

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

**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 2013 was another important year in the history of the Peace of Christ Foundation and the PCC – Hand in Hand Community. During 2013 we were pleased to hold on to the positive atmosphere and the great enthusiasm, which were created when celebrating the 20th Anniversary Jubilee festivities in Dec. 2012.

During the year we were able to start with creating a Resource Centre in PCC, aimed to inform and assist parents of children with intellectual disabilities. We find it very important that we can advise, support and direct such parents in the best possible way.

In 2013 4 new children, Abass, Daniel Coffie, Efia Mawunya and Nana Agyei joined the residential community, while a young adult girl, Adwoa, came to PCC as a new worker in the Sheltered Workshop.

Unfortunately and to our great sadness we also had to face the loss of 3 residents during the year 2013. John Fabeson, Mr Robert and Daniel all passed away, they are dearly missed. So despite all good things it was also a tragic year for PCC.

At the end of the year 2013 in total 79 children were living in the Community. As much as 63 children and young adults are now living permanently in our Community, while 16 young adults, coming from outside PCC, are attached 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 80% of our annual budget. However, we also generate about 20 % of the funds locally to help us to become financially more independent. Our guesthouses are much appreciated and recommended by various travel guides and agencies. Both the guesthouses and the restaurant give us some extra income and additional funds are generated through the sales of products, made in our Sheltered Workshop and sold in our local shop as well as in Europe.

Nowadays there are more than 40 persons in our Ghanaian team of caregivers and other workers. We also provide a very interesting working place for about 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 2013 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 our children could benefit another year from living in the Community, which is very much their own peaceful village.

We are grateful to God for the many blessings upon our Community as well as to all sponsors, donors, workers and volunteers who supported us throughout the year 2013 in such a great way and helped us to maintain 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 2013

General

The past year we saw many highlights, but unfortunately there were also some very sad events. In general though we are happy with 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 80 PCC residents and workshop children. The atmosphere is very good and most children are happy and healthy.

Residents

During 2013 unfortunately and to our great sadness we had to face the loss of 3 residents. John Fabeson (1st January), Mr Robert (18th June) and Daniel (24th October) passed away.



Over the years Mr Robert almost reached the status of an icon of PCC, nearly every visitor took time to meet him for some small talk or for writing some words in his Great PCC History Book. After a sickness that lasted more than 20 years he died in June 2013 from heart failure in connection with his chronic neurological disease.

Mr. Robert

So at the end it was a good, but also tragic year for PCC, just like 2012 was. We pray that for quite some time PCC will not have to face another death of a resident.

But thinking about 2013 we fortunately 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 to welcome 4 children, Abass, Daniel Coffie, *Efia Mawunya* (picture at page 10) and Nana Agyei, as new permanent residents as well as 1 young adult girl, Adwoa, as a new worker to the sheltered workshop.

By the end of 2013 the total number of children is 79, being 63 permanent residents and 16 children in the sheltered workshop + dormitories. Nr. 80, Joel came just after 1st January 2014.

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. In fact, 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 more 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 2013 in PCC

Quite a lot of important developments during 2013 are worth mentioning:

- We made a plan for a Resource Centre for Information and Advice in PCC, aimed to support parents of children with an intellectual disability. We noticed a huge lack of knowledge in this field, many parents are approaching us with lots of questions. As we are not able to accept all intellectually disabled children from the whole of Ghana for admission in PCC, we find it very important that we can advise, support and direct these parents who are trying to cope with an often difficult situation at home.
- We didn't plan to construct many new buildings, but quite some renovations were done. The house of our senior caregiver Joyce was enlarged and renovated and various bathrooms were improved. The rock house is now better protected against rainfall and leakages.
- A start was made with the construction of a new house for semi-independent living of about 9 or 10 of our young adults, to be opened early 2014.
- Both dormitories of the workshop are well and nicely renovated, including new ceilings, new windows, beautifully tiled floors, nice curtains, new beds + mattresses and appalling decorative painting, *see picture on page 8*.
- In the workshop we were forced to say goodbye to Paul Agyapong, but luckily enough we were able to appoint a new coordinator in the person of the very experienced and energetic caregiver Diana Sawine.
- There were some great opportunities for international exchange, not only in



Nkoranza, e.g. with the SKIP students in July, but also in Europe, as Joe Emma, our care-director, was invited by the Dutch Hand in Hand support foundation to come for a visit and meeting to Holland. He discussed the future of PCC with the Board of Hand in Hand Holland, visited many institutions for care for intellectually disabled persons and saw many PCC

friends from Holland and Germany.

