes even much longer. Almost without exception all visitors, who came to the Community, were very positive and impressed by the atmosphere and the good care provided at Hand in Hand. It has been like this over the years and obviously the Spirit of PCC is still tangible and visible! The number of visitors increased again and so did the income of the guesthouses and restaurant! This money is used as good input to cover at least part of our expenses.

### Volunteers

During 2012 we had the continuous and very appreciated support of about 4 – 6 volunteers, coming from countries in Europe to PCC. Most of them came to stay with us for 3 – 6 months, but we also had 2 special volunteers for one year, who joined our team for a specific task through the German organisation Bezev.

### Christmas 2012

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.



*Dela as Father Christmas was a great success, he fully enjoyed this major responsibility.*

*Without any doubt the most appealing part of all festivities is the touching Christmas play of the children. Also this year it was a wonderful performance when all children, caregivers and volunteers together gave a great depiction of the play "The birth of Jesus Christ".*

### **3. Background information about the "Hand in Hand Community"**

In the rural areas intellectually handicapped children are sometimes still referred to as "water-children". Local tradition has it 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 handicapped child is put back along the riverside where these spirits have their abode. At night the spirits then submerge and take the children "back home" to the depth of the river with them. Luckily these traditional concepts are rapidly 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, 20 years later, our caregivers form a loving and stable team. Clearly the innocent nature of these special children has helped disarm the troubling traditional belief-system of the Brong-Ahafo (Bono) people. Gradually the intellectually disabled child is not only seen as harmless but as truly very special. Increasingly churches, schools, the government and many non-governmental initiatives have invested time in educating the Ghanaian society about the nature of mental diseases and intellectual and behavioral handicaps.

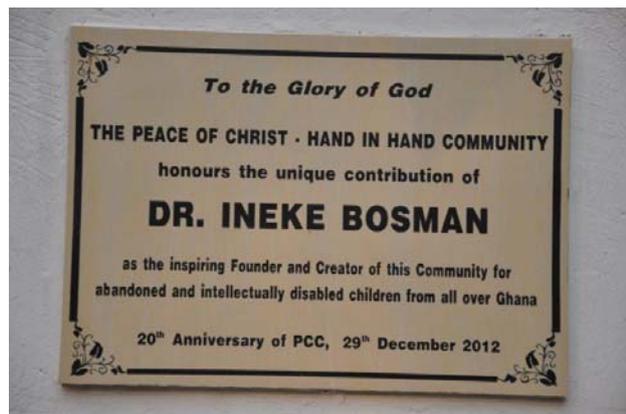
Apart from the dangerous traditional belief-systems, the parents have to cope with the universally experienced feelings of agony when faced with having a handicapped child. It is not surprising therefore, that some of these children are abandoned along the river or elsewhere, starved or hidden away in 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 we offer our warm and loving home.

Most of our children were transferred from the Osu Children Home and the State Mental Hospital in Accra. This is where most abandoned foundlings are brought if they were lucky enough to survive. These two institutions, ill prepared as they are for the housing of intellectually disabled children, are the end of the line for these kids, as there were no good residential homes for mentally handicapped children in Ghana, not until the "Hand in Hand Community" was founded. Apart from this, we have also received children from orphanages in Tamale, Cape Coast and Kumasi.

### History

Our community started in 1992 through an initiative of four health-professionals, 3 Ghanaians and one Ghanaian-Dutch. Dr. Ineke Bosman 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.

We were therefore very happy that she was able unveil a wonderful plaque during the Jubilee, that honours her and tells about her unique contribution to PCC.



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

The Sheltered workshop was realized in 2003 and between 2005 and 2009 an extra weaving-hall, office, summer-hut, unit to recycle old glass bottles into beads, computer-lab, sewing room and autistic hall were added to the sheltered workshop.

Since June 2009 Mr. Paul Agyapong is the coordinator of the Sheltered workshop.

The caregivers live like parents with their children. They sleep together, play together, bathe their children, eat with them and bring them to school. 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. Parties are small but frequent events.

We loyally adhere to a precise daily routine so that the children may feel safe. Highlight of the daily schedule is the 4pm swimming-time where the children bathe, 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 look TV or movies or move to their cottages. At 8 PM all are quiet and go asleep.

#### 4. PCC Sheltered Workshop Annual Report 2012

(by Mr. Paul Agyapong, workshop coordinator)

It is a great pleasure to see the year ending successfully. There were so many things happening in the year 2012. Workshops saw new improvement from all sectors being it the bead hall, weaving hall, sewing room and the Autistic table. This year the autistic children played a major role in the Christmas program for PCC. Making of party flags dominated greater part of our decoration. There are several divisions when you enter the workshop. Each part plays its role very well making the workshop successful by the end of the year. New kids were introduced to the workshop and were on probation. Some finally couldn't make it a stay for them while others were lucky to get the chance to join the workshop.

