



Newsletter 11, September 2015

Dear friends,

There is always something going on in PCC. First and foremost there are the daily and "usual" things that make PCC special, but of course more things happen which are also certainly worth mentioning. We would like to share this news with all of our friends and sponsors, so it is high time for our **11th** Newsletter.

We sincerely hope that you will find much information about our Community here, news that interests you and touches your heart. Enjoy!

In general

We sometimes have the feeling that we are no longer able to look at PCC objectively, which might make us lose our awareness of the shortcomings, which are doubtlessly there. Fortunately, people from Ghana and various other countries regularly visit our Community and without exception they are very positive about the living and housing conditions in PCC, about the happy faces of our residents, about the still increasing quality of our facilities and about the commitment of our caregivers. These observations make us very happy and proud.

New resident Baagyei

An intellectually disabled young woman of 18-20 years old, neglected after first her mother's and later on her grandmother's death and with an irresponsible alcoholic for a father: that was what Baagyei's sad life was like not very long ago. On top of that, she was sexually abused and became pregnant last year. In December she was hospitalized and gave birth to a healthy

son and then the search for a satisfactory solution to her problems started.



Baagyei has stayed in PCC since the start of 2015, first on a temporary basis, but after Social Welfare had completed their research we accepted her as a new and permanent resident in April. Every single day it is quite obvious that she is very happy with her new and safe life here!

Physiotherapy is booming!

A much-experienced Dutch physiotherapist specialized in children with serious impairments, Inge Maters, spent two months in Hand in Hand this summer together with her family and this visit has become a huge success!! It is quite impressive to see the impact Inge's input has had on the quality in the care of many of our children, for instance for Lisa, Moses, Kwame Addai, Joel and James and so forth.



The level of PCC physio has improved enormously because of her commitment, expertise, passion, brought along materials and training.

We are extremely grateful and the knowledge that maybe Inge will be back next year makes it even better!

New resident Sadat

Here in PCC we are asked to take on impaired children from all over Ghana. It is not always easy to decide for whom PCC is the right place and who will be allowed to stay, however in August we wholeheartedly accepted the seriously spastic Sadat from the Tamale region after a short observation in PCC and a subsequent examination in Tamale, which made him a very happy boy.



Sadat is the 88th resident of PCC! And a new round of talks about a new child for PCC has already started.

Baptism

The last christening service for all children who had come to PCC as new residents took place more than two years ago.

So it was high time for the organisation of the next baptismal ceremony because Jesus has said: "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, because to such belongs the kingdom of God."

And finally in July Father Benneh baptized no fewer than nine new residents during a festive ceremony in our PCC church.



It was a much inspiring service with many happy faces of children and proud caregivers.

Through this christening is emphasized again that all children of PCC belong, too.

Goodbye, Diana! Welcome, Emma!

For the past two years Diana has been the much-esteemed coordinator of all of the activities of our sheltered workshop and she has done her job with much commitment and devotion. She has been a good and caring caregiver not only for Regina and Moses for five years but also for Lisa for quite some time.

But now Diana is going to build a family of her own. She is married and hoping to give birth and become a mother in a few months time. We would like to thank her for her commitment and devotion and we would like to wish her much success and happiness in her future life.

Diana hasn't left for long but her successor is already known: Emmanuel Boyan, also known as Emma II.



Diana and her successor Emma II

He was a caregiver in PCC in 2009, but he got the chance of being able to study Social Studies in Accra. After finishing his studies he wanted to come back to PCC in which he has succeeded. We have taken him on as one of the two workers for Outreach Work (read more about it later in this Newsletter) in April last and now he is also the new coordinator of the sheltered workshop. We are hoping for the same fortuitous cooperation with Emma II.

Visiting groups

It was a hive of activity in PCC during the last few months because of the fact that various smaller and larger groups visited our Community and helped and assisted us tremendously in very many ways.

We welcomed the following very supportive guests: visitors of The Ark - a church in Reeuwijk, British students of SKIP, representatives of two sister organisations of PCC outside the Netherlands, namely Ananse from Germany and the Hand in Hand Charity from England.



Sue Hatton (UK Charity) and Boadu

Also various other groups of visitors came to PCC. It seems that the fear of Ebola in Western-Africa has disappeared amongst most travellers since this very grave epidemic is under proper control. The route to Ghana and PCC seems open again, also for those readers who are still (just a little) hesitant about coming to PCC.

Our hostesses

Many readers know PCC's hostesses and often forge agreeable bonds with them during their visit to our Community. That is why we would like to inform you of a few changes.

Hostess Vida left PCC in May after two years of having worked here as a hostess and five years as a caregiver. Elizabeth II has been appointed as her replacement.

So from now on both Elizabeth I and Elizabeth II will work here as hostesses!



Both ladies have been trained in cookery and Hospitality by Frank Maters this summer, he has supported them in the further development of their qualities as hostess. And all three of them have been rather successful!

Outreach Project

Earlier this year the Board of PCC has decided to put more attention to the care of and the improvement of the fate of the many, many disabled children who are living in the hundreds of villages in the Nkoranza District.

We look upon it as a logical consequence of starting our Resource Centre 2 years ago.

Two people who have been educated especially for this kind of work, Gabriel and Emma II have been appointed in the mean time.

Surely, this is a huge challenge, however, we consider it to be a logical next step in the attention and care we are already offering to all children who have found a safe haven in PCC.

We have been seeking the cooperation with other organisations and the local government from the beginning, because we are of the opinion that the care of disabled people is a joint responsibility and not only PCC's.



Fortunately, the first results of the Outreach Project are promising, but there is still a lot of work to be done!

Recently we were able to buy a strong new motorbike after receiving a beautiful donation and early July we inaugurated it during a PCC party!

A motorbike is a very essential means of transport when trying to reach all villages in the District.

Sponsoring

There are still children for whom we are looking for a full or partly sponsoring. 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

Finally

So far for this 11th Newsletter. We hope you are fully updated again now.

Every 14 days you can find a new update on the ups and downs of PCC in the column "Albert's Corner" on our website: www.handinhandcommunity.com

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

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