- Diana Sawine and Patricia Gyamfua were invited by the German organisation Bezev and had the wonderful opportunity to visit various special schools and institutions for the disabled in Germany.
- After the return of Joe Emma, Patricia and Elizabeth, a programme started in PCC, called "The Best of 2 Worlds". Their impressions and experiences from Europe were used to achieve greater expertise and more involvement of all caregivers and this programme proved to be a great success.
- And there was even more: a new sign language specially designed for PCC, a plan has been made to introduce Solar Energy to PCC, the Summer School is a great success etc. etc.. All this and more contributed to having a fine year in 2013!
- 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 the long term.

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!

Also during the year 2013 PCC received the majority of its foreign contributions for the upkeep of PCC from the Dutch Hand in Hand foundation. This also included support from our English and German charitable support organisations.

Caregivers

During the year 2013 6 new Ghanaian Caregivers came to join our team, to replace some old caregivers who left PCC during the year as well as to make up for 2 departures of workers/non-caregivers in the restaurant and the workshop.

At 31st December 2013 we had 26 caregivers (2012: 24), caring for 63 permanent young residents and 16 semi-permanent young adults in the sheltered workshop.

During July 2013 a group medical students from SKIP, England came to work as a volunteer at PCC. An important part of their activities was to give some lectures on selected topics to our Caregivers. This was much appreciated and all caregivers who attended these lectures received a special Certificate.

Volunteers

During 2013 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 a special volunteers for 1 year, who joined our team for a specific task through the German organisation Bezev.

Christmas 2013

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.



Christmas 2013 and all special activities during the X-mas season were a great success, may be even too great....., for at the end almost everyone was very tired. We still look back to a very subdued *Father Christmas (Zachariah)*, to the nice and diverse music of various singing and dancing groups, to an exciting trip to the Fuller Waterfalls and to a wonderful Christmas play, performed by all children of PCC and with Gabriel, not as the Archangel (that was Yaw Balloon's role), but as the leading man playing the little Jesus who was carried by the people!

Visitors

We were happy to welcome many visitors to our Community during 2013, 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 touching many of the visitors! Their number over the years has increased 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.



Kwame Addai using the new PCC sign language

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 20 years later, our caregivers form a loving and stable team.

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.

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 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 in PCC did come on transfer from the Accra or Kumasi Children's Home. This is where most abandoned foundlings are brought if they were lucky enough to survive. These 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 intellectually disabled children in Ghana, not until the "Hand in Hand Community" was founded. Apart from this, we also received children from 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.

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, sewing room and autistic hall were added to the sheltered workshop.

The caregivers live 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. 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 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.



The nicely renovated male dormitory

4. PCC Sheltered Workshop Annual Report 2013

There are several divisions in the sheltered workshop. Below are reports on the various sectors:

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 the supervising caregivers. The production of necklaces, key holders, bracelets, hip strings and ankle bracelets has become their hobby. In this hall the quality control officer is making sure that all finished product are up to standard for our customers.

At the end of the year, the total number of kids in the Beads Hall is: 16.

Weaving Department

The Weaving Hall currently is been run under the supervision of a caregiver with 7 youngsters under his care to help them know more about kente weaving, making it possible to attract foreign demands.

Sewing Department

This sector 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. Unfortunately we had to say goodbye to Paul Agyapong, but during the year 2 new seamstresses, who are also new caregivers, joined Mary in the sewing hall. They are Charity and Felicia, so we now have 3 good workers combining their efforts there.

Nana Yaw's Paradise

The Autistic kids are still enjoying their light and airy place allocated for them and part of the workshop. 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 2013, there were 10 children in Nana Yaw's Paradise.