Below are reports on the various sectors within the sheltered workshop:

##### Beads hall

This hall contains most of our kids and youngsters. The children who work here are in general very happy and communicate well with their supervisors. The production of necklaces, key holders, bracelets, hip strings and ankle bracelets has become their hobby for the day. In this hall the quality control officer is making sure that all finished products are up to standard for our cherished customers. When all the checks are done it is then sent to the shop, to the store room or to the office. Volunteers who were assigned to the workshop during 2012 did their possible best in maintaining the peace and the love in the workshop.

At the end of the year, the breakdown of the kids in the Beads Hall was as follows:

##### Dormitory kids:

- \*Abigail
- \*Afia Nyarko
- \*Akoos
- \*Amoakoah
- \*Kofi Badu
- \*Simon

##### Day kids:

- \*Samuel Owusu
- \*Suzy
- \*Yaw Owusu (Nfanti)

##### PCC kids:

- \*Ayuba
- \*Bernice
- \*Dela
- \*Kofi Asare
- \*Kojo Owusu
- \*M'Afia
- \*Zacharia

We deeply regretted the death of M'Adwoa, a serious epileptic patient, in September 2012. Total number of kids in the Beads Hall at the end of 2012: 16.

##### Weaving Department



The Weaving Hall currently is being run under the supervision of a trained caregiver with 7 youngsters under his care to help them know more about kente weaving.

With the new caregiver, new ideas for designs and colours are being tried and the production and organization of the Weaving Hall has greatly improved making it possible to attract foreign demands.

At the end of the year 2012, the breakdown of kids in the Weaving Hall was as follows, but we were shocked

when hearing that John Fabeson died just after 2012, on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013. We will miss him very much!

Dormitory kids:

- \*Charles
- \*Kwame Nkrumah
- \*Latif

PCC kids:

- \*Bridget
- \*John Fabeson
- \*Kojo Evans
- \*Kwame Evans

**Nana Yaw’s Paradise**

The Autistic kids are still enjoying their light and airy place allocated for them and part of the workshop. This is making it possible for them to make something out of their autistic mood. Caregivers have been trained and nowadays they understand more of the situation of autistic kids. The making of curtains and party flags cannot be taken from the autistic table because they love to do it. Beside these, other activities that interest the autistic kids are not done away with. 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.

During this year autistic table lost one their members, *Ntiamoah*, which was another sad moment for PCC and the workshop.

At the end of 2012, the 8 kids in Nana Yaw’s Paradise were:

- |        |         |          |              |
|--------|---------|----------|--------------|
| *Afia  | *Boadu  | *Cynthia | *Mariella    |
| *Peace | *Regina | *Yaa Yaa | *Yaw Balloon |

**Bead Making Department**

This year the making of the glass beads slowed down a little bit as the demand was not so much. Instead of daily firing of the ovens, we reduced the firing to two times per week. We also started offering loose beads (beads that have not been made into necklaces or bracelets) and made at PCC for sale both on the website and in the shop. Throughout the year, Stephen was the primary supervisor of making the beads, while one of the other caregivers (Michael) also began to learn the process of bead making so that he could fill in if Stephen was absent and also to help during vacation times in case Stephen needed assistance.

The 5 kids assisting with the bead making were:

- |          |       |           |           |           |
|----------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Amoakoah | Ayuba | Kofi Badu | John Adzo | Zachariah |
|----------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|

**Sewing Department**

This sector massively helped the workshop in generating income for the support of the workshop and PCC. New designs that were introduced caught the eyes of all visitors and guests of PCC. It is currently working to perfection. Last year started with Michael helping in the sewing room but later Mary II came to assist in making of the items. For the new year we have made a plan for those kids who are willing and interested in sewing to commence during 2013.

**Office**

The office became more organized with its record keeping. The extra room in the office became the primary storage area for the completed products from the Beads Hall. Records are kept on the computer and backed up monthly on the laptop. These changes made the process of removing the weekly production, inspecting it, labelling it, moving it to the storeroom, recording production and sales on the computer and restocking the shop have a more routine and natural flow.

The Workshop Coordinator has also been training a couple of caregivers and his assistant in running the office (quality control, recording sales and production, restocking, reading the inventory and sales records to direct the production, making decisions of which beads to buy in Kumasi based upon inventory and sales, etc.).

## Shop/Store

The shop was relocated from its old place into a new modern shop which is more spacious than the previous one. Now it contains all products we make in the workshop. The sales are done by Vida and Josephine. Products are better labelled with the correct codes and prices. The effective work in the workshop makes a way of seeing new items in the shop more often. All products in the workshop are on sales in the shop.