Income Sheltered Workshop 2013

The total net result for the Sheltered Workshop in 2013 was Cedi: **11.521**

The amount transferred to the main Account of PCC was Cedi: **10.000**

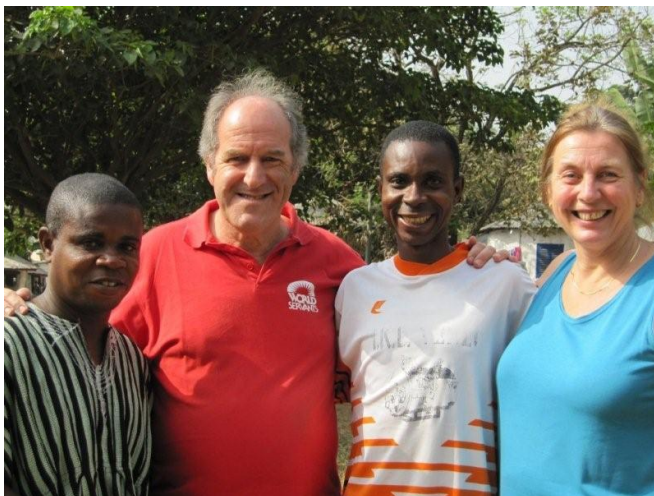
NB: An amount of *almost Cedi 10.000* was received overseas as payment for various local sales (4.431) + sales to HIH foundation in Holland (5.414).

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 separate coordinator, Diana Sawine, who is responsible for the activities in the workshop.



The Board of PCC / Hand in Hand has 4 members:

*Dr Albert Van Galen as chairman and general director,
Mr. Samuel Baffo as director for income generating activities and constructions,
Mr. Emma Daasebre as care director and
Mrs. Jeannette van Galen, education director + supervisor of the workshop.*

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 coordinates the volunteer program. Carlijn Willems, living in Holland, selects and coordinates the volunteers coming from 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 2 special parts of PCC. Our hostesses Vida and Elizabeth 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 small, separate department. There are 3 staffs and a cleaner employed.

6. Finances

(Ref. Annex 1 for the 2013 financial statement and Annex 2 for the 2013 PCC Budget)

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 in 2013 was:	Cedi	<u>253.513</u>	
<u>excluding</u> extra budgetary transfer of:		<u>62.465</u>	
for projects, buildings etc.			
This makes an all-over total Income of Cedi:			315.978

The recurrent expenditures in 2013 amounted to:	<u>227.222</u>	
<u>6,6%</u> more than budgeted.		
However, this is <u>excluding</u> building activities and other		
extra budgetary expenses for various projects,		
which amounted up to Cedi:	<u>84.017</u>	
The all-over total Expenditures therefore were Cedi:		311.239

So the year ended with a small surplus of Cedi:	4.739
(See <u>Annex 1</u> 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.

Efia Mawinya

7 Conclusion and acknowledgment

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 2013 – PCC GeneralStart ADB 1/1/2013: **12.079**Income

HIH foundation Holland via GCB	183.923
Guesthouses + restaurant	35.100*
Internet café	1.800
Sheltered workshop	10.000*
Liliane Fund Ghana	18.115
Local donations	4.575

	253.513

Other donations via GCB	61.077
Refund special loans	1.388

Total Income **315.978**Expenditures

Allowances	86.300 (incl. COLA + X-mas bonus)
Feeding	67.236
Party costs, incl. X-mas	6.419
X-mas extra costs	1.050
Repairs General	8.792
Repairs houses	4.716
Repairs Cars	2.852
Electricity	7.547
Personal needs	14.326
Omo & Soap	4.180
T & T	8.003
Medical	5.094
Accountant / legal	1.275
Bank Charges	503
Others	8.929

	227.222

Constructions	62.939
Projects	13.840
Overseas payment	5.310
Special loans	1.928

Total expenditures **311.239**Balance at ADB Bank 31/12/13 **16.818**

+

Balance at GCB Bank 31/12/13, (excl. HIH) **500 + (46.040)**

(NB: * = income from payments overseas:

Guesthouses:	Cedi	7.125
Sheltered workshop:	"	9.845

is **not** included)

Annex 2: Budget 2013 PCC

Income

1 - Transfer from overseas	155.000
2 - Guesthouse income	32.000
3 - Liliane Fonds Ghana	12.000
4 - Sheltered workshop	10.000
5 - Internet / photocopier	2.000
6 - Local donations	2.000

<u>Total income</u>	213.000

Expenditures

7 - Allowances	83.000
8 - Feeding costs	66.500
9 - Repairs	14.000
10 - Electricity	7.000
11 - Personal needs	17.000
12 - T & T	7.000
13 - Medical	3.000
14 - Accountant and Legal	1.000
15 - Others	5.000
16 - Unforeseen + bank charges	9.500

<u>Total running costs</u>	213.000