## Income/Expenses Sheltered Workshop 2012

The expenses and income reported here are only showing the local sales and expenses related to the full production in the workshop.

The total local income during 2012 was Cedi **16,266.40**.  
This includes local sales, money given from PCC monthly for payment of the workshop kids, other donations that came to the workshop and bonuses received from customers.

The expenses include payment of the workshop kids, bead purchasing trips, promotional discounts, bank service charges and some workshop running expenses (firewood, etc.).  
The total expenses for this year 2012 were Gh¢ **11,040.50**.

So the total result for the Sheltered Workshop in 2012 was: Cedi **5,225.90**.

NB: An amount of *more than Cedi 2,500.00* was received overseas as payment for various local sales.

The amount transferred to the main Account of PCC was Gh¢ **5,000.00**.

## 5. About organization, staff and management

The aim of PCC / Hand in Hand is to give integral care to abandoned and mentally handicapped 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 acts as the 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 separate coordinator, Paul Agyapong, who is responsible for the activities at the workshop.



The Board of PCC / Hand in Hand has 4 members with Dr Albert Van Galen as chairman and general director, Mr. Samuel Baffo as director for income generating projects and constructions, Mr. Emma Daasebre as care director and Mrs. Jeannette van Galen, who supervises the workshop, the guesthouses and the volunteers.

We have place for 4 – 6 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, together with Patricia, coordinates the

volunteer program. Carlijn Willems, living in Holland, selects and coordinates the volunteers in Europe.

Since 2009 we have welcomed some special volunteers, sponsored by the German organization Bezev / Weltwaerts, who are staying for one full year.

The guesthouses + restaurant are special parts of PCC. Our hostesses Vida and Josephine plus two cleaners are employed. Mr. Baffo is in charge and Mrs. Jeannette van Galen supervises the maintenance of the guesthouses. The "Araba memorial Internet café" runs as a separate department. There are 3 staffs and a cleaner employed.

## 6. Finances

(Ref. Annex 1 for the 2012 PCC financial statement)

PCC/Hand in Hand works without government aid. Its running depends almost fully on donations and child sponsorships from outside the country.

Total budgetary income in 2012 was Cedi 242.195, excluding extra budgetary transfer of Cedi 109.282 for projects, buildings etc.

This makes an all-over total Income of Cedi **351.477.**

The recurrent expenditures in 2012 amounted to Cedi 187.392, this is slightly more than budgeted. However, this is excluding building activities and other extra budgetary expenses for various projects, which amounted up to Cedi 158.815.

The all-over total Expenditures therefore were Cedi **346.207.**

So the year ended with a small surplus of Cedi **5.270.**

(See Annex 1 for more details)

Income generated locally: This year again we generated approximately 20 % of the money needed for recurrent expenditures locally from the sales of products from our sheltered workshop and from income such as the guesthouses.

For our 62 residential children we need approximately 186 sponsors, as the average sponsorship is shared between three persons. The upkeep of one child amounts to the annual amount of 900 euro. Divided by three persons this becomes a more manageable 300 euro per year or 25 per month. The children at the Sheltered Workshop need at total amount of 300 euro per year for their sponsorship.

## 7. Conclusion and acknowledgments



We are very grateful to our staff and caregivers, the 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.

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 is 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 2012 – PCC General**Start ADB 1/1/2012: **6.809**Income

HIH: budget + other contr. + payments	193.160
Guesthouses + restaurant	28.300
Internet café	2.000
Sheltered workshop	5.000
Lilian Fund	11.000
Local donations	2.735

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**242.195**

PCC – SCB to ADB	43.443
Madamfo – SCB to ADB	16.774
SCB – Vastenaktie + WG	39.285
Refund I.B. + surplus cont.	9.780

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Total Income **351.477**Expenditures

Allowances	75.356
Feeding	53.011
Party costs	3.493
Repairs General	8.489
Repairs houses	5.187
Repairs Cars	4.307
Electricity	6.430
Personal needs	9.337
Omo & Soap	3.740
T & T	5.842
Medical	3.934
Accountant / legal	1.050
Bank Charges	465
Others	6.751

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**187.392**

Constructions / renovations	92.538
Projects	5.035
Overseas payment	11.457
ADB – various payments	12.507
Loan to I. B./ AA	4.170
Payment for costs container	16.550
Jubilee costs	16.058
Loan Internet	500

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Total expenditures **346.207**Balance 31/12/12 at ADB Bank **12.079**

+

Balance 31/12/12 at GCB Bank, excl. (HIH) **2.629** + (48.915)